

# City Holds First Vegetation Competency, Fertilizer Endorsement Courses

The City of Sanibel had two dozen people participate in its first two courses for contractors who need to meet new requirements under the Island's Fertilizer Ordinance.

The first class, held December 12, was for contractors who need a vegetation competency card and included a fertilizer endorsement portion. All contractors who work with vegetation or apply fertilizer on the Island must possess a valid Vegetation Certificate of Competency. Seven people took the course, and testing is scheduled for this week.

On December 13, a fertilizer endorsement class was held for those who already hold a vegetation competency card and plan to apply fertilizer. Seventeen people participated in the course. Testing was held directly after the class and all but one person passed.

The City's Natural Resources staff is working with code enforcement staff to ensure compliance with the Fertilizer Ordinance. The first step is to get contractors certified and trained. Classes for contractors include all materials that are given to homeowners as well as a presentation designed for contractors.

Preparation on additional education components of the Fertilizer Ordinance, including a brochure, a DVD to be distributed early next year and a tabletop display for Island events, continues.

The City has scheduled additional courses for contractors who need a Vegetation Certificate of Competency and a Fertilizer Endorsement in January and February.