

ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION EMAILS

4/3/2019

Good Afternoon –

Today's installment includes a couple of important points we would like to make.

Name Calling

We don't do name calling. Unfortunately, it is routine for some people to engage in name calling (in meetings, to the press, etc.), rather than producing actual evidence and collaborating on ways to really address water-quality concerns. Name calling, as our parents or teachers used to tell us, is the recourse of those who have nothing better to offer.

Slandering the fine people in the green industry as only being in it for the money is our favorite bit of bigotry and profiling. Hard work and making an honest living is nothing to deny or to be put down for. Anyone paying attention and willing to take an honest look at what we do knows that we have embraced cultures of natural resource protection in our companies and trade organizations for decades. We have innovated best practices, invested in new products, funded research and engaged our state and local governments in education and outreach to teach and share with others how to manage lawns and landscapes responsibly. We show up at meetings, we offer our help **and we love Florida's water and natural systems just as much as anyone else. Neither I nor any of the fine people I work with would promote a polluting status quo – period.**

The way we see it, you are a real environmentalist if you follow the science and the evidence, even if you don't like it and even if it requires you to change.

Facts About Rain in Alachua County

The whole justification for summertime blackouts is rain. The equation is described as: excessive summer rains + any fertilizer application = imminent pollution. Repeating this a million times may scare people into believing it, but that will never make it true. We would only agree with that statement to the extent that fertilizer was improperly spread on impervious surfaces, in which case it wouldn't much matter what season it was or how much it rained – that fertilizer is not where it is supposed to be. **Our people don't do that.**

Beyond that, the science is clear – summertime fertilizer applications to actively growing landscapes don't go anywhere except to the root zone to be taken up by the plant – even in saturated soils.

Just for fun, let's look at the average rain stats for Gainesville dating from 1960 until today from the Florida Climate Center (here's the link if you want to check this out for yourself – it's pretty interesting --

<https://climatecenter.fsu.edu/climate-data-access-tools/climate-data-visualization>)

MONTH	AVG. EVENTS > 2.0"	AVG. EVENTS > 1.0"
April	<0.2	=.75
May	<0.5	<1.0
June	<0.5	=2.0
July	<0.5	=2.0
August	<0.3	=2.0
September	<0.3	=1.5
October	<0.2	=0.5

Not all that scary really. It's even hard to verbalize how negligible this is, but let's try:

- ❑ Rain events which deposit 2 or more inches of water happen less than 0.5 times per 30-day period in the months noted above. Most which did happen were in years of tropical activity, which also skew the average upward.
- ❑ Rain events which deposit 1 or more inches of water happen about 1.5 times per 30-day period in the months noted above. Same story on years of tropical activity.

It is certainly hard to reconcile such minimal instances of heavy rain to the level of regulation imposed by the draft ordinance on that justification.

Thank you.