What Not to Do
Common improper fertilization practices can lead to nutrient deficiencies in landscape palms. Severe deficiencies can be very harmful and can lead to the palms demise.
Do not use turf fertilizer on palm roots. Palm roots can actually extend to over 50 ft. from the trunk of the palm. Turf fertilizer can induce K and/or Mg deficiencies in the palms. To solve this problem either mulch out to the drip line of the palm or, just use the recommended 8-2-12 palm fertilizer on your turfgrass. Studies have shown that applying a quality blend of 8-2-12 on St. Augustine provided the same quality as a high grade turf fertilizer. The recommended 8-2-12 formulation can also be used on many other landscape trees and shrubs. Avoid the use of Epsom salts on palm trees as a standalone fertilizer or in addition to a complete palm fertilizer. Epsom salts contain quick release water soluble magnesium sulfate. For palm trees, use only a 100% slow release form of magnesium such as prilled kieserite.

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http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/
Ingredients to Look For

Palms used in the landscape require very different fertilizing needs than other landscape plants. When selecting a palm fertilizer, it is important that macro-nutrients such as nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), magnesium (Mg) and other essential micro-nutrients are available in slow-release forms. These slow-release forms will break down slowly, lasting about 2 to 3 months.

Palm fertilizers should also contain micro-nutrients as well. Essential micro-nutrients include iron (Fe), manganese (Mn) and boron (B). Micro-nutrients should be in a quick release form or water soluble form. Palm fertilizers should also have at least 4% magnesium.

How much to Use

The general application rate for palms is to use 1.5 lbs. per 100 sq. ft. of canopy. Be sure to read and follow formulation directions completely when applying. Formulation recommended for palm trees is 8N-2P-12K+4Mg. A quality blend of 8-2-12 will release nutrients for up to three months. Fertilize between the months of March and September in Sumter County. Be sure to read and follow formulation directions completely when applying. Formulation recommended for palm trees is 8N-2P-12K+4Mg. A quality blend of 8-2-12 will release nutrients for up to three months. Fertilize between the months of March and September in Sumter County.

How to Apply Correctly

Applying fertilizer correctly is just as important as the right fertilizer itself. Success and a healthy palm tree depend on proper application. Applying fertilizer correctly is just as important as the right fertilizer itself. Success and a healthy palm tree depend on proper application. Applying fertilizer correctly is just as important as the right fertilizer itself. Success and a healthy palm tree depend on proper application. Applying fertilizer correctly is just as important as the right fertilizer itself. Success and a healthy palm tree depend on proper application. Applying fertilizer correctly is just as important as the right fertilizer itself. Success and a healthy palm tree depend on proper application. Applying fertilizer correctly is just as important as the right fertilizer itself. Success and a healthy palm tree depend on proper application. Applying fertilizer correctly is just as important as the right fertilizer itself. Success and a healthy palm tree depend on proper application. Applying fertilizer correctly is just as important as the right fertilizer itself. Success and a healthy palm tree depend on proper application. Applying fertilizer correctly is just as important as the right fertilizer itself. Success and a healthy palm tree depend on proper application. Applying fertilizer correctly is just as important as the right fertilizer itself. Success and a healthy palm tree depend on proper application. Applying fertilizer correctly is just as important as the right fertilizer itself. Success and a healthy palm tree depend on proper application.