



Florida Geological Survey

PROTECT OUR RESOURCES... FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Florida attracts visitors and residents alike. We all enjoy the recreational opportunities afforded by springs, beaches, rivers, forests, and prairies. And the state is a gardener's paradise, offering nearly twelve months of horticultural productivity.

But Florida's rapid population growth presents challenges. Loss of wildlife habitat, water pollution, and the increasing demand placed on a limited water supply threaten the natural resources that brought us here.

Now, more than ever, it is time to make choices that protect the health and beauty of Florida. Those choices start right in your home landscape.

Florida's springs (pictured above) offer wildlife habitat and recreational opportunity, but they are increasingly threatened by pollution. Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices help protect Florida's water resources from contamination.

Swales (dips) and berms (rises) help slow the runoff of stormwater from a landscape. The water percolates through the soil and is filtered by turfgrass before it reaches the underground reservoir called the aquifer. Porous pavers (pictured right), like mulch and crushed shell, also allow runoff to seep into the earth instead of carrying debris into nearby water bodies.



Audrey Darr

To learn more about creating and maintaining attractive landscapes that protect Florida's water resources and environment, contact your county Extension office.



Rain barrels may be visually unobtrusive and screened, or even painted to match the house.

Or contact the FFL State office at:

(352) 273-4518

<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>

E-mail: fyn@ifas.ufl.edu

The Cooperative Extension Service is a partnership between the University of Florida and your local county government.



Angela Maraj

FIND OUT HOW TO CONVERT YOUR YARD TO A FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE TODAY!

Visit Publications at:
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>



Create a Florida Friendly Yard



CITY OF MOUNT DORA



Neta Villalobos-Bell

Florida-Friendly
Landscaping™ PROGRAM 
Solutions for Your Yard

OUR YARDS AND COMMUNITY LANDSCAPES

The first line of defense.

Every year, thousands of Floridians turn to their county's UF/IFAS Extension office for advice from trained horticultural staff and master gardener volunteers. UF/IFAS Extension can teach you to design and maintain an attractive home landscape that uses minimal water, fertilizer, and pesticides.



Florida Yards & Neighborhoods (FYN) is a public education and outreach program for homeowners. As part of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program, it is offered statewide through most UF/IFAS Extension offices.

Help is just a phone call away and your county Extension office is a wealth of information. Signage at the Citrus County Extension office (pictured below) teaches visitors about the nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles.

Contact your county Extension office at <http://solutionsforyourlife.ifas.ufl.edu/map/> to find a schedule of FFL workshops. Learn how to build a compost bin, build and install a rain barrel (pictured above), plant a vegetable garden, calibrate your sprinkler system, and much more! Phone: (352) 273-4518 or visit the web site: <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>. Please visit our web site to find your county Extension office.



THE NINE PRINCIPLES

The nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles emphasize sustainable landscaping choices.



#1
RIGHT PLANT,
RIGHT PLACE

Select plants suited for a specific location. Plants in the right place will thrive on minimal amounts of water, fertilizer, and pesticides.



#2
WATER
EFFICIENTLY

Irrigate only when your lawn and landscape show wilt signs. Water during cooler times of day, and check your irrigation system regularly for leaks and clogs.



#3
FERTILIZE
APPROPRIATELY

Apply fertilizers with at least 30% slow-release nitrogen (N) at the right times and in the right amounts to prevent leaching and runoff into ground- and surface waters. Never fertilize before a heavy rain.



#4
MULCH

Maintain a 2-3" layer of mulch on landscape beds to retain soil moisture, prevent erosion, and suppress weed germination.



#5
ATTRACT
WILDLIFE

Choose plants with fruits or berries to attract birds and other pollinators. Leave snags and increase vertical layering to provide wildlife habitat.



#6
MANAGE YARD
PESTS
RESPONSIBLY

Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for a healthy, sustainable approach to keeping your landscape safe from pest insects.



#7
RECYCLE

Return valuable nutrients to the soil and reduce waste disposal by composting grass clippings, raked leaves, and pruned tree and plant parts.



#8
REDUCE
STORMWATER
RUNOFF

Use features like earth shaping and rain gardens to keep rainwater on your landscape, rather than letting it run off into storm drains, carrying fertilizers, pesticides, soil, and other debris.



#9
PROTECT THE
WATERFRONT

Protect the water body you live on from chemicals and debris. Designate a 10' maintenance-free zone between the shoreline and your landscape and do not fertilize, mow, or apply pesticides in that area.