

'Florida Friendly Yards'

Educational Series Workshop 1

Tampa Palms

'Florida Friendly Yards'

- Who am I?
- What's this workshop about?
- What is our experience with all of this?

Tampa Palms Owner's Association

- www.tpoa.net/BOD.html
- Board of Directors:
 - President: Bill Edwards
 - Vice President: Jake Schoolfield
 - Secretary: Barbara Shimer
 - Treasurer: Dudley Bryant
 - Director: Ernie Angelilli



Partnering Recognition/Credits

- Floridayards.org
- UF IFAS Extension
- SWFWMD
- DEP



Housekeeping

- This is an informal presentation...no test at the end
- We will have a Q&A period
- We will give away some small prizes throughout (put your name on my card!)
- Take your own break

Housekeeping

- Today's workshop: 'FFY and Tampa Palms'
 - 10:00 – 11:00 discussion
 - 11:00 – 11:10 break
 - 11:10 – 11:45 discussion
 - 11:45 - noon Q&A
- July 11th: 'How to Introduce Low Volume Irrigation into Tampa Palms'
- July 18th: 'Migrating Tampa Palms to a FFY'

What are we trying to accomplish today?

- Learn about the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program (FYN) and the relevance to Tampa Palms
- Introduce landscaping principles and ideas that can be implemented throughout Tampa Palms and employed at your own residence
- Provide you with additional resources to continue learning more on your own



Disclaimer

- Ongoing research
- Not the complete expert
- Today is the general overview of 'FYN'
- This is not an 'all or nothing' approach

Contact Information

- If you would like a PDF of this presentation, we can email it to you

jrinard@hka-design.com

FYN: What is it and why are we talking about it?

- Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program is science/ research based education and research implemented through the UF IFAS Cooperative Extension Service
- Partnership of several agencies/ groups to help address Florida's problems of pollution, water shortages, and habitat loss through the UF IFAS

What is it and why are we talking about it?

- History:

- Started with the idea of 'xeriscape'
- Greek word xeros for 'dry' + landscape
- Colorado
- Reduce or eliminate need for water

What is it and why are we talking about it?

- What is xeriscape?
 - Sometimes confusing...0
 - Not a specific look or specific group of plants
 - Combination of seven common-sense gardening principles that save water while creating a lush and colorful landscape
 - FYN expands upon this idea but employs other environmental practices to create a healthy landscape

Why are we talking about it?

- Good for you, your wallet, and the environment



Guiding FYN Principles

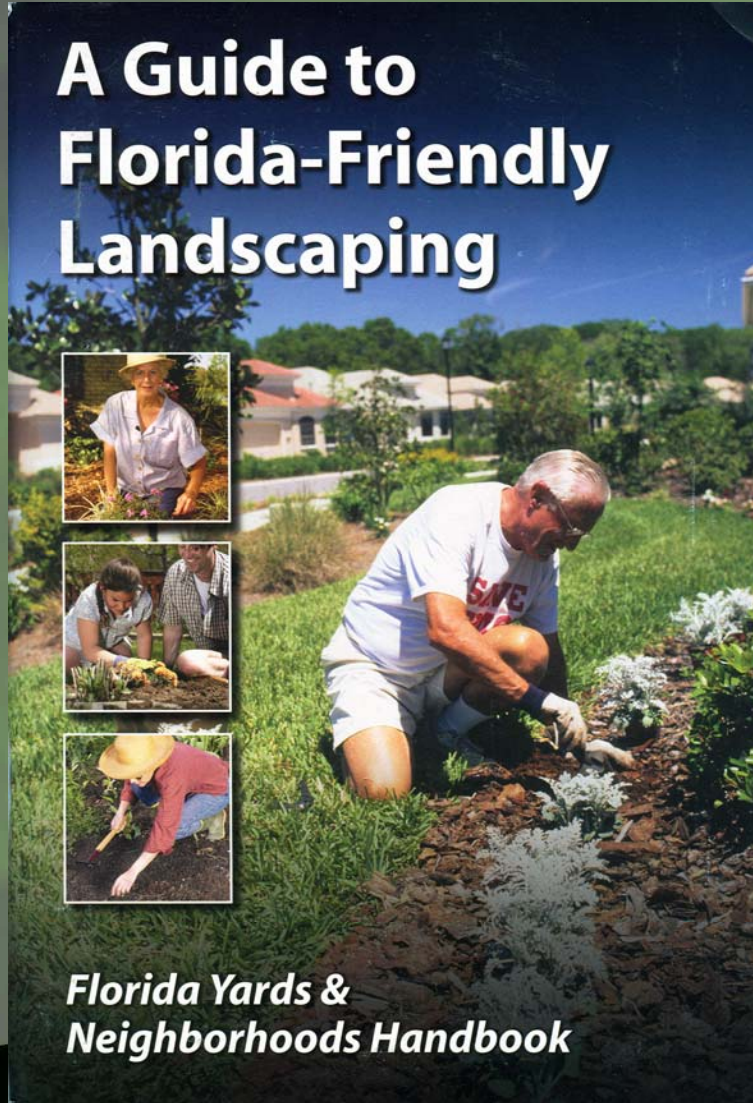
- Right Plant, Right Place
- Water Efficiently
- Fertilize Appropriately
- Mulch
- Attract Wildlife
- Manage Yard Pests Responsibly
- Recycle
- Reduce Stormwater Runoff
- Protect the Waterfront

Literature

A Guide to Florida-Friendly Landscaping



*Florida Yards &
Neighborhoods Handbook*



Right Plant, Right Place



Right Plant, Right Place

- Pre-quiz (from floridayards.org)
 - Florida-friendly plants:
 - A. Will grow well anywhere in Florida
 - B. Are always Florida natives
 - C. Will generally require minimal amounts of irrigation, fertilizer, and pesticides when site conditions are met
 - D. Are drought-tolerant



