



# Florida Yard Advisor Training

# Florida-Friendly Landscape Recognition



# Master Gardener are an Important Part of the FFL Team!





# The Pyramid Without MGs



# Before Your Visit

1. Be familiar with the materials. FYN Handbook, Design Guide, YAM. EDIS publications.
2. FYN Provide the homeowner with a checklist and a copy of the handbook.
3. Prescreen the site by phone.



## Quick Tip

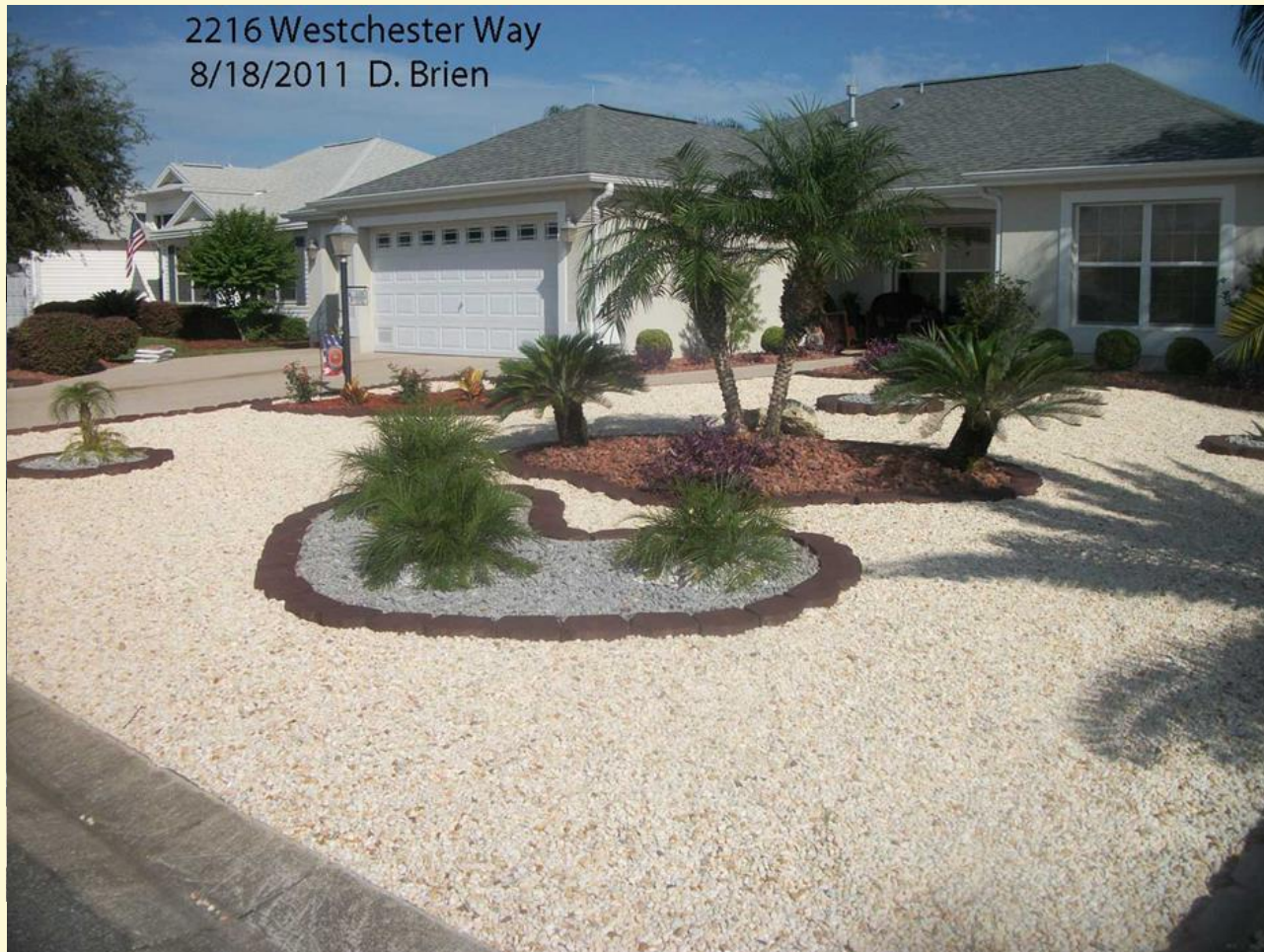
### Be Positive.

