

Recycle Your Yard

UF IFAS Extension Hillsborough County



The 4 R's for Yard Recycling

- Reduce
- Reuse
- Recycle
- Repeat



...and
REPEAT

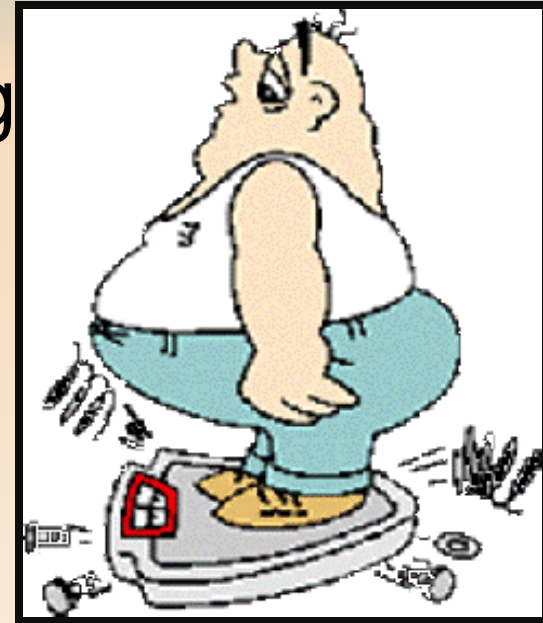
REDUCE

material flow into & out of your garden!

10 down to: **1**
Bags

HOW TO REDUCE

- Check plants prior to purchase
- Buy for quality, mature size & longevity
- Shrink lawn area
- Decrease yard & garden watering
- Reduce landscape clippings
- Reduce yard spending



Less Lawn More Beauty

Purposeful turfgrass

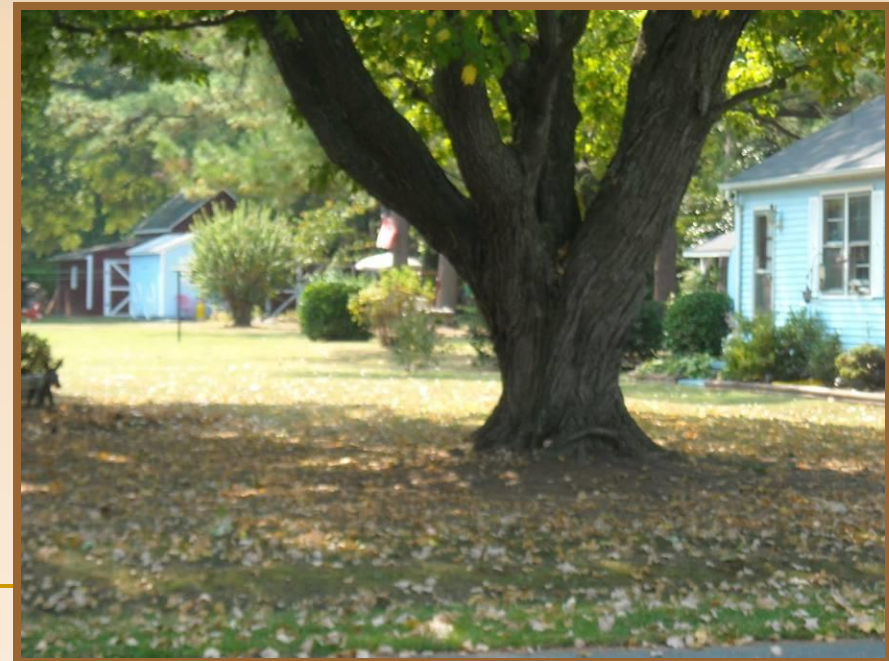


It Doesn't Have to Be Alive!