Door Prize



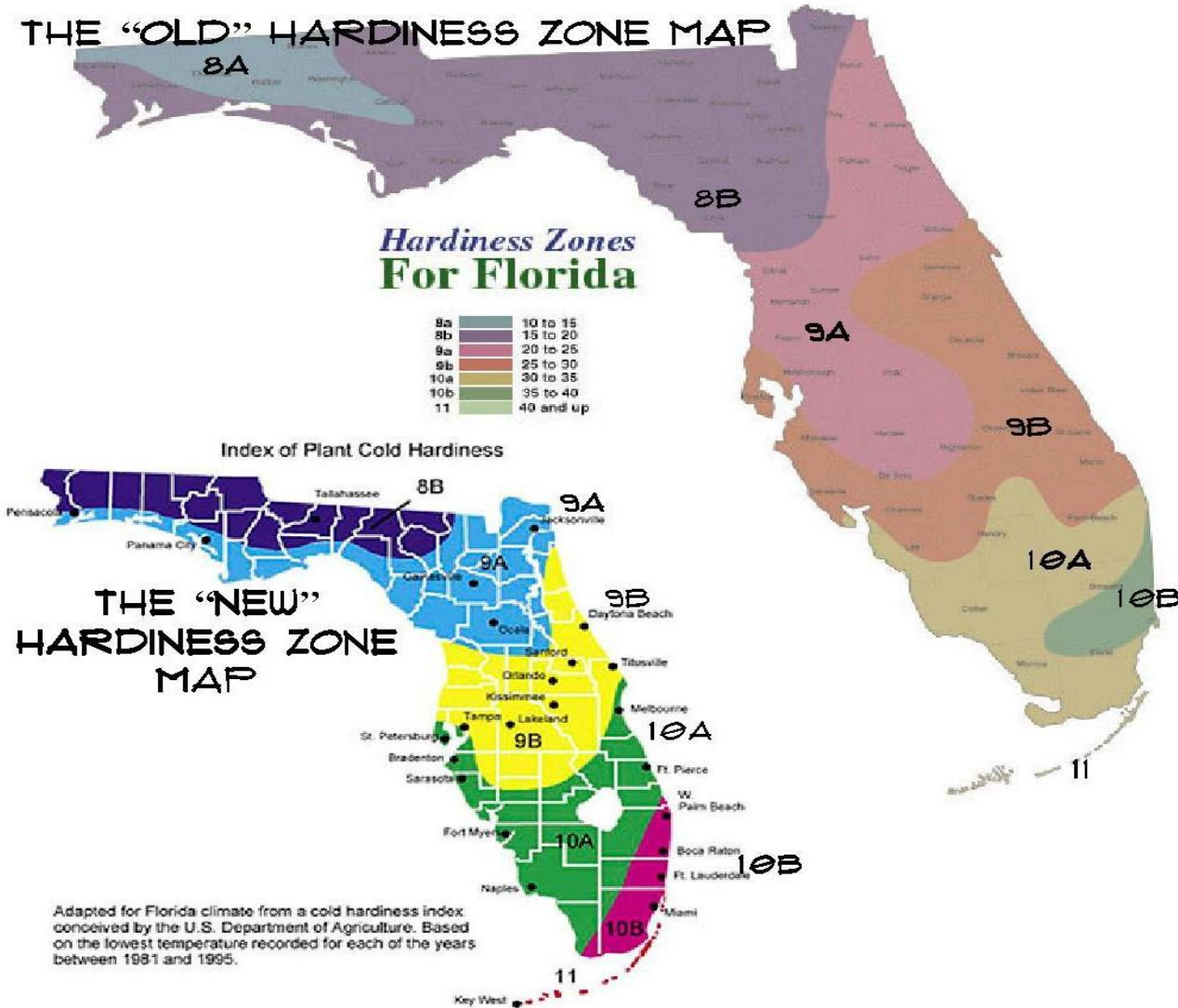
Right Plant, Right Place

RIGHT PLANT,
RIGHT PLACE



LANDSCAPING PRINCIPLES FOR
FLORIDA-FRIENDLY YARDS

THE "OLD" HARDINESS ZONE MAP



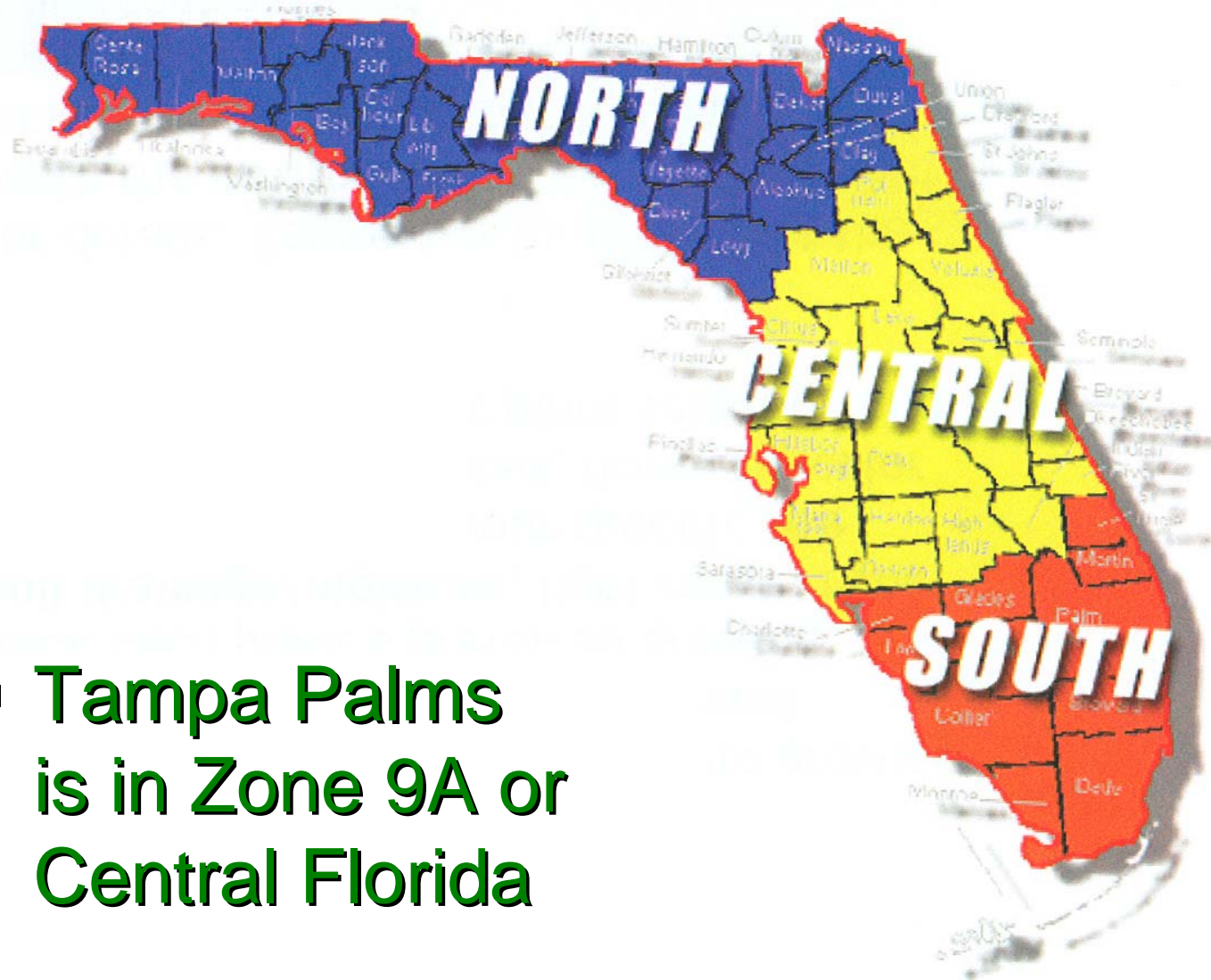
THE "NEW"
HARDINESS ZONE
MAP

Right Plant, Right Place

RIGHT PLANT,
RIGHT PLACE



LANDSCAPING PRINCIPLES FOR
FLORIDA-FRIENDLY YARDS



- Tampa Palms is in Zone 9A or Central Florida

Literature



Florida-Friendly Plant List 2006



Tom Wichman¹, Gary Knox¹, Ed Gilman¹, David Sandrock², Bart Schutzman¹, Erin Alvarez¹, Rick Schoellhorn³, and Barbra Larson¹

¹Dept. of Environmental Horticulture, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL; ²Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR; ³Proven Winners, Gainesville, FL

The plants on this list are considered by UF/IFAS horticulture specialists to be well adapted to growing in Florida landscapes. When planted under appropriate soil, light, and climatic conditions, most generally require little maintenance compared with other plants. Each plant's preferred growing conditions (soil pH, soil texture, relative drought tolerance, soil drainage/moisture, light range, light optimum, and salt tolerance) are included here as a guide to choosing plants for