Homeowners may be sensitive about their landscapes and yard care. Be positive! Discuss new opportunities, sensible solutions, and cost-saving alternatives.





# Why Prescreen?



# Before Your Visit

4. Review completed checklist.
5. Assemble your “tool box.”

- ❖ Ruler
- ❖ Clipboard
- ❖ Pencil
- ❖ Florida-Friendly Landscape Recognition Sign
- ❖ Stickers for Silver & Gold Level Recognition
- ❖ Magnifying hand lens
- ❖ Two checklists
- ❖ Digital camera
- ❖ Sunscreen, hat & water bottle
- ❖ Reference books
- ❖ Anything else you feel is important





# During Your Visit

1. Introduce your team.
2. Ask homeowners for permission to walk the yard.
3. Ask homeowners to join you for a review of the checklist.





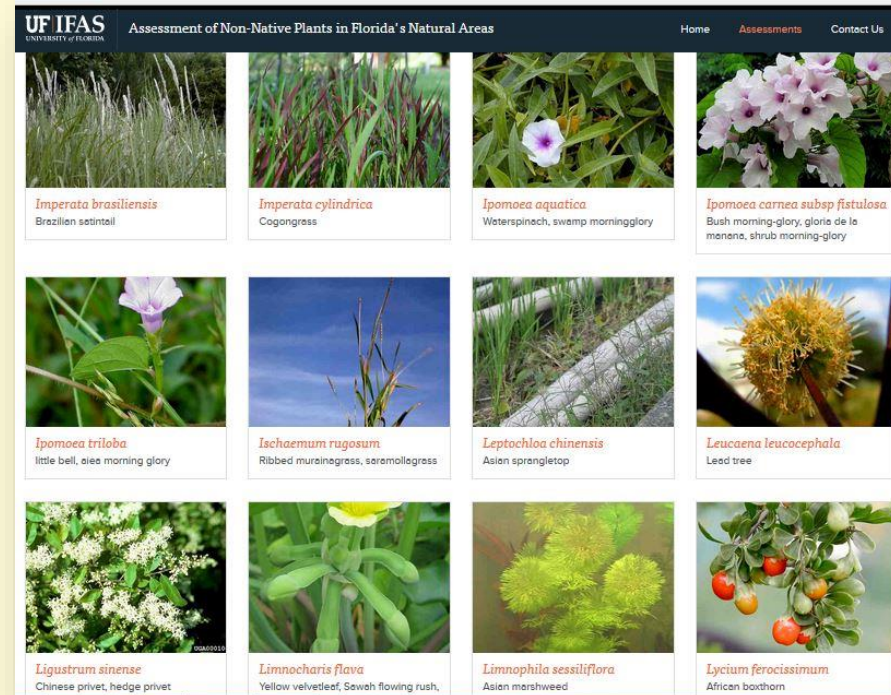
# Required Practices

To be eligible for Silver level recognition, a landscape must be maintained according to all of the following required practices:



# Required Practices

- ❖ **Clients certify** that landscape complies with all codes, laws, ordinances, and HOA rules.
- ❖ Landscape does not contain any plants found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment “Prohibited” List.
- ❖ Landscape contains at least 10 unique plant species.



<http://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/>

# Required Practices

- ❖ Grass clippings are left on the lawn and any spilled fertilizer is collected.
- ❖ Fertilizer is not applied when heavy rain is forecast in the next 24 hours.
- ❖ Fertilizer is applied at less than or equal to the UF/IFAS-recommended rate.
- ❖ Fertilizer is applied only when grass is actively growing.
- ❖ “Weed and Feed” products containing herbicide and fertilizer together are not used.
- ❖ If pesticides are used, only affected plants and turf areas are treated with pesticide applications (i.e., spot treatments).





# Required Practices

- ❖ 2-3 inch layer of FFL recommended mulch is used and maintained- no volcanos!
- ❖ At least 50 percent of roof runoff (with or without downspouts) drains onto landscaped areas or pervious surfaces.



# Required Practices

- ❖ If present, an irrigation system is calibrated to apply  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches of water per application.
- ❖ A functioning automatic rainfall shutoff device is present & maintained
- ❖ Spray and rotor heads are installed on separate zones.
- ❖ Turfgrass is mowed at the UF/IFAS-recommended height for the grass species to encourage a deeper root system and increase drought and pest resistance.



# Required Practices

- ❖ A 10 foot low-maintenance zone around the waterbody- no pesticides, fertilizer, or irrigation.
- ❖ If mangroves are present on the property, the client complies with the pruning regulations as stated in the Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act.





