Dear Landscape Advisor,

Thank you for donating your time, expertise, and passion for gardening to the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program, which protects water quality by using low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices. The FFL Team relies on you to carry the principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ to stakeholders in the field.

As a Florida Landscape Advisor, your role is critical to the success of the Landscape Recognition program. The FFL checklist, based on the *Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook*, can serve as the springboard for discussions with stakeholders about successes in their landscape and aspects that could use improvement.

In addition, this *FFL/Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Landscape Advisor’s Manual* provides information to help you prepare for your visit, conduct the evaluation process, and follow-up with homeowners. If you have any questions or concerns, our county Extension agents are available to help throughout the process.

Thank you so much for assuming this role in evaluating landscapes and educating our clients about practices that conserve water and enhance and protect the environment. Your knowledge, education, dedication, and experience make you uniquely suited for this responsibility.

We are all working together to improve this program and welcome your feedback on the Landscape Recognition process, *FFL Home Landscape Recognition Checklist*, and this document.

Sincerely,

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Team, Gainesville, Fla.
# Table of Contents

Acknowledgements........................................................................................................................................ 4
The Landscape Advisor’s Role: Educating & Learning in the Landscape.............................................. 5
    Senate Bill 2080................................................................................................................................ 5
The Landscape Recognition Process........................................................................................................ 6
Before You Visit........................................................................................................................................ 6
    The Yard Advisor’s Toolbox............................................................................................................ 7
During Your Visit ...................................................................................................................................... 8
    After Your Visit.............................................................................................................................. 10
Florida-Friendly Landscape Recognition Checklist..................................................................................... 11
    Silver Level Recognition.................................................................................................................. 12
    Gold Level Recognition.................................................................................................................. 14
        Right Plant Right Place............................................................................................................ 15
        Water Efficiently........................................................................................................................ 19
        Fertilize Appropriately............................................................................................................. 23
        Mulch......................................................................................................................................... 26
        Attract Wildlife.......................................................................................................................... 27
        Manage Yard Pests Responsibly............................................................................................... 29
        Recycle Yard Waste................................................................................................................... 31
        Reduce Stormwater Runoff........................................................................................................ 33
        Protect the Waterfront................................................................................................................ 35

Appendices
- Appendix A – Completed Checklist.................................................................................................... 37
- Appendix B – Landscape Evaluation Report....................................................................................... 38
- Appendix C – Soil pH Sample Report.................................................................................................. 41
- Appendix D – Survey.......................................................................................................................... 42

UF/IFAS References..................................................................................................................................... 46
Acknowledgements

Ms. Janice Broda originally produced this guide for Indian River County Florida Yard Advisers as part of the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program for the Indian River Lagoon.

It was revised by Dan Culbert and Fred Burkey, Indian River County Extension Service. Subsequent contributors and editors include:

Judy Avril, Diane Baruch, Penny Chandler, Bill Cullen, Marina D’Abreau, John Devine, Eddie Gastright, Mark Godwin, Sally Gore, Dave Griffis, Terri Jacob, Christine Kelly-Begazo, Doug Kutz, Barbra Larson, Michelina MacDonald, Ben Molis, Anita Neal, Brian Niemann, Annemarie Post, Cheri Rodolfo, Kurt Rowe, Laura Sanagorski, Sherry Shipley, Cathy Wegel, Bob Whitty, Zulema Wibmer, Martha Willoughby, Gail Hansen, Kathy Malone, Jane Tolbert, Claire Lewis, and Esen Momol.

The sample Landscape Evaluation Report was provided by Barbara Edmonds.

Support for this program was provided by U.S.EPA Section 319 grants through a contract with the nonpoint source management section of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the state Water Management Districts, and county Extension offices across the state.
THE LANDSCAPE ADVISOR’S ROLE:
EDUCATING & LEARNING IN THE LANDSCAPE

Florida Landscape Advisors are trained to fulfill special responsibilities with regard to applying the concepts of the FFL/Florida Yards & Neighborhoods (FYN) program in the field. Landscape Advisors educate clients in their own landscapes where the lessons are specific and relevant.