your specific site conditions. Additional information is given on growth rate, mature height and spread, flowering color and season, value to wildlife, wind resistance and other characteristics helpful for plant selection and maintenance.

See the key to symbols and abbreviations used in the tables for details. Remember to always put the right plant in the right place by matching each plant's needs with the environmental conditions found at the site. There may be variation in some characteristics, especially in the region (north, central or south) of Florida in which plants will grow. Check with your county's UF/IFAS Extension office to confirm the appropriateness of specific plants (look in the government pages of your phone book or see <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map> for your county's contact information).

Right Plant, Right Place

- Better understanding your yard environment
 - Putting plants in the right conditions can reduce the amount of water, fertilizer, pesticides, and pruning required
 - Site analysis: light, water, seasonal temperatures, wind, soil conditions



Right Plant, Right Place



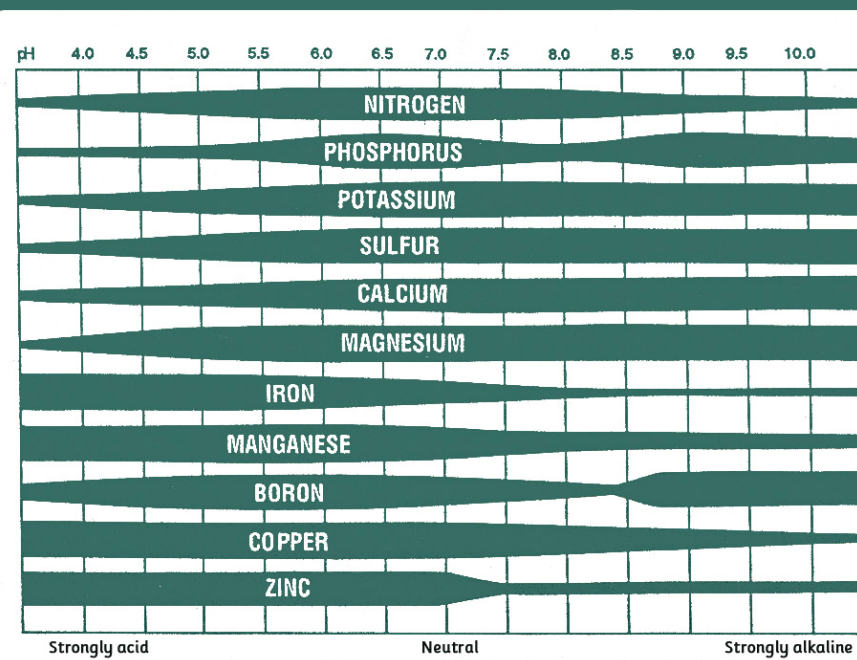
- Know your pH and take a soil sample down to your IFAS extension agency



