Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Update
Master Gardener Volunteers
Make a Difference
### Super Issues

Broad societal challenges and needs requiring cross-programmatic efforts.

|---|---|---|---|---|

### High-Priority Initiatives

Guiding program development, delivery, and impact assessment.

1. **Increasing the sustainability, profitability, and competitiveness of agricultural and horticultural enterprises.**
   - Sustainability of production systems and alternative.
   - Farm economics, entrepreneurship, and management.
   - Citizen awareness of food systems and the environment.

2. **Enhancing and protecting water quality, quantity, and supply.**
   - Urban Water Quality and Conservation.
   - Agricultural Water Quality and Conservation.
   - Public awareness of water issues.

3. **Enhancing and conserving Florida’s natural resources and environmental quality.**
   - Informed community decision-making.
   - Natural resource operations and invasive species.
   - Environmental Literacy and Sustainability.

4. **Producing and conserving traditional and alternative forms of energy.**
   - Conservation practices and efficiency improvement.
   - Alternative energy solutions.
   - Community capacity development.

5. **Empowering individuals and families to build healthy lives and achieve social and economic success.**
   - Health and Wellness.
   - Family Resource Management.
   - Nutrition and Food Systems.

6. **Strengthening urban and rural community resources and economic development.**
   - Economic development and entrepreneurship.
   - Community capacity building.
   - Public policy education.

7. **Preparing youth to be responsible citizens and productive members of the workforce.**
   - Youth development.
   - Developing organizational and volunteer systems to support youth development.
Master Gardener Volunteers support Florida Friendly Landscaping™

Modeling
Peer to peer education
Community outreach
Extending the influence
What impacts?

Gallons of water saved
Reduced Fertilizer applications
Reduced use of Pesticide
Number of contacts
  • phone
  • email
  • office visits
FFL Landscape Recognitions
We need ambassadors

- to spread the word about Florida Friendly Landscaping™
- to get people to care about Florida Friendly Landscaping™ and see it as a solution
FFL State Office Team
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Director
Esen Momol
Florida-Friendly Communities
Claire Lewis
FYN Homeowner Coordinator
Jen Marvin
GI-BMP Statewide Coordinator
Tom Wichman
GI-BMP Regional Coordinators
West – Brian Niemann
East - Elisha Cash
South – Cesar Peralta
Florida-Friendly
Best Management Practices
for Protection of Water Resources
by the Green Industries

Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP)

module 1: introduction
Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP)
Water Quality Program
Reduce off-site transport of sediment, nutrients, and pesticides to surface water or groundwater
Use appropriate site design and plant selection – right plant, right place
Use appropriate rates and methods of applying fertilizer and irrigation to prevent pollution, conserve water, and promote healthy plants.
Use integrated pest management (IPM) to minimize pests and apply chemicals only when appropriate.
GI-BMP Training
The Numbers...
GI-BMP Statistics

Total (since 2006):
  • 63,918 trained
  • 54,139 certified

2019 (Jan to mid-Oct)
  • 4,514 trained
  • 3,680 certified

2019 is comparable to same period of 2018
Online and DVD training now accounts for more than half (52%) of certificates issued.
## Trends... In-Person Classes

**Fewer in-person classes**

- Attendance for CEU’s only has risen (no certification test)

### In-Person Classes (Jan-Sept)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>In-Person Classes</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>119</td>
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### CEUs Only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Follow-up Survey: Use of BMPs

Trainees are surveyed six months to one year after certification.

Consistently report increased adoption of BMPs

• Average 26% increase in “Always” using...
What You Will Learn

Practices that minimize Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS).

Efficient and effective landscape plant installation, establishment, and maintenance cultural practice.
1. Attend a GI-BMP class, pass the test with a minimum score of 90%.

2. Complete the GI-BMP Instructor Training Application form, meet the eligibility requirements.

3. Attend the GI-BMP Instructor Training class and pass test with a minimum score of 90%.

4. Co-train at least two classes.
What is Nonpoint Source Pollution?

Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS)
Water pollution that cannot be traced to its specific origin or starting point.