Like all Master Gardeners and county Extension agents, Landscape Advisors extend science-based research to the general public. The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook (2009) is our main tool for Florida-Friendly Landscape advice.

This manual, FFL/Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Landscape Advisor’s Manual, will help you be a more effective landscape educator. Each landscape evaluation should be a learning experience for the client and for you.

SENATE BILL 2080
Florida Statute 373.185

On July 1, 2009, Senate Bill 2080 became law. The bill modified several statutes affecting Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, including defining FFL in 373.185 and modifying a host of other laws, including chapter 720, which addresses the powers of homeowner associations. The amendments to Florida Statutes section 373.185, et seq., have not changed the review approval process for HOAs. If deed restrictions or covenants require HOA approval for landscape modifications, then homeowners still need approval from HOAs.

Florida Friendly Landscape

Porous walkway
THE LANDSCAPE RECOGNITION PROCESS

Before Your Visit

1. Be familiar with the materials.
Whether the topic is invasive plants in your area, landscaping laws, or fertilizer application, questions will arise during the Landscape Recognition process. A thorough knowledge of your checklist and FYN Handbook, The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design, as well as local legal codes and ordinances, will give you greater confidence in the field. Never worry if you don't have the answer. Landscape Advisors receive a wide variety of questions, and there is plenty of support available. You can always refer homeowners or HOAs to UF/IFAS Extension resources, whenever necessary.

2. Provide the client with the checklist and FFL reference materials.
Clients may have learned about the FFL Landscape Recognition program from friends, a local paper, or the Web. Be sure to ask how they heard about the program. This information will help us identify the appropriate channel to use to promote our program or communicate information.

Once clients have contacted the county Extension agent about getting their landscape recognized, you can provide them with the checklist and other FFL materials. You can send them hard copies, or they can download these items from the website.

3. Before you schedule the visit, prescreen by phone or e-mail.
Before you plan a site visit, prescreen your clients by phone or e-mail. Their score on the checklist and specific responses may help you determine whether they are eligible for Gold, Silver, or no recognition at all. Your prescreening questions should address some or all of the required practices on the checklist.

4. Review Clients’ completed checklist.
Have clients return their completed checklist to you by fax, mail, e-mail, or in person. Review it, along with the questions you asked in the prescreening, to identify the clients’ specific concerns and interests. This is an opportunity for you to provide more information and determine which publications to bring for your visit.
5. Assemble your tool box.
This list includes items you will need for your landscape advisor visit. Keep in mind that this is not an inclusive list, but rather a starting point for your tool box.

Landscape Advisor’s Tool Box:
- 12-inch ruler
- Clipboard
- Pencil
- Permanent marker
- Florida-Friendly Landscape Recognition Sign
- Stickers for Silver and Gold level recognition
- Magnifying hand lens
- Two checklists
- Digital camera
- Sunscreen, hat & water bottle
- Reference books
- Anything else you feel is important

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 Tip
Trust your intuition.
If you feel uncomfortable about a situation, leave immediately. If appropriate, apologies can be made later.
The role of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™/Florida Yards & Neighborhoods is to educate stakeholders about science-based landscape management practices that protect water quality and the environment. This program is strictly educational, and no government agency enforces Florida-Friendly Landscaping™.

FFL recommends the following steps be taken during your visit:

1. Introduce your team.

When you arrive at the property, have your materials ready and introduce yourself and team members to the client. Ask about pets and any other concerns you might have at this point. This may be a good time to ask client if there are any “trouble spots” they want you to look at and discuss during the visit.

2. Ask clients for permission to walk around the landscape and review the checklist.

You and your team will need about 20-45 minutes to evaluate the landscape. Review and complete most of the checklist before you return to meet with the clients.

3. Ask clients to join you for a review of the landscape and checklist.

Next, on a tour of the property with the client complete the checklist. Ask about irrigation practices (including calibration and rain shut-off devices), grass clippings, pesticide applications, fertilization practices, soil testing, and whether a maintenance company or the client does the yard work. Once you’ve completed the checklist, review it with the client and explain how each point of the checklist relates to their landscape. Compliment their work, and offer suggestions on ways to become more Florida-Friendly. Share your enjoyment of the landscape and gardening with the clients at every opportunity.