raise pH: + hydrated lime

lower pH: + sulfur

Table 2. Effects of soil acidity/alkalinity on plant nutrient availability



Strongly acid

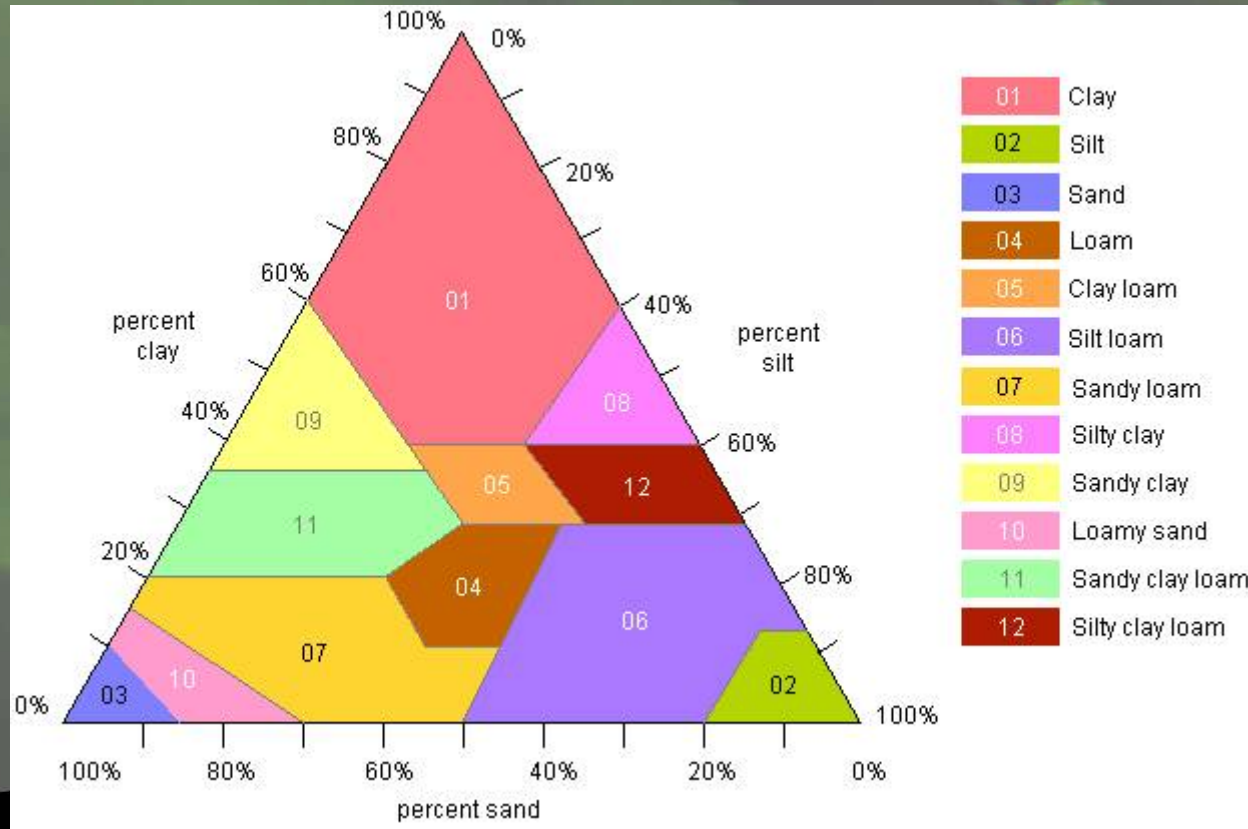
Neutral

Strongly alkaline

The general relation of pH to the availability of plant nutrients in the soil: the thicker the bar, the more available the nutrient.

Right Plant, Right Place

- Know your pH and take a soil sample down to your IFAS extension agency



Right Plant, Right Place

- Plant selection

- Look for plants that reduce maintenance and prevent runoff pollution
- Select plants that attract wildlife
- Consider plants that affect your senses and well-being



Right Plant, Right Place

- Avoid Invasive Species
 - Brazilian Pepper
 - Melaleuca
- Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council
 - www.fleppc.org
- IFAS Invasive Plant Working Group
 - <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment>



Right Plant, Right Place

- Try and keep turf to functional uses (i.e.: recreation, filtering runoff)
- Use drought tolerant species
- Shift to groundcovers or mulched beds in heavily shaded areas



Right Plant, Right Place



Safe digging is no accident. Always call 811 before digging.

**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



Preventing damages to buried utilities by connecting excavators and utility members through the Internet

www.callsunshine.com

Water Efficiently



Water Efficiently

- Pre-quiz (from floridayards.org)
 - Mowing the lawn as short as possible:
 - A. Helps to avoid insect pests and diseases
 - B. Stresses or damages the lawn
 - C. Allows development of a deeper root system
 - D. Helps to maintain a healthy lawn



Door Prize



Water Efficiently

- “When the well runs dry, we learn the worth of water.” - Ben Franklin (Poor Richard’s Almanac 1733)



Water Efficiently

- Water conservation is one of the most critical issues facing Florida today and in the future.



Water Efficiently

- How do we accomplish this?
 - Integrate drought tolerant plantings and group plantings together based on their watering needs



Water Efficiently

- How do we accomplish this?
 - Utilize low volume irrigation



Water Efficiently

- How do we accomplish this?
 - Design for consistent coverage throughout irrigated areas