Commonly associated:
Impervious surfaces
Stormwater runoff and leaching
Where Does NPS Pollution Come From?

Diffuse sources throughout a watershed.

Related to everyday human activities, and driven by rainfall and stormwater.

Pointless Personal Pollution
New/Updated & Publications

- FYN Create a Florida-Friendly Yard brochure in Spanish
- Community Landscape Guidelines
- FFL Landscape Maintenance Contract
- FFL 4-H Curriculum
FFL Landscape Recognition

- Updated Checklist
- Landscape Advisor’s Manual
- Re-recognition
  - County office or online
There are two recognition levels available—Silver and Gold. The required practices for Silver and Gold recognition are set forth herein. The FFL Recognition is valid for 24 months from the date of recognition/re-recognition (unless revoked for non-compliance). Please contact fyn@ifas.ufl.edu for information on how to renew your recognition.

In order for a landscape to be awarded recognition or re-recognition under the FFL Program, the landscape must be in compliance with the checklist in effect at the time the landscape is evaluated for recognition/re-recognition. The operative checklist may be found on the FFL website (https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/index.html).

The FFL Program reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to award or deny recognition to any landscape. The FFL Program further reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to revoke FFL Recognition if a landscape falls out of compliance with the checklist under which recognition/re-recognition was awarded.
MGV Regional Training - FFL Landscape Recognition

- MGVs who are or want to become FYN Landscape advisors
- Consistent use of the checklist
- Importance of reporting FFL recognitions to the statewide database
- Held in 6 locations:
  - Alachua
  - Hillsborough
  - Martin
  - Leon
  - Broward
  - Charlotte

21 counties represented

Total 254 MGVs
Required Practices for Silver (Check or indicate N/A)

The following practices, when applicable to the landscape being evaluated, are required for Silver level recognition:

- [ ] Client certifies that landscape complies with all codes, laws, ordinances, and HOA rules (if applicable).
- [ ] Landscape does not contain any plants found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment “Prohibited” list. (http://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/assessments/7types=24205) (p. 9)
- [ ] Most plants are placed in landscape locations that match their requirements for water light, soil condition, wind tolerance, salt tolerance, mature size, etc.
- [ ] Landscape contains at least 10 plant species.
- [ ] At least 25% of the landscape must contain planted (in ground) beds.
- [ ] Spilled fertilizer is collected and disposed of properly.
- [ ] If fertilizer is used, it is not applied when heavy rain is forecast in the next 24 hours. (p. 24)
- [ ] If fertilizer is used, it is applied to turfgrass and landscape beds at least 30% of the UF/IFAS-recommended rate. (p. 28)
- [ ] A 2-3” layer of one of the mulches recommended in the FYN Handbook, is maintained in plant beds as appropriate. (p. 30)
- [ ] Volcano mulching is not practiced on site. (p. 30)
- [ ] If the property is located on a waterfront: a low-maintenance zone of at least 10 ft. has been established around the water body. No grass clippings, pesticides, fertilizer, or irrigation water is applied in this zone. (p. 46)
- [ ] If pesticides are used: Only affected plants and turf areas are treated with pesticide applications (spot treatments). (p. 34)

Required Practices for Gold (Check or indicate N/A)

The following practices, along with the Silver level practices identified above (when applicable to the landscape being evaluated), are required for Gold level recognition (note: in order to achieve Gold level recognition, the landscape must also satisfy the FFL Principles set forth on pages 4-7). (If the landscape has no in-ground irrigation system, credit can be given for satisfying the irrigation practices.)

- [ ] Landscape does not contain any plants found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment “Prohibited, Invasive, Invasive (No Uses), or High Invasion Risk” list. (https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/assessments/?types=25351,1080,1074,24208) (p. 9)
- [ ] Landscape contains at least 15 plant species.
- [ ] All plants are placed in landscape locations that match their requirements for water, light, soil condition, wind tolerance, salt tolerance, mature size, etc.
- [ ] 100% of roof runoff (with or without downspouts) drains onto lawn or landscaped areas, pervious surfaces, drainage swale, or is harvested in rain barrels or rain garden. (pp. 43-44)
- [ ] Not more than 50% of the irrigation system (by area) is high-volume.
- [ ] Spray and rotor heads are installed on separate zones.
- [ ] Low-flow irrigation is installed and maintained in plant and flower beds.
UF/IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas

Species evaluated with the Predictive Tool:
Predicted to be invasive and not recommended by IFAS. Will be reassessed every 10 years. In particular cases, this species may be considered for use under specific management practices that have been approved by the IFAS Invasive Plant Working Group.

