

## Important Information Regarding Pesticide Regulations, Use & Safety



The Village of Tequesta recently updated the Pesticide Management section within its code of ordinances in order to be consistent with Florida law. Below is a summary of information regarding pesticide regulations, use & safety.

- A pesticide is used to prevent, destroy or control insects, fungi, weeds or other plant or animal life. Therefore, insecticides, fungicides and herbicides are all considered pesticides.
- For your health and safety and for the protection of our environment, insure that any business and/or their personnel you hire, are properly trained, licensed and/or certified. If you are applying pesticides to your own lawn or landscape, they may only be used in accordance with the registered labels or as directed by the EPA or the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).
- If you are hiring a business to apply pesticides to your lawn or landscape, they may fall under two different categories; a pest control business or a landscape maintenance business. Before hiring either type of business, insure that the company is licensed to perform pest control, is properly trained (passed a state exam) with a Certified Operator, and has a vehicle and/or trailer that is permanently marked with the licensee's name.
- If you are hiring a landscape maintenance company that does **not** have a pest control business license nor a Certified Operator, be aware that they are limited as to what scope of service they can provide in terms of pesticide/herbicide application. These landscape maintenance companies **cannot** make "weed-n-feed" applications or use granular fertilizers with pesticides incorporated within them. However, personnel with these landscape maintenance companies may be able to apply herbicides (weed killer) in a very limited capacity. These personnel must hold a "Limited Certification" issued by the State of Florida to do such application.
- For your information, Tequesta passed a Resolution in 2020 to eliminate the use of Glyphosate-based herbicides (e.g. Roundup) on all Village public property.
- To search to check if your current individual pesticide applicator or pest control company is licensed, go to <http://aessearch.freshfromflorida.com/>
- To search all licensed pest control companies by county and category (search under lawn & ornamental), go to <https://ceu.freshfromflorida.com/LicenseeReport.aspx> -

- If you have a complaint involving pesticide application, contact FDACS at (850) 617-7996 or Tequesta's Code Compliance Dept. at 561-768-0519.
- If you would like to learn about health and environmental effects of pesticides, contact FDACS at (850) 617-7917.

*Finally, consider a landscape without the need for an abundance of pesticides. Misuse of pesticides can create a sterile landscape and could potentially endanger your family's health and that of your pet. Yards with native plantings, less lawn and a florida-friendly design are better for the environment and can improve the diversity and health of wildlife habitats & the local ecosystem.*