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.
4. Florida-Friendly Landscape Recognition

If the landscape is eligible for recognition, praise the clients and thank them on behalf of the community for their environmentally friendly landscape management. If appropriate, review your suggestions for improvement. Let clients know when and how they will receive their landscape sign from the Extension office and whether you will send a follow-up letter with feedback. In addition, suggest that the clients contact the Extension office each year for a follow-up visit so that they can renew their recognition.

5. Landscape sign placement

Before you leave, ask where the clients would like the Florida-Friendly Landscape sign displayed. In most cases, you should have the sign with you for installation that day. Whenever you install the sign, be sure to attach the appropriate sticker designating the year and the level of recognition that the landscape received. Many Landscape Advisors like to write the address on the back of the sign with a permanent marker. This helps to keep the sign from being relocated.

6. When a landscape does not meet Florida-Friendly Landscape requirements:

If you decide that the landscape is not ready to be recognized as Florida-Friendly, thank the client for their interest in the health of our environment and explain that many landscapes do not meet Florida-Friendly requirements on the first visit. Give suggestions on ways to achieve Florida-Friendly Landscape recognition. Always remember, our purpose is to help stakeholders understand and implement appropriate landscape management practices.

Landscape recognition is secondary:

Use this opportunity to list several practices clients can incorporate with little difficulty that would help qualify their landscape as Florida-Friendly. Ensure that you have communicated the information effectively by providing examples and suggestions. Encourage clients to call the Extension office when they have made the necessary changes so the FFL team can schedule a return visit.

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.
After Your Visit

1. After the visit, complete the landscape file.

Document the team’s conclusion and recommendations made to the client. This documentation will be the basis of any follow-up letter.

It is recommended that you send a follow-up letter that highlights positive actions the client has taken and provides suggestions to improve the landscape. A follow-up letter reinforces the clients’ accomplishments, provides a reminder of changes, and serves as a record of landscape visits, together with the completed checklist.

Also document any commitments made to the client such as publications that need to be sent, and note any further action that needs to be taken.

Return the landscape file to the Extension office, and ask your Extension agent to record the visit in the online database available on the FFL website.

2. Complete a landscape evaluation report.

After a landscape evaluation, include in your documentation any observations, lessons, etc., that may be helpful for future evaluations and for the Landscape Recognition program in general.

A landscape evaluation report completed for each landscape and submitted to clients is a significant step in communicating the validity of the FFL program. Additionally, it gives clients an official assessment to review and share with friends as well as homeowner associations. This type of communication helps us spread the word about the FFL program.

A sample landscape evaluation report is included in Appendix B.

3. Finally, use every evaluation visit as an opportunity to learn from clients and the landscape.

Use the survey in Appendix D (https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2LFNGWQ”) to gain feedback from clients. The results of the survey will enable the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program to identify the needs of stakeholders and develop more effective education programs.

4. Congratulations!

You have completed a landscape evaluation! You can take pride in knowing you are helping stakeholders design and maintain Florida-Friendly Landscapes that conserve water and help protect the environment. Thanks again for your time and commitment!

Quick Tip

Keep your client in mind when you communicate.

Tailor your presentation according to interests and needs of the client, such as environmental concern, cost-savings, reduction in labor, and peer recognition.
The remainder of the booklet examines the nine principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™:

1. Right Plant, Right Place
2. Water Efficiently
3. Fertilize Appropriately
4. Mulch
5. Attract Wildlife
6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly
7. Recycle Yard Waste
8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff
9. Protect the Waterfront

(Included within each principle is a breakdown of the practices that can earn points on the checklist.)

To be designated as a Florida-Friendly Landscape, the site MUST:

1. Comply with all existing codes, laws, ordinances, and HOA rules (if applicable).
2. Follow all required practices (listed at the beginning of the checklist).
3. Collect the minimum number of points for each section and for the entire checklist. Partial points can be given as outlined in this document.