This species was also evaluated using the Status Assessment. We present these results in conjunction with evaluation completed with either the Predictive Tool, ITP, or the legal status of the species in Florida.

UF/IFAS adheres to the most conservative recommendation.

Assessment Status: Complete
FFL Awards

Landscape Awards
- New FFL Construction
- Commercial Landscape
- FFL Community
- FFL Demonstration Garden
- FFL Residential Landscape
- FFL Photo—Mature Landscape
- FFL Photo—Before & After

Educational & Program Awards
- FFL Faculty of the Year
- FFL Educator of the Year
- FFL Educators Outstanding Collaboration (Agent & MG)
- Industry GI-BMP Instructor of the Year
- Extension GI-BMP Instructor of the Year
- Master Gardener GI-BMP Instructor of the Year
- Bilingual GI-BMP Instructor of the Year
- Most FFL Landscape Evaluations

Award Categories

Landscape Awards
- New FFL Construction - Senior Villas
- Commercial Landscape - Village of Palmetto Bay
- FFL Community - Gainesville Cohousing
- FFL Demonstration Garden - UF/IFAS Extension Polk County
- FFL Residential Landscape - Glen and Ken Shilling
- FFL Mature Landscape Photo - Vanessa Houston
- FFL Before & After Photo - Maggie Cook

Educational & Program Awards
- FFL Faculty of the Year - Dr. Gail Hance
- FFL Educator of the Year - Amanda Marek
- FFL Educators Outstanding Collaboration - Tom McIntyre & Sarafina Phillips
- FFL Volunteer Educator of the Year - Dale Gallegos
- GI-BMP Industry Instructor of the Year - Marsha Avila
- GI-BMP Extension Instructor of the Year - Genny Bole
- GI-BMP Bilingual Instructor of the Year - Epifania Valdez
- GI-BMP MG Instructor of the Year - David Cosenza
- Most FFL Landscape Evaluations - UF/IFAS Extension Duval County
- FFL Industry Partner of the Year - Everald Holland, FNGLA
- Outstanding FFL Partner - Mike Schelke, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
SALVING FLORIDA’S WATER SUPPLY, DROP BY DROP

WATER DEMAND
Water demand already exceeds supply in some parts of Florida, and projections show the state could double its current water usage by 2070 if population growth, water-use habits, and irrigation practices do not change.1

At least 50% of Florida household water usage is for landscape irrigation.

The average U.S. household spends more than $1,000 per year on water.2

WATER CONSERVATION
In 2016, 220,000 residents and landscape professionals participated in water conservation programs, taught by 89 UF/IFAS Extension faculty statewide.

Follow-up surveys showed...
- 76% followed local water restrictions
- 71% reduced irrigation if adequate rainfall
- 68% reduced irrigation to 2 days/week
- 50% reduced irrigation in winter months

MAKING AN IMPACT
- 386,541,761 gallons of water saved... enough water to supply 4,393 households with water for one year.
- $1,279,453 saved on utility bills.
- $1,005,009 saved by utility companies on water preparation/delivery costs.
Continuing Education

- Landscape Architects
- Community Association Managers
- FNGLA Certified Professionals
- FDACS - Limited Urban Fertilizer Certification
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Certified Professional

• A competitive advantage in the professional landscape design market

• A certificate of qualification with the FFLCP logo

• Option to be listed on the state-wide Florida-Friendly Certified Professionals website

• Use of the FFLCP logo to promote your expertise in sustainable landscape design and maintenance

https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/fflcp.htm
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Plant Guide