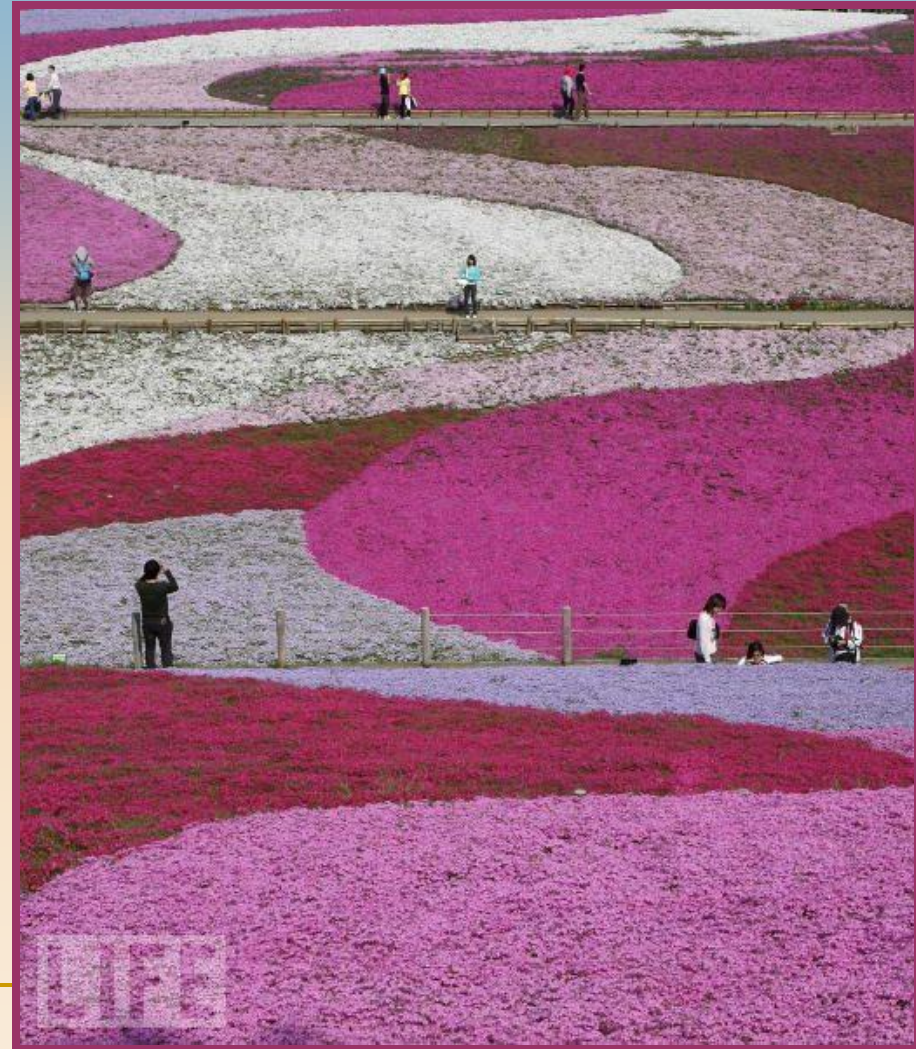
Groundcovers or Mulch

Create self-mulching areas of yard under trees.



Recylism - #1

Groundcovers don't
need to be **DULL!**



Reduce Landscape Clippings

- Choose slow to moderate growing shrubs
- Mature height suited the landscape
- No overcrowding = less pruning



It's a jungle out there!

Reduce Garden & Yard Watering

- Hydro-zone
- Rain barrels /Cisterns
- Microirrigation
- Mulch
- Drought tolerant



Easier Than It Looks



Rain shut-off device

Rain gauge

Irrigation clock- don't set & forget



Buy Quality Tools for Longevity

- Purchase quality products & re-sharpen periodically
- Use recycled material tools



Reduce Spending



- Permanently borrow from a neighbor
- Attend MG & garden club plant sales & exchange
- Follow the Southern tradition of *Pass-a-long* plants

Recyclism - #2

Don't
recycle
this!



REUSE

- Plants – propagation (cuttings & seeds)
- Relocate – don't cut & haul – divide & conquer
- Household items as planters or yard art
- Neighbors' trash = your treasure



Propagation & Seeds

- Cut & pot
- Cut & root
- Seed & reseed



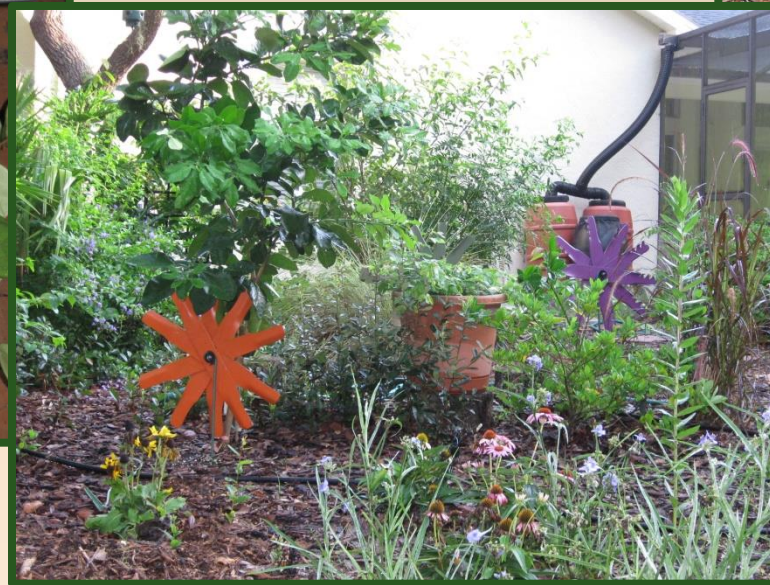
Reuse Home Fixtures



Easier & cheaper than
paying to haul!