Landscape recognition levels

In past years, Landscape Advisors were asked to recognize yards as one of three levels: Bronze Magnolia, Silver Palmetto, or Golden Oak. In the spring of 2010, a revised checklist was released to match the FYN Handbook, 4th ed. (2009). The new checklist, revised with the help of a committee of FFL agents and feedback from state Landscape Advisors, clarifies problematic items, such as issues with invasive plants, and addresses new concerns for Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, such as the aesthetics of yards.

The revised (2012) checklist asks Landscape Advisors to choose from only two recognition levels: **Silver** and **Gold**. Stickers for both levels are available with landscape signs from your county Extension office. The appropriate sticker can be placed in a designated area of the sign.

The required landscape practices that differentiate the two levels are listed below:
To be eligible for Silver level recognition, a landscape must be maintained according to all of the following required practices:

- 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://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/conclusions.html).
- Landscape contains at least 10 unique plant species.
- Grass clippings are left on the lawn after mowing, and any spilled fertilizer is collected.
- Fertilizer is not applied when heavy rain is forecast in the next 24 hours.
- Fertilizer is applied to turfgrass and landscape beds at less than or equal to the UF/IFAS-recommended rate.
- Volcano mulching is avoided, and a 2-3 inch layer of one of the mulches recommended in the FYN Handbook, 4th ed., is maintained over tree roots, shrubs, and plant beds, as appropriate.
- At least 50 percent of roof runoff (with or without downspouts) drains onto landscaped areas or pervious surfaces.
- If present, an irrigation system is calibrated to apply ½ - ¾ inches of water per application.
- A functioning automatic rainfall shutoff device is maintained on in-ground systems, and a rain gauge is used to track rainfall amounts.
- Spray and rotor heads are installed on separate zones.
- If present, 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.
- 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).
- If the property is located on a waterfront, a low-maintenance zone of at least 10 feet has been established around the waterbody, and no pesticides, fertilizer, or irrigation water is applied in this zone.
- If mangroves are present on the property, the client complies with the pruning regulations as stated in the Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act.
- 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.
To be eligible for Gold level recognition, a landscape must meet all of the required practices listed for Silver level recognition (above) AND meet the following requirements:

- The landscape does not contain any plants found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment “Invasive—Not Recommended” list. (http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/conclusions.html).
- The landscape contains at least 15 unique plant species.
- A soil nutrient test has been performed within the last year (see Appendix C for a soil sample report).
- Not more than 50 percent (by area) of the irrigation system is high volume.
- The landscape meets all five (out of five) aesthetics requirements.
- 100 percent of roof runoff (with or without downspouts) drains onto landscaped areas or pervious surfaces.
The landscape does not contain any plants found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment “Invasive-Not Recommended” list. (http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment).

(4 points) (p.9) *

This entry is a requirement for the Gold level recognition.

The IFAS Assessment of the Status of Non-Native Plants in Florida’s Natural Areas is an evaluation process developed by the IFAS Invasive Plants Working Group to provide guidelines for plant recommendations from IFAS. Additional plants are periodically assessed, and, as a result, the list of invasive status of non-native plants is updated every few months. For the latest version of the list sorted by scientific and common names and by region as well as descriptions of its use, see http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment.

Explain to clients that signage recognizing a “Florida-Friendly Landscape” implicitly recommends plants in these FFL-recognized landscapes, thus requiring compliance with the IFAS Assessment guidelines.

Give clients suggestions for alternative plants when alerting them about potentially difficult plants. The clients may have questions about what is considered an invasive plant and why invasives should not be used.

Quick Tip

Provide multiple alternatives.
Help clients to think through the consequences of their landscape-care decisions and lawn-care alternatives.

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.

Plants are placed in landscape locations that match their requirements for water, light, soil condition, wind tolerance, salt tolerance, mature size, etc. (4 points) (p. 5)

The goal when placing plants in a landscape is to avoid wasting time, energy, and money caring for a plant that is not adapted to the location where it’s planted.

Clients may create their own plant and pest problems. Over- or under-watering is frequently the culprit.