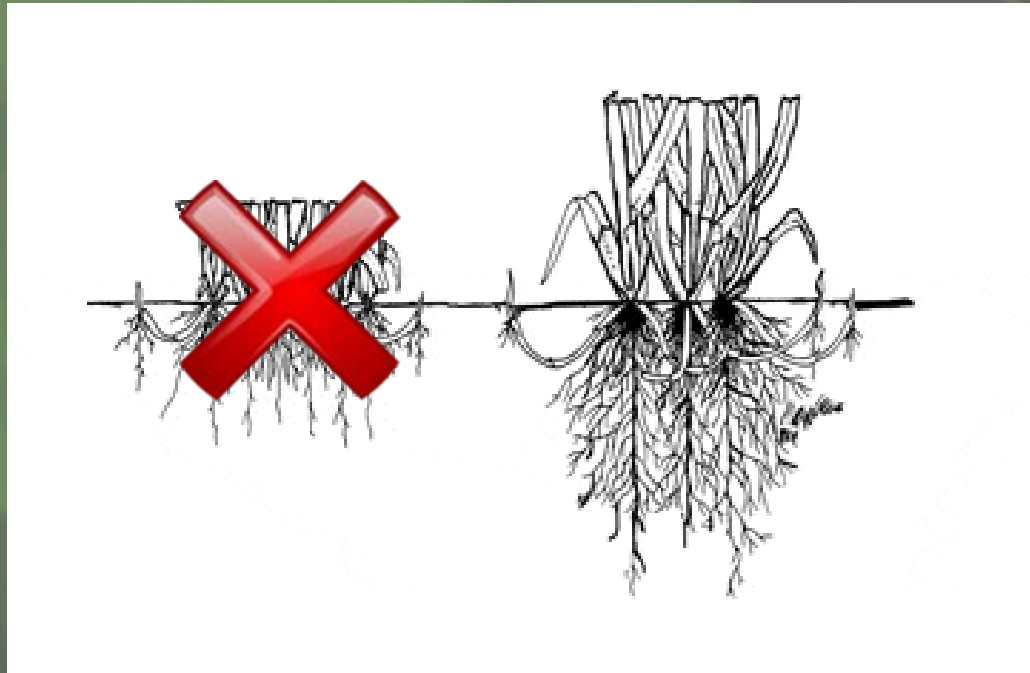
Water Efficiently

- How do we accomplish this?
 - Utilize a rain sensor



Water Efficiently

- How do we accomplish this?
 - Don't overwater the turf or shrubs



Water Efficiently

- Know and maintain your irrigation system
 - Learn how the controls work and adjust to seasonal variations



Water Efficiently

- Know and maintain your irrigation system
 - Repair breaks/ leaks



Water Efficiently

- Know and maintain your irrigation system
 - Replace/ adjust nozzles to minimize overspray



Fertilize Appropriately



Fertilize Appropriately

- Pre-quiz (from floridayards.org)
 - Clean up any fertilizer spills on driveways or other hard surfaces by:
 - A. Rinsing it off with a hose
 - B. Waiting for the rain to wash it away
 - C. Blowing it into the street
 - D. Sweeping it back into lawn or landscape areas



Literature

Hillsborough County Extension

FERTILIZER FACTS

Florida-friendly lawn and garden practices



UF UNIVERSITY of **FLORIDA** Florida
IFAS Extension Yards & Neighborhoods

Door Prize



Fertilize Appropriately

- What is fertilizer?
 - Any substance that contains one or more recognized plant nutrients and promotes plant growth, or controls acidity or alkalinity, or provides soil enrichment or other corrective measures to the soil



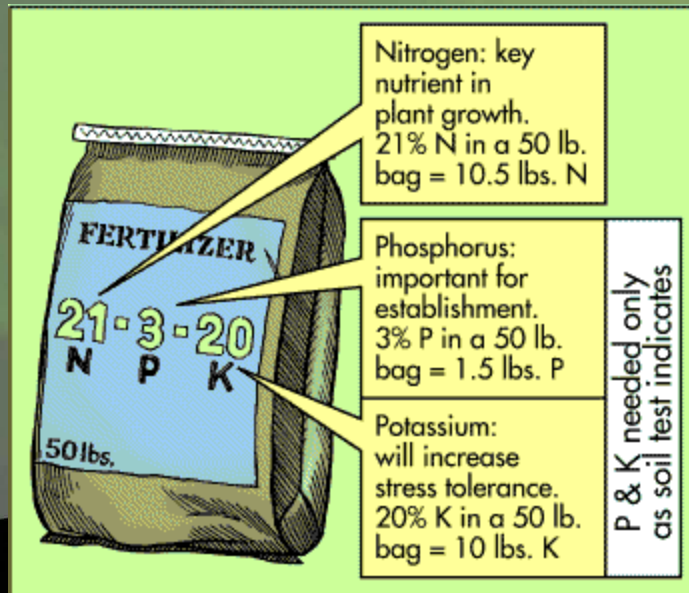
Fertilize Appropriately

- Why do we fertilize?
 - To supply nutrients to plants in order to achieve a clearly defined objective, such as:
 - Increasing shoot growth, root growth, flowering, or fruiting
 - Establishing new plantings
 - Enhancing foliage color and plant appearance
 - Correcting or preventing nutrient deficiencies



Fertilize Appropriately

- N-P-K, what do the labels mean?
 - N = total nitrogen (N)
 - P = total phosphorus (P_2O_5)
 - K = total potassium (K_2O)



Fertilize Appropriately

- Fertilizer application:
 - Understand what your landscape needs
 - Follow manufacturer labels
 - Consult with your landscape professional
 - Contact your local IFAS Extension service



Fertilize Appropriately

- Fertilizer application:
 - Use slow release nitrogen to prevent excessive leaching



Fertilize Appropriately

- Fertilizer application:
 - Apply during the growing season



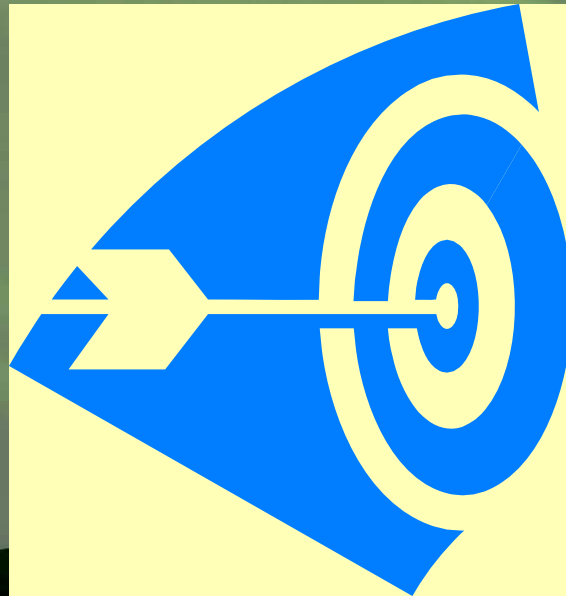
Fertilize Appropriately

- Fertilizer application:
 - Utilize a drop spreader to broadcast



Fertilize Appropriately

- Fertilizer application:
 - Avoid the Weed 'n' Feed type products that combine herbicide with fertilizer



Fertilize Appropriately

- Fertilizer application:
 - Understand that tree roots extend out and we want to avoid overlap treatment and over- fertilizing; fertilize for one type and not the other



Fertilize Appropriately

Florida Yard Tip:



Where Are Tree Roots?

