1-1-2014

Principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping(Tm)

John J. Pipoly III

Find out more information about Nova Southeastern University and the Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography.

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Principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

John J. Pipoly III, Ph.D., FLS
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Principles

1. Right plant, right place
2. Water efficiently
3. Mulch
4. Recycle
5. Fertilize appropriately
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Principles

6. Manage yard pests
7. Reduce stormwater runoff
8. Attract wildlife
9. Protect the waterfront
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Principles

#1: Right Plant, Right Place

- Plants require minimal supplemental water, fertilizer, or pesticide
- Group species according to water, light and soil needs; increase diversity
- Use groundcovers and small shrubs where turf is difficult to maintain
- If turf fails in a location, explore other options

Join scattered plants into one bed.
STRATIFY your design to increase Hurricane Resistance and help Wildlife

- The greater the number of strata (layers),
- The greater the protection from hurricane damage, and
- The greater the reduction in temperature at ground level.
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#2: Water Efficiently

- Nonpoint source water pollution from leaching or runoff
- Water only when needed
- Water early in morning or evening to avoid fungi and other disease
- Never more than \( \frac{3}{4} \)” water per application
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Calibrate Irrigation Systems

Determine time to apply up to 3/4 inch water
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Replace narrow strips of turf or install micro-irrigation

Too much water wasted

Turf replaced with native border planting

Installing micro-irrigation to avoid waste
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• Install shut-off with a clear, open view of sky; keep away from AC, pool heaters– costs from $20 to $30

• Use a rain gauge and shut-off device, required by Florida state law on all new irrigation systems installed after 1991.

Cork in sensor expands when wet, shutting off system
Soil Moisture Sensors
Now cost ca. $99 for first set and $20 per additional

- Sensor is buried in turf root zone
- Sends signal to control box
- Can be an add-on or integrated with controller system
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#3: Fertilize Appropriately

• Fertilizer runoff or leaching can endanger waterways
• UF science-based fertilizer application rates; never > 1 lb. nitrogen/1,000 ft²
• Allow turf to go dormant in cooler months
• Use minimal fertilizer at all times; remember systemic pesticides now contain fertilizer
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• Leave a 10 foot maintenance-free zone around waterways; Florida law requires 3 feet; use deflector shield on spreader

• See BMP reference
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#4: Mulch

- Beautifies and conserves moisture
- Reduces weeds
- Minimizes runoff and erosion
- Enriches soil when it breaks down

Organic Mulch is preferred over inorganic, such as seashells and stones. Do NOT use recycled rubber.
Use by-product or recycled mulches. Do not use Cypress. It repels water when dry.

*Melaleuca* chemicals inhibit seed germination; *Eucalyptus* mulch repels many insects.
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#5: Attract Wildlife

• Provide a “green corridor” for animal travel from one wild space to another

• Beauty and benefits of natural pest control, pollination and dispersal of natives
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#6: Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

Use least toxic method first—
insecticidal soap and others*

*Product brands shown are representative; no endorsement of particular brands is expressed or implied.
Integrated Pest Management

- Focus on prevention:
  - Plant pest-resistant species/cultivars
  - Keep plants healthy
  - Attract beneficial insects
  - Maximize species diversity
- Monitor growth, development, flowering
- Know key plants/key pests
- Spot-treat when necessary
- Use least-toxic controls
- Consider acceptable damage
- Minimize pesticide use to keep beneficial insects
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#7: Recycle

Leaves and grass clippings can be used as mulch

Remove no more than 1/3 grass leaf blade at a time; leave on lawn

Grasscycling does not result in thatch build-up. Thatch is caused by over-fertilization and over-watering.
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#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
Rain gardens are a great alternative. For more information, visit

http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/professionals/LA_CEU/LA_CEU_Module_3_Rain_Gardens_April_13_2010.ppt
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#9: Protect the Waterfront

- Maintenance-free zone of at least 10 feet (3 feet by law)
- Keep grass clippings from washing into storm drains and water bodies
Waterways provide habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife when planted with suitable plant species.

Plants on a waterway bank or littoral shelf reduce or eliminate maintenance and consequent stormwater runoff, while reducing erosion, balancing oxygen levels in the water and feeding wildlife.
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™
Website
http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu

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Mission Statement
The mission of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program is to educate Floridians about science-based, environmentally friendly landscaping practices and to encourage them to conserve and protect our water resources by applying Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Principles in their landscapes.
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™
Resources

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Website http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu

FYN Handbook for Homeowners

Green Industries Best Management Practices Handbook for Commercial Landscape Industry, COAs and HOAs
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Resources

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Website [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu)

FFL Plant Selection Guide

USDA Zone 10-11 Sample Plant Lists and Designs
FloridaYards.org Web site
http://www.floridayards.org/

Searchable plant list with color photos
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™: A collaborative effort
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™
Contact Information

Florida-Friendly Landscaping: Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program
Florida Master Gardeners of Broward County
UF-IFAS/ Broward County Extension Education
Parks and Recreation Division
(954) 357-5270
mastergardener@broward.org

NatureScape Broward Program
For Yard Certification, See
http://www.broward.org/NaturalResources/NatureScape/Pages/HowToGetCertified.aspx
then contact: naturescape@broward.org
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"The Foundation for the Gator Nation, An Equal Opportunity Institution."

This public document was promulgated at a cost of $126 or $1.26 cents per copy to inform the public about Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, NatureScape, and how to conserve water and reduce nonpoint source pollution.