# Required Practices

Aesthetics: The landscape must meet four of the following five requirements, in addition to all practices listed above:

- ❖ The landscape appears to be actively managed.
- ❖ Appropriate pruning practices are apparent.
- ❖ The landscape has defined beds.
- ❖ The landscape matches aesthetics of the community.
- ❖ Landscape and household debris are properly disposed of or recycled.



# Required Practices - Gold

To be eligible for Gold level recognition, a landscape must meet all of the required practices listed for Silver Level recognition **and** meet the following requirements:



# Required Practices – Gold Level

- ❖ The landscape does not contain any plants found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment “Invasive- Not Recommended” list.
- ❖ The landscape contains at least 15 unique plant species.
- ❖ A soil nutrient test has been performed within the last year.
- ❖ Not more than 50 percent of the irrigation system is high volume.
- ❖ The landscape meets all five aesthetics requirements.
- ❖ 100 percent of roof runoff drains onto landscaped areas or pervious surfaces.





# Landscape Recognition Checklist

Points received	Points possible	Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Practices	Hand-Book Page #
<b>FFL Principle #1: Right Plant, Right Place</b>			
	4	Landscape does not contain any invasive plant found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment “Invasive-Not Recommended” list ( <a href="http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment">http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment</a> ).	9
	4	Plants are placed in landscape locations that match their requirements for water, light, soil condition, wind tolerance, salt tolerance, mature size, etc.	5
	3	Maintained turfgrass is used for functional purposes (e.g., play area, erosion control, nutrient uptake).	8
	3	A soil pH test has been performed within the last year.	7
	2	Trees and shrubs are positioned to improve the building’s heating and cooling capacity.	5-6
	2	Groundcovers are used to prevent erosion in any area that cannot support turf or landscape beds, including on steep slopes and in deep shade.	8
	18	<b>Total points earned for Principle #1. (Minimum of 8 required)</b>	

# Landscape Recognition Checklist

## FFL Principle #2: Water Efficiently

For a landscape that does not use an irrigation system:

	14	Landscape is designed and maintained to exist on rainfall and minimal hand watering once plants are established.	8-9
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For a landscape that uses an irrigation system (in-ground, micro-irrigation, or hose-end sprinkler) (If points are earned for no irrigation system, these points are not available):

	4	Not more than 50 percent of the irrigation system (by area) is high-volume.	NA
	2	Turfgrass and landscape plants are irrigated only as needed (in compliance with any existing watering restrictions).	17-18
	2	A smart controller (evapotranspiration, soil moisture sensor, or similar) is installed and operational.	20
	2	Separate irrigation zones for turf and landscape plants are maintained.	19
	2	Low-flow irrigation is installed and maintained in plant and flower beds.	19-20
	2	The irrigation system is calibrated to apply 1/2-3/4" of water per application and is maintained regularly to repair clogs and leaks.	18
	14	<b>Total points earned for Principle #2.</b> (Minimum of 6 required)	

NOTES:



# Landscape Recognition Checklist

## FFL Principle #3: Fertilize Appropriately

If the landscape is maintained in a natural state:

	8	No supplemental fertilization is used in the landscape once plants are established.	25
If the landscape has grass and/or plant beds that are maintained with supplemental fertilizer (If points are earned for using no fertilizer, these points are not available):			
	3	Landscape is fertilized at or below the lowest recommended rate with a product containing slow-release nitrogen.	25
	3	A soil nutrient test has been performed within the last year	7
	2	A broadcast spreader with an operational deflector shield is used to apply fertilizer.	24
	8	<b>Total points earned for Principle #3.</b> (Minimum of 3 required)	

## FFL Principle #4: Mulch

	3	If mulch other than yard waste is used, known by-product mulches (e.g. pine bark, melaleuca) are chosen.	29-30
	2	Self-mulching areas exist under trees where leaves can remain as they fall.	30
	1	Mulch is pulled away from the base of trees and shrubs (1-2")	30
	6	<b>Total points earned for Principle #4.</b> (Minimum of 2 required)	