A tree resembles a wine glass placed on a dinner plate. Consider the base of the wine glass as the part of the trunk where major roots flare outward. The dinner plate represents the rest of the root system, which extends far beyond the **drip line** — up to five times the canopy's diameter, depending on the species. Vertically speaking, most tree roots are located in the top two inches of soil, where oxygen is available through exchange between the soil surface and atmosphere.



illustration by: Morton Arboretum



FERTILIZE
APPROPRIATELY

3

LANDSCAPING PRINCIPLES FOR
FLORIDA-FRIENDLY YARDS

Fertilize Appropriately

- Fertilizer application:
 - Watch the weather before fertilizing; avoid if heavy rains are forecast; only need about ¼" to water in



Fertilize Appropriately

- New fertilizer ordinances are being implemented or considered by municipalities and governing agencies which affect the professional and residents alike



Mulch



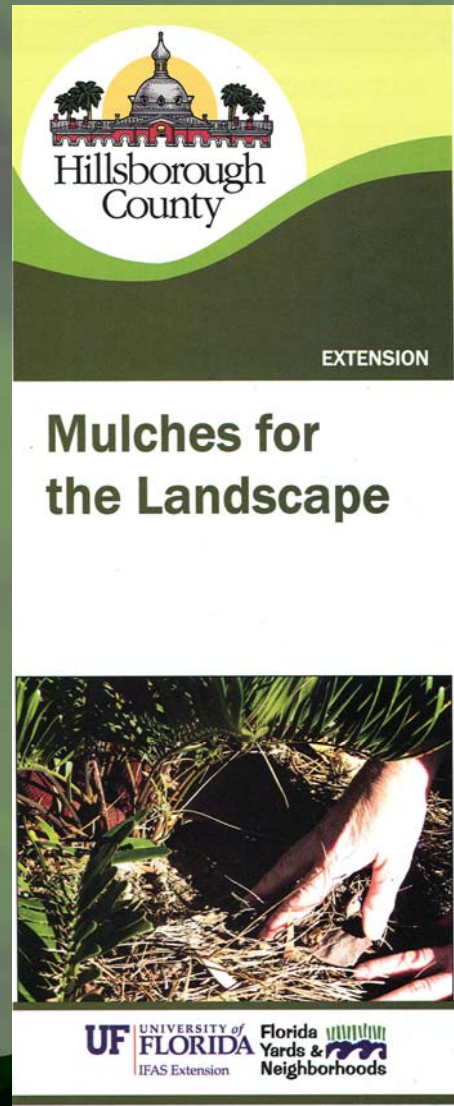
LANDSCAPING PRINCIPLES FOR
FLORIDA - FRIENDLY YARDS

Mulch

- Pre-quiz (from floridayards.org)
 - Which of the following is often NOT a by-product (recycled) mulch:
 - A. Municipal mulch
 - B. Cypress mulch
 - C. Melaleuca mulch
 - D. Pine bark mulch
 - E. None of the above



Literature

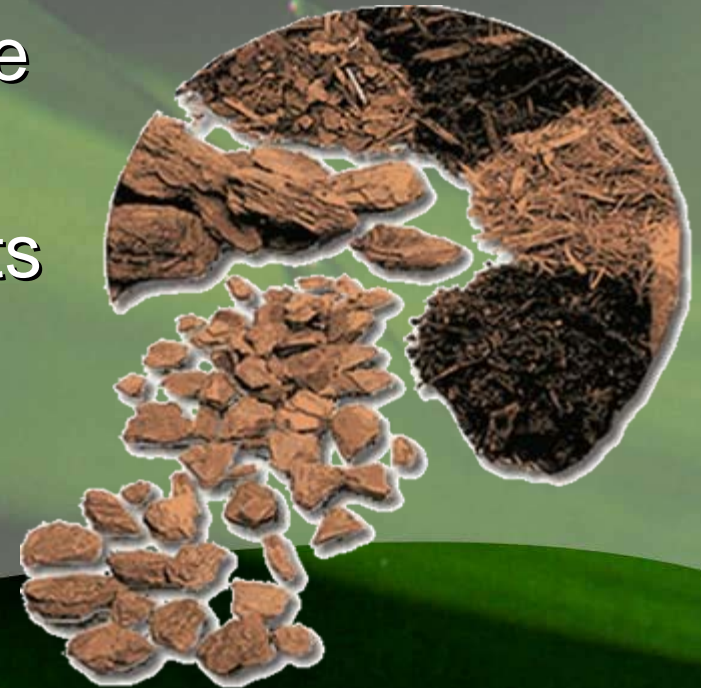


Door Prize



Mulch

- What is mulch and types of mulch?
 - Any material applied to soil surface to protect or improve the area covered.
 - Mulches are used with plants to modify the planting environment and improve growth
 - Organic vs. Inorganic



Mulch

- Organic mulch benefits
 - Prevent water loss from the soil
 - Suppress weeds
 - Provide uniform soil temperatures
 - Improve absorption and percolation of water into the soil
 - Improve soil structure
 - Provide aesthetics
 - Promote additional surface roots



Mulch

- Mulch thickness
 - Install 2"- 3" thick and pull away from the trunks of trees; no 'volcano' mulching



Mulch

- Ideal mulches to consider are those that come as by-products of a process and are not a straight derivative or those that are recycled



Official Break Time



Attract Wildlife



Attract Wildlife

- Pre-quiz (from floridayards.org)
 - You can attract more wildlife to your yard by:
 - A. Providing more open spaces
 - B. Making sure grasses and flowers don't go to seed
 - C. Remove caterpillars as soon as you see them
 - D. Increasing the diversity of plants
 - E. All of the above



Literature

Florida Wildflowers & Butterflies



Florida is home to a spectacular array of wildflowers and butterflies. There are some 2800 native plants and more than 180 species of butterflies for residents and visitors to enjoy year round. This diversity is due in part to Florida's geographic location – it is suitable for many temperate and subtropical species. Invite butterflies to your yard by gardening with native plants. Cater to their life cycle needs by including nectar plants for adult butterflies and host plants for their larvae.

