Lagoon Friendly Lawn
Nutrient Pollution Reduction Program
www.keepindianriverbeautiful.org

KEEP INDIAN RIVER BEAUTIFUL

<u>Is your home Lagoon Friendly??</u>

Ask your parents to help you answer these questions and find out! For more information on the Lagoon Friendly Lawn program or any of these questions, visit our website www.keepindianriverbeautiful.org

1. Do you use fertilizer on your lawn?	Yes	No
a. Is it slow-release nitrogen?	Yes	No
b. Do you skip fertilizing from June to September?	Yes	No
c. Do you do soil testing before using phosphorus?	Yes	No
d. Do you fertilize all the way into ditches?	Yes	No
2. Do you pick up your dogs poop? (Don't have one-pick yes)	Yes	No
3. Do you wash your car on your driveway?	Yes	No
4. Do you use a lawn care company?	Yes	No
a. Do they pick up the clippings or leave them alone?	Yes	No
b. Do they blow the clippings into a ditch or canal?	Yes	No
5. Do you use pesticides?	Yes	No
6. Do you have sprinklers?	Yes	No
a. If yes, are they set to run when it is not hot outside?	Yes	No
7. Do you use mulch?	Yes	No
8. Do you collect rainwater?	Yes	No

Lagoon Friendly Lawn
Home Audit Answer Key

1. Using fertilizer on your lawn is okay! How you use the fertilizer is more important. If you don't use fertilizer, then that's even better! **Best Answer: No**

      1a. Slow release nitrogen fertilizers allow for better absorption into your grass and makes it safer for the lagoon. **Best Answer: Yes**

      1b. Did you know the county has a ban on the use of fertilizer from June 1st through September 30th? It's actually against the law to use fertilizer during those months! **Best Answer: Yes**

      1c. Most of the time, phosphorous is not needed by Florida lawns. The only way to know is to test your soil! If a soil test says that you need it, that's okay. Otherwise, it's safest just not to use it at all. **Best Answer: Yes**

      1d. The best way to use fertilizer is to stop using it about 4 feet away from any drainage ditches! The rain or sprinklers will spread the fertilizer and will help keep extra from running into the lagoon. **Best Answer: No**

2. Dog poop is a big source of extra nutrients! The rain washes it away and carries the nutrition all the way into the lagoon, feeding algae. **Best Answer: Yes**

3. If you wash your car on a hard surface such as your driveway, the soap and other pollutants off your car go straight into ditches that lead to the lagoon. Washing your car on the grass gives time for those to be filtered naturally and gives your lawn some much needed water. (Or you can go to a car wash that is required by law to drain their waste water!) **Best Answer: No**

4. Some lawn care companies are very careful about what they do with your lawn clippings and some are not. If you don't know, ask them what they do or just watch them! Lawn clippings turn into extra nutrients that go directly to the lagoon. It's best to just leave them on the lawn or to pick them up and throw them away. **Best Answer: 4a – Yes   4b – No**

5. Pesticides are chemicals that kill insects. Treating when it is needed only is okay, but using excess amounts to prevent insects just leads to those chemicals polluting the water. It's best to try to only use them when needed. **Best Answer: No**

6. Sprinklers are a great way to water your lawn, however studies show that using them when the sun is hot makes little to no impact on your lawn. The best time of day to run sprinklers is during dusk and dawn or overnight when there is very little evaporation from the sun. Efficient use of sprinklers saves water and prevents extra runoff. **Best Answer: 6b – Yes**

7. A lot of commercial mulches are dyed or contain chemicals, such as most Cypress mulches. If you like the look of mulch in your yard, try using a sustainable mulch such as eucalyptus, melaleuca, rock, shell, or recycled tires. **Best Answer: There's no wrong answer, but sustainable is best!**

8. Rainwater is a great source of chemical free nutrition for your plants! If you collect and reuse your rainwater, you not only reduce how much stormwater leaves your property, you also help reduce strain on water supplies and treatment facilities. **Best Answer: Yes**