# Landscape Recognition Checklist

<b>FFL Principle #5: Attract Wildlife</b>			
	2	Vines, shrubs, and trees provide habitat and/or food sources for wildlife.	32
	2	Host and nectar plants are planted to attract a variety of pollinators.	31
	2	A water source for wildlife exists in the landscape.	31
	2	Wildlife shelters exist in landscape (e.g. bird or bat houses, snags, brush piles, etc.).	32
	8	<b>Total points earned for Principle #5. (Minimum of 2 required)</b>	
<b>FFL Principle #6: Manage Yard Pests Responsibly</b>			
	5	Landscape is checked every 1-2 weeks for signs of pest damage.	33
	5	Low-impact techniques are used for insect and disease management whenever possible.	34
	4	Client is able to properly identify pest and disease issues in their landscape or has brought samples to their local Extension office.	38
	4	If chemical treatment is necessary, client uses spot treatments.	34
	18	<b>Total points earned for Principle #6. (Minimum of 6 required)</b>	
NOTES:			

# Landscape Recognition Checklist

<b>FFL Principle #7: Recycle</b>			
	3	Grass clippings are left on the lawn or used on site.	39
	2	Landscape waste (tree trimmings, fallen leaves, pine needles) is used on site.	40-41
	2	A compost pile is maintained with grass clippings, leaves, pruned plant parts, kitchen scraps (no meat or dairy), etc.	40-41
	1	Compost pile is kept moist but not wet, and is turned regularly.	41
	8	<b>Total points earned for Principle #7. (Minimum of 3 required)</b>	
<b>FFL Principle #8: Reduce Stormwater Runoff</b>			
	6	Porous surfaces are used for walkways, patios, and driveways.	44
	6	Rainwater is collected in a rain barrel or cistern and used to water plants.	44
	6	Rain gardens, swales, and berms are used to catch and filter stormwater runoff.	43-44
	2	Pollutants such as pet waste and car oils are cleaned up and kept out of the storm drains.	43
	20	<b>Total points earned for Principle #8. (Minimum of 6 required)</b>	

# Landscape Recognition Checklist

## FFL Principle #9: Protect the Waterfront

Circle N/A, below, if the landscape does not immediately connect to a water body, including retention ponds and canals, a wetland, the ocean, a gulf or bay, a river, lake, stream, or any other open water body, fresh or salt (pg. 45-48).

N/A

	2	A maintenance-free zone of at least 10 ft. separates the water body from any landscaped area.	46
	2	Invasive exotic plants have been removed from the riparian zone and replaced with native aquatic plants.	45
	1	Seawalls, rip rap, or gabions are used where appropriate to control erosion.	45-46
	5	<b>Total points earned for Principle #9.</b> (Minimum of 2 required if on waterfront)	
		<b>Total points earned for all Principles.</b>	
NOTES:			





# Landscape Recognition Checklist

## Recognition Level Requirements

### Silver:

All required applicable practices  
At least 4 aesthetics practices followed  
At least 50 points  
At least 52 points for landscape on waterfront

### Gold:

All required applicable practices  
All 5 aesthetics practices followed  
At least 75 points  
At least 77 points for landscape on waterfront

Recognition Achieved: Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Points Achieved: \_\_\_\_\_

Landscape Advisor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reviewer Comments:**



# During Your Visit

4. Yard recognition.
5. Sign placement.
6. If the yard can't be recognized.



# Quick Tips

- Focus on education
- Never go alone
- Always be positive

## *Quick Tip*

Focus on education.



When a landscape does not receive recognition as a Florida-Friendly Landscape, focus on communicating and educating the client. Encourage them to make the required changes and schedule a new visit.

## *Quick Tip*

Never go alone.



For safety, always work in groups of two or more people.

A team approach also facilitates communication by providing diverse perspectives.



# Quick Tips

- Trust your intuition
- Present a united front
- Provide alternatives
- Don't be afraid to say "I don't know"
- Be polite

## Quick Tip

Trust your intuition.

If you feel uncomfortable about a situation, leave immediately. If appropriate, apologies can be made later.



## Quick Tip

Follow up on questions.

If you are presented with a question you cannot answer, offer to locate additional information or provide UF/IFAS references for the client to consult.



# After Your Visit

1. Complete the yard file, document conclusions & recommendations.
2. Complete a yard evaluation report.
3. Enter information into database.

## **\*New\* - Homeowner Yard Recognition Database**

Here you can see all of the homeowner yard recognitions from around the state:

**[View Statewide FYN Homeowner Yard Recognition Database](#)**

After returning from a recognition visit in your county, please click here and add your County's recognitions to our statewide list:

**[Add your record to this database.](#)**

# Thank You!

VOLUNTEERS  
don't necessarily  
have the time;  
they just have  
the heart!



Membership 





# Australian Pine

