Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program

It’s simpler than you think
Florida-Friendly Landscaping

- Origins of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™
- Legislative definition
- Nine Principles
- Florida-Friendly Landscape Maintenance
- Resources
- Outreach efforts
Documented nitrogen pollution + Eco-Neighborhoods Program

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program

Green Industries Best Management Practices Program

Florida Yards and Neighborhoods, Builder/Developer Program

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods, Homeowner Program

Homeowners
Community associations
Property managers
Builders and developers
Landscaping professionals
SB 2080 defines FFL:

“...quality landscapes that conserve water, protect the environment, are adaptable to local conditions, and are drought tolerant. The principles of such landscaping include planting the right plant in the right place, efficient water, appropriate fertilization, mulching, attraction of wildlife, responsible management of yard pests, recycling yard waste, reduction of stormwater runoff, and waterfront protection. …

F. S., Ch. 373.185
Florida-Friendly Landscaping

Definition continued…

…Additional components include practices such as landscape planning and design, soil analysis, the appropriate use of solid waste compost, minimizing the use of irrigation, and proper maintenance.

F. S., Ch. 373.185
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ is a collection of practices involving design, installation, operation and maintenance which are intended to reduce irrigation water use, protect water quality from over-use of fertilizer and pesticides, and reduce stormwater runoff.
Florida-Friendly Landscaping

• Interagency cooperation grew
• UF/IFAS lead agency

• Funding sources:
  • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
  • Department of Environmental Protection
  • University of Florida
  • Water Management Districts
9 Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Principles

1. Right plant, right place
2. Water efficiently
3. Mulch
4. Recycle
5. Fertilize appropriately
6. Manage yard pests
7. Reduce stormwater runoff
8. Attract wildlife
9. Protect the waterfront
#1: Right Plant, Right Place

- Requires minimal supplemental water, fertilizer, or pesticide
- Group according to water needs
- Use groundcovers where turf is difficult to maintain
- If turf fails in a location, explore other options
#2: Water Efficiently

Overwatering can cause:

- Water pollution when excess fertilizer not used by plants travels to waterways or underground
- More plant disease
#2: Water Efficiently

- An average of 50 percent of a home’s water bill goes toward irrigation
- Water only when plants start to wilt
- Follow local watering restrictions
Once the RIGHT plant is established, irrigation can be reduced
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Principles

#2: Water Efficiently

- Use micro-irrigation in landscape beds
#3: Fertilize Appropriately

- Maintenance practices affect health of community retention pond
- UF science-based fertilizer application rates
- Allow grass to go dormant in cooler months
#3: Fertilize Appropriately

- Leave a 10-foot maintenance-free zone around water bodies
#4: Mulch

- Beautifies and preserves moisture
#5: Attract Wildlife

- Provide a “green corridor” for animal travel from one wild space to another
- Beauty and benefits of natural pest control and pollination
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Principles

#6: Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

• Use least toxic method first
#7: Recycle  • Leaves and grass clippings can be used as mulch
#8: Reduce Stormwater Runoff

- Runoff carries fertilizer, pesticides, oil, and other materials into surface and groundwater, and contributes to pollution
- Aim downspouts at porous surface
#9: Protect the Waterfront

- Maintenance-free zone of at least 10 feet
- Keep grass clippings from washing into storm drains and water bodies
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Principles

Maintenance is the Key...

...to keeping a Florida-Friendly Landscape, Florida-Friendly

Green Industry Best Managements Practices (BMPs) taught monthly, next class Nov. 30th in Manatee County.
Resources

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™
Web site

http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu
Resources

FloridaYards.org

Web site

Searchable plant list with color photos

www.FloridaYards.org
Resources

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™
Pattern Book:
Sample plant lists and designs for
four Florida regions

USDA Hardiness Zone 9B, South Central Florida

http://bit.ly/ManateeFFL
Success Stories - Lakewood Ranch

Before

After 1 year
Success Stories - Homeowner

Before

After – 10 years