Butterflies have four life stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and adult. By planting host plants, you are providing food for caterpillars and can enjoy watching them grow and transform into adult butterflies. The life cycle below shows the egg, larva, pupa, and adult stages of the Zebra Longwing on its host plant, Purple Passionflower.



Our State Butterfly

Zebra Longwing (*Heliconius charitonius*) is Florida's state butterfly. Found throughout the state, the delicate adults may live for several months. Females deposit small, yellow eggs on young leaves and tendrils of Purple Passionflower. They may produce numerous generations each year.

Our State Wildflower

The genus *Coreopsis* is Florida's state wildflower. Often called tickseeds, the plants' small seeds cling to clothing or pet hair and resemble insects. Thirteen *Coreopsis* species occur in Florida, two of which are found only in Florida. *Coreopsis* is frequently planted in gardens, and can often be seen along roadsides.

Door Prize



Attract Wildlife

- Lions and tigers and bears, oh my!



Attract Wildlife

- Butterflies, birds, and insects...



CYN. 99

Attract Wildlife

- Make your landscape attractive by creating a safe habitat for wildlife
 - Provide plant diversity and plants that bear fruit, seeds, and flowers



Attract Wildlife

- Make your landscape attractive by creating a safe habitat for wildlife
 - Create natural corridors with bordering properties to allow wildlife to move through the larger neighborhood



Attract Wildlife

- Make your landscape attractive by creating a safe habitat for wildlife
 - Protect these areas from pets



Attract Wildlife

- Make your landscape attractive by creating a safe habitat for wildlife
 - Provide a water source



Attract Wildlife

- Make your landscape attractive by creating a safe habitat for wildlife
 - Avoid pesticides/ chemicals on a regular basis without a specific reason



Attract Wildlife

- Butterflies
 - Perennial gardens – Pentas is an easy one



Attract Wildlife

- Birds
 - Bird feeders, houses, baths



Attract Wildlife

- Bats

- Houses

- 70% of the world's bats eat insects. One bat can devour up to 3,000 insects in a night! Most insectivorous bats eat their body weight in insects each night.

www.floridabats.org



Manage Yard Pests Responsibly



Manage Yard Pests Responsibly



- Pre-quiz (from floridayards.org)
 - A key Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tactic to prevent yard pests is to:
 - A. Apply regular preventive applications of pesticides to your yard
 - B. Keep your plants healthy to better withstand pest attack
 - C. Apply blanket applications of pesticides to treat your entire yard at once
 - D. Use insecticides that harm many types of insects
 - E. All of the above



Door Prize



Manage Yard Pests Responsibly



Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
 - A better approach to managing pests which emphasizes using a combination of environmentally friendly methods that focus on preventing pest problems.



Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

- Create an environmentally friendly landscape by following the basics of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
 - Choose pest resistant plants



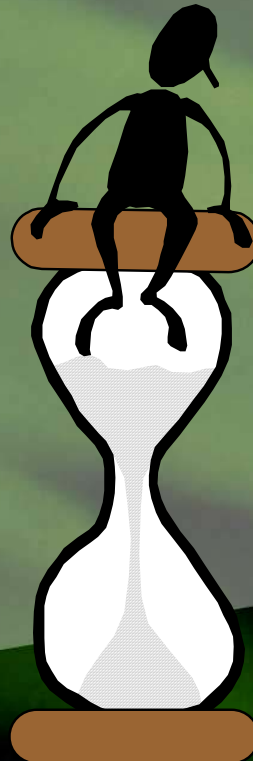
Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

- Following the basics of IPM
 - Check plants regularly and trim off damaged areas or pick off insects when possible



Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

- Following the basics of IPM
 - Be tolerant...low levels of pests will do minimal damage



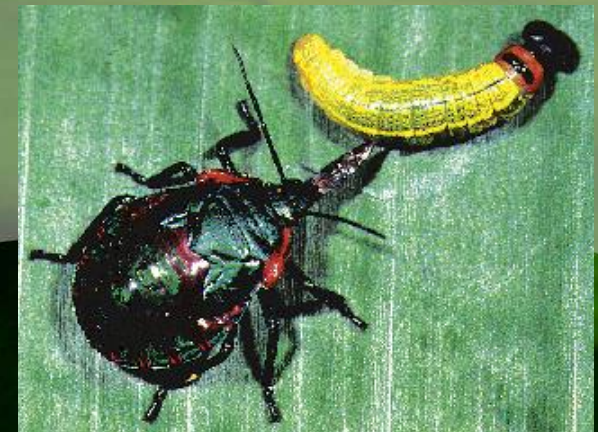
Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

- Following the basics of IPM
 - Spot treat affected plants and lawn areas...avoid the blanket applications of pesticides and/or herbicides



Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

- Following the basics of IPM
 - Learn to identify beneficial insects and let them do the work for you



Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

- Following the basics of IPM
 - If a pesticide becomes necessary, use the least toxic, including insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils and microbials (e.g., spinosad, abamectin, *Bacillus thuringiensis* 'Kurstaki')



Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

- Following the basics of IPM
 - Weeding by hand is an environmentally friendly, non-toxic weed control method



Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

- Following the basics of IPM
 - Check to see that the lawn service or pest control operator that you use is aware of, trained and practices Integrated Pest Management



Recycle



Recycle

- Pre-quiz (floridayards.org)
 - In Florida it is illegal to dispose of yard wastes in landfills.