Partial Points Available:
4 Pts.- All plants match site conditions
3 Pts.- Most of plants match site conditions
2 Pts.- Some of plants match site conditions
1 Pt.- Not Possible. Please do not award 1 point for this category

Canopy tree located under utility line

Grass strip too narrow, difficult to maintain

Plant for the mature size
Large areas of lawn grass can be expensive to maintain in terms of time, energy, money, and water. Encourage clients to determine how much grass is needed for children, pets, recreation, and other uses. Where possible, suggest replacing unused irrigated grassed areas with low-maintenance groundcovers or shrubs, mulched beds, or other porous surfaces. Initially, large areas of lawn grass can be expensive to replace. Emphasize this replacement can be a gradual process and more cost-effective over the long run. We recommend the following:

- Begin with problem areas where grass is difficult to grow. For example, in shady areas, replace sparse turf with ferns or other shade-tolerant plants.
- Expand the size of existing mulched beds as your plants grow.
- Use additional mulch to link together existing mulched plant beds to add visual appeal and better function to your landscape.

Large lots with non-irrigated turfgrass are still eligible for these points.
A soil pH test has been performed within the last year.

(3 points) (p. 7)

No Partial Points Available

Trees and shrubs are positioned to improve the building’s heating and cooling capacity.

(2 points) (pp. 5-6)

Partial Points Available:
2 Pts.– Deciduous plants are used on 3 sides of the house
1 Pt.– Deciduous plants are used on 1 side of the house, or the air conditioner unit is properly shaded

Shade-tolerant groundcover.

Groundcovers are used to prevent erosion in any area that cannot support turf or landscaped beds, including steep slopes and deep shade.

(2 points) (p. 8)

Partial Points Available:
2 Pts.– All problem areas have been replaced with groundcover
1 Pt.– Some problem areas have been replaced with groundcover

If no problem areas exist on site, full points should be awarded.

A soil pH test will aid clients in choosing plants suited to their site. Long-term pH changes are difficult and costly to maintain in a landscape. It is much easier to select plants suited to the natural pH of a site than it is to modify the pH to suit desired plants.

Emphasize cost-savings. Research has shown that shading can dramatically reduce energy consumption and costs by as much as 50 percent.

Deciduous trees should be planted on the south, east, and west sides of the building to cast shade in summer and allow warming in winter.

Tree shade can reduce air conditioning costs significantly. An air-conditioning system’s outdoor compressor/condenser unit uses less energy when it is shaded from direct sun during the day – but be careful not to block the unit’s airflow. If the warm discharge air cannot escape, the intake air temperature rises, causing the unit to operate less efficiently.

Be aware of setback recommendations for wildfire safety or potential windstorm damage from falling trees or branches.

Erosion has a serious negative effect on water quality. Increased nutrient levels, along with high sediment loads, are the leading contributors to reduced water quality. Plant material works best to control erosion as the roots penetrate and hold the soil in place.

Clients can consult the The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design or a similar publication for a list of suitable groundcovers for their site.
This checklist considers two irrigation alternatives:

1. A landscape that does not use an irrigation system
2. A landscape that uses an irrigation system (in-ground, micro-irrigation, or hose-end sprinklers)

(If clients operate their irrigation system manually, their landscape should be evaluated by the irrigation system criteria.)

FOR A LANDSCAPE THAT DOES NOT USE AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM:

Landscape is designed and maintained to exist on rainfall and minimal hand watering once plants are established.  
(14 points) (pp. 8-9)

No Partial Points Available

Examples of lush landscapes that exist exclusively on rainfall are found in nature and our native plant communities.

Newly installed plants need frequent water, but it’s possible to maintain an established landscape with minimal supplemental water.

If clients have an irrigation system but they do not use it, they can be awarded points for this category.

Quick Tip

Present a united front.
Landscape advisors need to present a united position when discussing landscapes with clients. A balanced pro-and-con discussion may help them understand your position.
FOR A LANDSCAPE THAT USES AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM:

Not more than 50 percent (estimated by area) of the irrigation system is high volume.

(4 points)

No Partial Points Available

This entry is a requirement for Gold level recognition.

Some Landscape Advisors ask clients to operate the irrigation system while they are evaluating the yard to assess their familiarity with the system.

Large amounts of water can be wasted with the use of traditional, high-volume irrigation systems. These systems can contribute to overwatering, which leads to numerous issues such as disease, pests, and water pollution. High-volume irrigation should be limited to turf areas only.

