

Community-based management of non-point sources of pollution



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Environmental Impacts

- Waterways impacted by human activity
- Florida has 10 M acres of managed landscapes
- Over 4 M acres of turf
- Landscape practices impact all waterways



Who is managing properties?

- Newer landscapes
- Higher-end landscapes
- Homeowner associations
 - Pesticides
 - Fertilizers
 - Herbicides
 - Insecticides
 - Cultural practices (mowing, plant selection, timing of activities)



Strategies to protect

- 2 initiatives in Pasco, Florida
 - Certified Property Manager training
 - Green Industry Best Management Practices training and certification



Certified Property Manager Training

- Manage large HOAs and CDDs
- HOA's are partners in water quality
- CPMs know little about outdoors
- Manage outdoor contracts with little knowledge
- CEUs

Florida law prohibits HOA from prohibiting Florida-friendly landscape practices - 2009



Florida-Friendly
Landscaping™ PROGRAM



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Florida-Friendly Landscape Program

- Replicate anywhere – but looks like “*here*”
- Common-sense practices (not so “common”)
- Attractive landscapes
- Practical
- Protects water systems
- Conserves resources
- Saves money



Florida-Friendly
Landscaping™ PROGRAM 

Florida-Friendly Landscapes™

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



Is this Florida-Friendly?



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How about this?



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Behavior changes

- Upgrade their Architectural Review guidelines
- Hire only certified landscape firms
- Require deflector shields
- Avoid fertilizing close to water bodies
- Require scouting for pests
- Proper handling of grass clippings
- Capped irrigation heads, etc.....



As a result....

- Discontinued sod replacement
- Save 10 mg/year
- Reduced electrical costs
- Proper spacing on plants saved \$\$\$
- Right Plant: Right Place vs. chemical applications
- Reduced maintenance contract costs



Green Industry BMP's

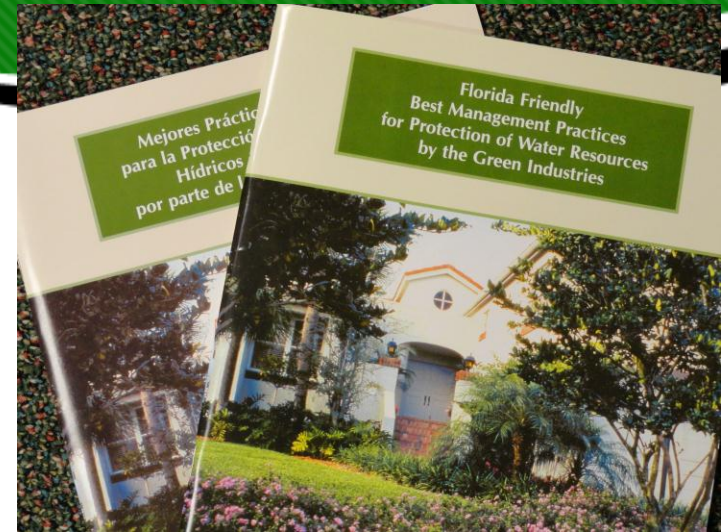
- Partnership between regulators, educators and industry representatives
- Required for green industry professionals
- Attend educational program then take/pass test to become certified



Certification

Day-long training

- Water resources background
- Lawn grass
- Landscape plants
- Pesticide
- Irrigation
- Fertilizer



Scouting for pests



Stormwater can look like this...



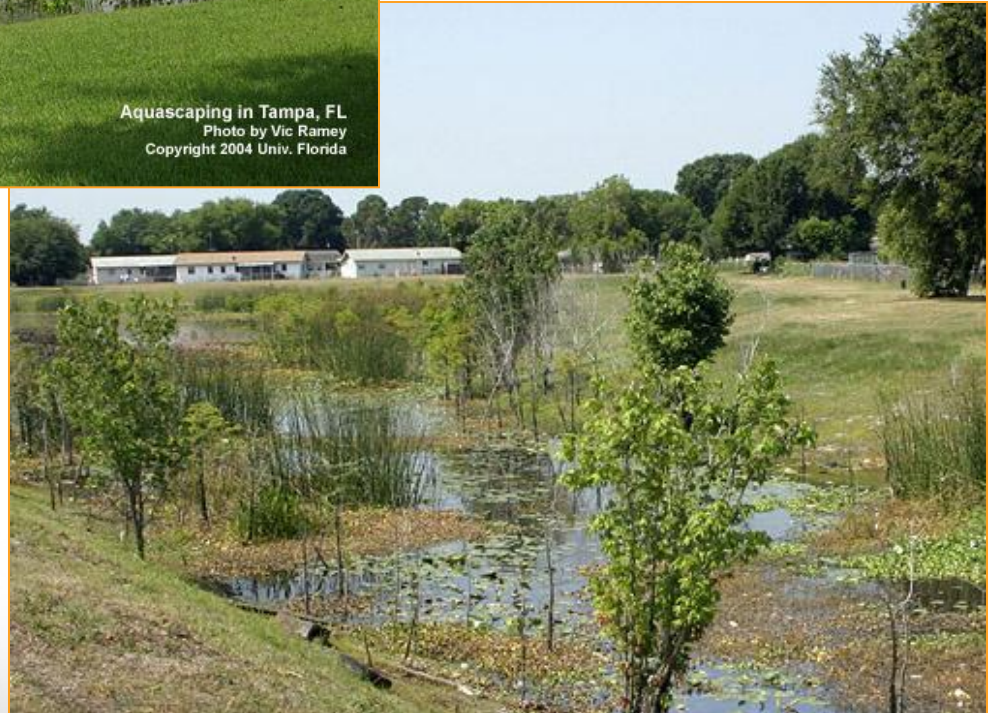
Photo by Vic Ramey
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Or this....



Aquascaping in Tampa, FL
Photo by Vic Ramey
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As a result.... High Quality Landscapes

- GI firms are becoming more competitive
- High customer retention rate
- Reduced costs (i.e. fertilizer, pesticides)
- Satisfied customer environmental demand
- Reduced employee turn over



Resource Protection

Our Goal:

Educate decision-makers and landscape managers of proper maintenance practices in order to minimize non-point sources of pollution