- True
- False



Door Prize



Recycle

- One of the three R's (reduce, reuse, recycle)...goal is to reduce our impact on our landfill loads



Recycle

- Mowing, raking, and pruning all generate yard waste...a lot of this can be returned to the soil for valuable nutrients
 - Bag the bag



Recycle

- Return yard waste back to the soil...
 - Let lawn clippings lie



Recycle

- Return yard waste back to the soil...
 - Use leaves as mulch



Recycle

- Return yard waste back to the soil...
 - Compost yard clippings



Recycle

- Composting
 - What can be composted?
 - Any vegetable/ fruit matter that you would normally put down the disposal
 - Coffee grinds and filter
 - Egg shells
 - Grass clippings
 - Fallen leaves
 - Small cuttings



Recycle

- Compost: good for the garden
 - Improves soil structure and aeration; adds nutrients
 - Increases water holding capacity
 - Loosens compacted soils
 - Stimulates root development
 - Creates a nice environment for beneficial microorganisms, worms, insects



Reduce Stormwater Runoff



Reduce Stormwater Runoff

- Pre-quiz (from floridayards.org)
 - Gutter downspouts should NOT be directed onto:
 - A. The driveway
 - B. Rain barrels
 - C. Lawns
 - D. Plant Beds



Literature

Florida Friendly
Best Management Practices
for Protection of Water Resources
by the Green Industries



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
A Florida-Friendly Landscape Publication

Door Prize



Reduce Stormwater Runoff

- Objective is to minimize the impact we each have on downstream treatment systems
 - Runoff carries with it pollutants (fertilizer, oil, chemicals, waste)



Reduce Stormwater Runoff

- Minimize the impact...
 - Downspouts to the yard
 - Earth shaping: swales and berms
 - Utilize porous surfaces for walks and patios



Reduce Stormwater Runoff

- Minimize the impact...
 - Prevent lawn clippings and fertilizer from getting into the stormwater sewer system

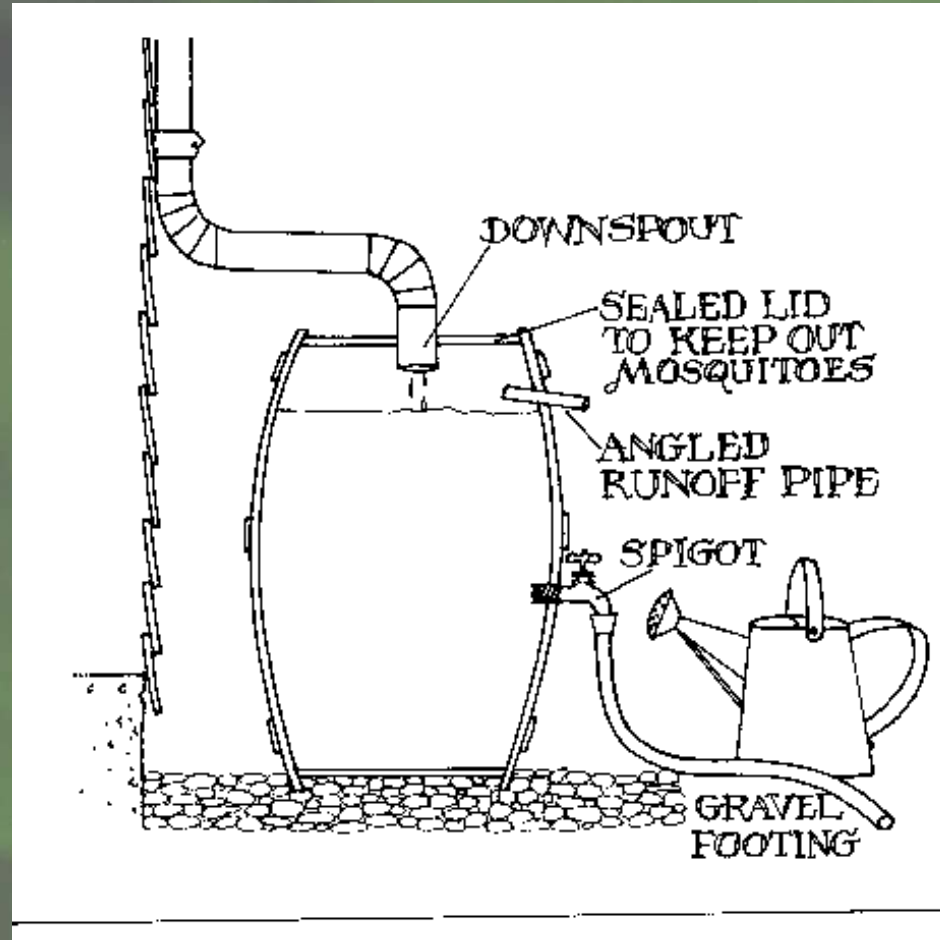


Reduce Stormwater Runoff

- Minimize the impact...
 - Utilize rain barrels and cisterns (capture, convey, hold, distribute)



Reduce Stormwater Runoff



Reduce Stormwater Runoff



- Dealing with pet waste

- Dog waste contains bacteria, viruses, and nutrients that can run off into local waterways and diminish water quality
- Composting or burying animal waste safely can help minimize these adverse environmental effects.

www.greenyour.com/lifestyle/pets/cat/tips/compost-your-pets-waste

73 million dogs creating 6.3 million tons of waste annually



8 billion pounds of litter dumped; 2x amount of disposable diapers annually

Protect the Waterfront



Protect the Waterfront



- Pre-quiz (from floridayards.org)
 - The most effective way to protect the waterfront from runoff pollution is to:
 - A. Remove mangroves
 - B. Apply herbicides to remove aquatic invasive plants
 - C. Maintain a “no fertilizer, no pesticide” zone of at least 7 feet between your lawn or landscape and the shoreline
 - D. Maintain a “no fertilizer, no pesticide” zone of at least 10-30 feet between your lawn or landscape and the shoreline



Door Prize



Protect the Waterfront

- Living on or close to the waterfront requires us to protect one of Florida's greatest natural resources



Protect the Waterfront

- Saltwater and Freshwater protection
 - Slow the velocity of runoff down – vegetation does this better than impervious
 - Filter nutrients and sediments
 - Hold soil in place
 - Designate a 10' 'maintenance-free' or 'low impact' zone



Thanks for your time.

Don't forget to mark these dates:

July 11th: 'How to Introduce Low Volume Irrigation into Tampa Palms'

July 18th: 'Migrating Tampa Palms to a FFY'

Thanks again to...

Tampa Palms Owner's Association

Floridayards.org

UF IFAS Extension Service

Southwest FL Water Management District

Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection

For Further Information

- www.floridayards.org
- www.floridayards.org/professional/WaterResources-BMPs.pdf
- www.watermatters.org
 - Under “Publications” are 144 documents available in digital or printed, including *A Guide to Florida-Friendly Landscaping*
- <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>
- Email me: jrinard@hka-design.com