

Pesticide Applications for the Lee County Department of Parks and Recreation and FDACS Requirements

Stephen H. Brown *Lee County Extension Service, Fort Myers, Florida*

Robert Repenning, Annisa Karim, Cathy Olson

Lee County Parks and Recreation, Fort Myers, Florida

The rules for pesticide applications in the state of Florida are governed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Herbicides are categorized as pesticides and are therefore governed by the same statutes. The requirements for pesticide applications in the state are found in Chapters 388, 482 and 487 of the Florida statutes. [Chapter 388](#) governs public health applications. [Chapter 482](#) regulates and licenses the pest control industry including lawns and landscapes and household pest control. [Chapter 487](#) concerns restricted use pesticide applications on agricultural and related properties including right of way, ball fields, natural areas, ponds, wetlands and estuaries.

- The Lee County Department of Parks and Recreation (LCPR), with some exceptions, utilizes the services of county-approved contractors for the applications of pesticides throughout the LCPR system including ball fields, some conservation lands, and around structures.
- Employees of LCPR are not required to have a pesticide license if applications are made to agricultural or related sites, on county owned properties, governed by Chapter 487, and the material used is for general (not restricted) use.
- Employees of LCPR are required to have a Limited Structural license if applications are made to county owned structures or landscaping/ground governed by Chapter 482
- In order to spray a restricted use pesticide on county owned property governed by Chapter 487, the county employee must be licensed with the State of Florida as a “public” or “commercial” pesticide applicator.
- A county employee must possess a Limited Lawn and Ornamental license when applying pesticides within 10 feet of a structure governed by Chapter 482 and being utilized for public shelter, recreation, meeting accommodation, or sanitation.
- A pesticide applicator or a contracted company must hold the appropriate credential (employee identification card) to apply pesticides on properties governed by Chapter 482.
- Companies contracted to apply restricted use pesticides to county areas governed by 487 must have one or more individuals on staff with the appropriate certification.
- A pesticide applicator of a contracted company must be appropriately certified to apply pesticides to structures governed by Chapter 482 or must possess a worker card by benefit of an appropriately certified applicator.
- All county or contracted pesticide handlers or applicators, whether governed by Chapter 388, 482, or 487, must abide by the instructions on the pesticide label including those for proper protective equipment, mixing, loading, application, storage, and disposal of pesticides.

This fact sheet was reviewed by Tamara James and Cherie Trimble, FDACS Bureau of Licensing and Enforcement.