Reuse Home Fixtures



Reuse Home Fixtures



Landfill or Backyard?



RECYCLE



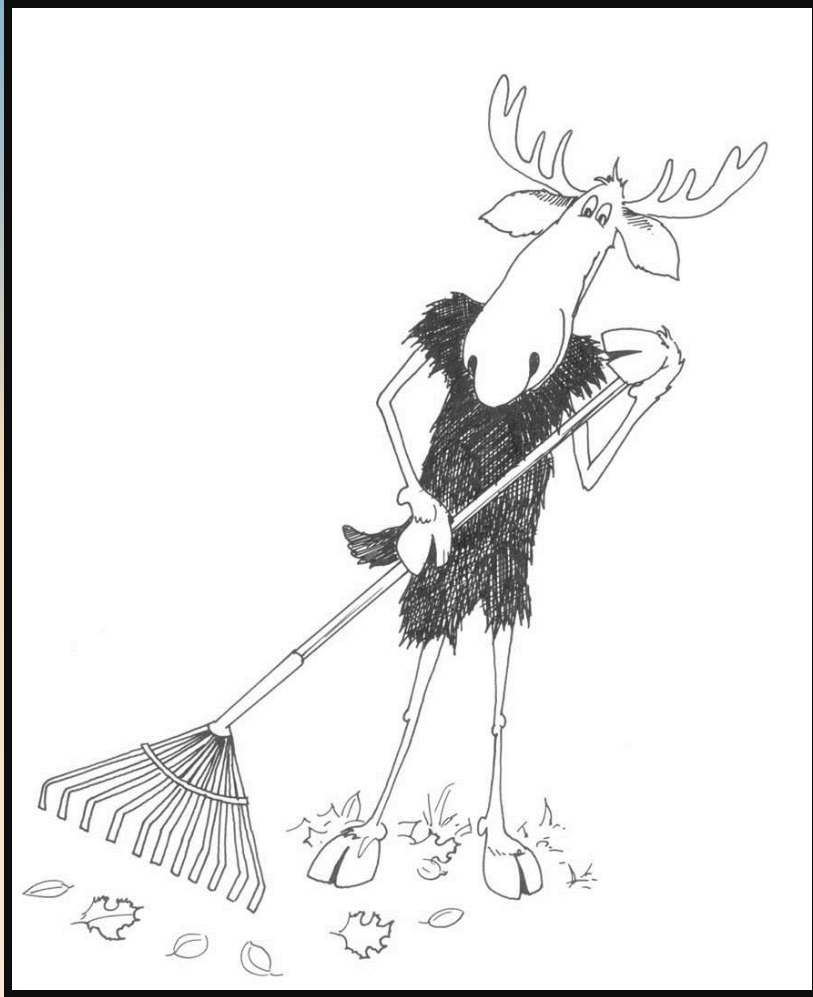
Recycle

- Reduce Lawn & Landscape Clippings
- Compost/Vermicompost
- Proper Plant Selection
- Yard Mulch
- Barter

WHAT A WASTE!



Yard Mulch – The Best!



- FREE! Oak leaves, pine needles & shredded prunings
- 3 inches after settling
- 1-2 inch space between mulch & stem or trunk

Benefits of Yard Mulch

- Conserves water
- Suppresses weeds
- Releases nutrients
- Increases root growth
- Regulates soil temperature
- Defines landscape beds



Right Plant – Right Place



Recyclism - #3



**What goes in
trash and
what goes
back into
your garden?**

Develop a Sense of Humus - Compost

Turn yard and kitchen waste into a rich soil amendment



Composting – The Ultimate Garden Recycling



Key to rapid or hot composting:

- 3 x 3 x 3
- Greens and browns
- Proper moisture content
- Frequent turning to aerate
- Particle size

What Is Vermicomposting?

Process of breaking down organic matter into nutrient-rich compost through the use of ***WORMS!!!***



Recyclism - #4

Right idea –
wrong
location!