Find the Right Plant for the Right Place Anytime, Anywhere

Mobile web application 3.99 year
FFL Butterfly Gardens

- Design and Garden Tips
- Butterfly Guide
  - 62 Florida butterflies, with color photos and information, including flight period, location (Florida counties), host plants, and more.
- Browse plant lists and characteristics
FFL Bee Gardens

- Design and Garden Tips
- 12 Bee groups
- 91 bee friendly plants
- Browse plant lists and characteristics
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ - Fertilizer Ordinances

- Quick and convenient reference to the state’s many local fertilizer ordinances.
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ - Toxic Plants

- Approx. 200 plant species and over 600 color photos to help identify toxic plants
- Filter for plants toxic to people, pets or livestock
- Filter by symptoms of poisoning
Landscape Research Plots
Florida-Friendly and Traditional Yards

Research activities

Maintenance:
Time, labor, and equipment

Inputs:
Water, fertilizer, and pest control

Visual Quality:
Turf, plants, and landscape

5,000 Sq. Ft. = plantable area of a ¼ acre lot

Traditional yard - 75% turfgrass and 25% plants
Florida-Friendly yard - 25% turfgrass and 75% plants
Results to Date

Florida-Friendly Landscaping Practices are showing a water use savings of up to 75%
## FFL Landscape Research Plots

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Total TFL Irrigation Water Consumption (gallons)</th>
<th>Total FFL Irrigation Water Consumption (gallons)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TFL1</td>
<td>TFL2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment depressurization ( Establishment)</td>
<td>99,242</td>
<td>86,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Establishment</td>
<td>233,228</td>
<td>228,044</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Consumption</td>
<td>332,470</td>
<td>314,279</td>
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FFL Landscape Research Plots
Perceptions of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

Focus Group
Participants were asked
• Series of questions
• Photo evaluations
Perceptions of Florida-Friendly Landscapes

Understanding and Mitigating Barriers to Acceptance

Perceptions of Florida-Friendly Landscapes

Florida-Friendly landscapes are becoming increasingly popular due to their environmental benefits and cost savings. However, some homeowners may be hesitant to adopt these practices due to perceived barriers to acceptance.

Many homeowners are beginning to rethink their landscapes for several reasons, including reduced water and fertilizer consumption, increased property values, improved aesthetic appeal, and reduced maintenance costs. These factors can help overcome initial resistance to changing traditional landscaping practices.

Focus Group

A recent focus group conducted by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) revealed that homeowners often cite concerns about the cost, appearance, and maintenance of Florida-Friendly landscapes. These concerns can be mitigated through education and the provision of incentives.

Ten Strategies for Working with Your Homeowner Association to Convert to a Florida-Friendly Yard

1. Identify the need for change: Homeowners may be more receptive to adopting Florida-Friendly landscapes if they understand the benefits and see examples of successful installations in their community.

2. Select the right plants: Work with your homeowner association to identify low-maintenance, drought-tolerant plants that are well-suited to the local climate and conditions.

3. Create a maintenance plan: Develop a plan for maintaining Florida-Friendly landscapes, including scheduling regular irrigation and landscaping services.

4. Offer incentives: Provide incentives to homeowners who adopt Florida-Friendly landscapes, such as reduced water bills or discounts on landscaping services.

5. Educate homeowners: Conduct workshops and seminars on Florida-Friendly landscaping techniques to help homeowners understand the benefits and learn how to create beautiful landscapes.

By using these strategies, homeowner associations can create a more sustainable and aesthetically pleasing landscape for their communities.
Perceptions of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™
Is a rock yard FFL?

2216 Westchester Way  
8/18/2011  D. Brien

1756 Landrum Lane  9/27/2011  D. Brien
Perceptions of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™
Is artificial turf FFL?
Synthetic Turfgrass

Ambient Air Temperature = 94 F
Comparing temperatures - Natural & Artificial Turfgrass

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surface</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Turfgrass</td>
<td>101.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synthetic Turfgrass</td>
<td>159.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asphalt Parking Lot</td>
<td>127.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete Sidewalk</td>
<td>115.3</td>
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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dU2qLRrPDYg
THANK YOU!