Grass Clippings – Love em' & Leave em'

- **Don't bag em'** – use as mulch or compost
- **Let them fall where they may** – 90% water & break down quickly
- **Great nitrogen boost =**
1-2 fertilizations/year
- **Prevent clippings from clumping** – mow when dry & cut 1/3 of blade



THATCH – a spongy layer of organic matter

Thatch is NOT caused by leaving grass clippings

Thatch IS caused by too much water & fertilizer

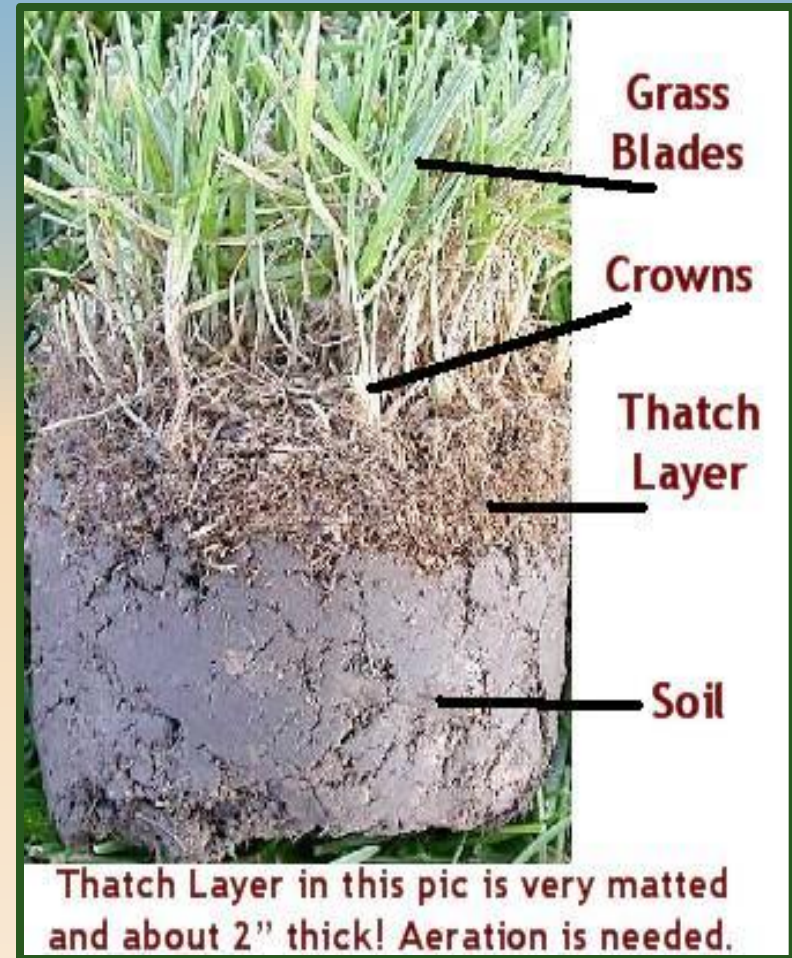
■ Moderate fertilizer & water:

- 2 fertilizations a year

- 1/2" - 3/4" of water a week

(less in winter)

- Skip a week if it rains that amount (use a rain gauge)



Recycling *Live* Christmas Trees

- Put at the curb
- Place in your yard
- Grind and use for mulch
- Firewood – for outdoor use only
- Use branches for seasonal wreaths



Too Much Yard Waste for the Curb?

- Yard waste **ONLY** (no garbage) – deliver to local Yard Waste Recycling Facilities
- Most recent property tax receipt
- Taxpayer on the receipt must be present



Recyclism - #6

Whatever you
recycle – put
it in the
proper
container!



REPEAT Your Successes

- **Propagate** what you have
- Grows in one area, **move** to another
- Save the **seeds**, **plant elsewhere**
- Buy plants that **reproduce** themselves



Propagate & Move



Reseed or Reproduce

Bromeliad pups



Salvias Reseed

Win a Prize!

FIRST:

Write down how **YOU** *Reduce*,
Reuse, *Recycle* & *Repeat* in
your yard.



Let Me Count the Ways...

SECOND:

Who has more than 5?

Who has more than 10?



Final Criteria...

THIRD:

Because you attended
this presentation and
learned how to
Recycle Your Yard!



You Are All Winners!

Thank you for attending!

UF IFAS Extension Hillsborough County

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Revised, reused & recycled by Lynn Barber