Microirrigation in the form of micro-sprayers, micro-bubblers, drippers, and drip tubing should be installed in plant beds whenever feasible. For more information refer to the Micro Irrigation Fact Sheet 1 (http://hillsborough_fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN%20PDF%20Files/Fact%20Sheets/Microirrigation.pdf).

Turfgrass and landscape plants are irrigated only as needed (in compliance with any existing watering restrictions).

(2 points) (pp. 17-18)

No Partial Points Available

Watering restrictions usually limit watering with a sprinkler or irrigation system to certain times on certain days of the week. Water restrictions apply to everyone and every water source in a water management district. (Requirements may be different for reclaimed/recycled water.)

Scheduled watering can waste money and water. Teach clients to look at their plants for telltale signs of thirst and to operate their system manually instead of allowing the automatic controller to run on a set schedule.
Separate irrigation zones for turf and landscape plants are maintained.

(2 points) (p. 19)

No Partial Points Available

Microirrigation systems deliver small volumes of water directly to the root zone. This is a great way to water plants more efficiently. Microirrigation can be installed under shrubs and trees, in planting beds, and in containers but should be avoided in lawns.

Microirrigation is installed and maintained in plant and flower beds.

(2 points) (pp. 19-20)

Partial Points Available:
2 Pts. – All landscaped beds use microirrigation.
1 Pt. – Some landscaped beds use microirrigation.

Turfgrass and landscape plants have very different watering needs, so they should be watered on separate zones of the irrigation system. Trying to water turfgrass and landscaped beds on the same zone is very inefficient and can lead to problems with the landscape in the long term.

A smart controller (evapotranspiration, soil moisture sensor, or similar device) is installed and operational.

(2 points) (p. 20)

No Partial Points Available

These devices detect when a certain amount of rain has fallen or when a certain level of moisture is present in the soil. They will then shut off the irrigation system, making sure it doesn’t run when it’s not needed.

Quick Tip

Adjust frequency of irrigation when seasons change.

A good way to remember to adjust the frequency of the irrigation system is to do it when the time changes (i.e., daylight savings time). Always follow the Water Management District watering guidelines.

Micro irrigation.
This entry is a requirement for all recognition levels.

Calibration is critical and important. Clients cannot effectively apply the recommended amount of water per application without calibrating the system. Several irrigation zones, and all if possible, should be calibrated since significant variations can exist among zones.

Ask clients how much water their irrigation system applies and how they calibrate the irrigation system. You may have to delay landscape recognition until you are certain the irrigation system has been properly calibrated.

*The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook*, (p. 19) has instructions for calibrating an irrigation system. Share with clients that shallow, straight-sided, heavy-bottomed cans, like tuna fish cans or some cat food containers, work well for calibration. If over-watering has been a problem, emphasize the need to wean a landscape from excess water by gradually reducing irrigation frequency and amount.

Maintaining the irrigation system and proper positioning of sprinkler heads is part of the calibration process to ensure the system evenly delivers the correct amount of water over the irrigated area. Remind clients to run the sprinkler system and check for broken or misdirected spray heads on a regular basis. Spray heads may be broken off during mowing.

Stress the need to direct heads so that water falls on lawn and shrub areas, not on paved surfaces from which it runs off.

**Consider special conditions.** For example, clients who tell you that they apply only ¼ inch of water per application because the water runs off otherwise should be awarded full points because they have complied with the spirit of the program, if not the “letter” of the checklist.
CHECKLIST: FERTILIZE APPROPRIATELY

If the landscape is maintained in a natural state:

No supplemental fertilization is used in the landscape once plants are established.

(8 points) (p. 25)

No Partial Points Available

If the yard has grass and/or plant beds that are maintained with supplemental fertilizer:

Landscape is fertilized at or below the lowest recommended rate with a product containing slow-release nitrogen.

(3 points) (p. 25)

No Partial Points Available

This means no fertilization is applied after plants have been established. If routine applications of fertilizer are made, the yard cannot receive these points.

This refers to the total annual amount of fertilizer applied, as well as the amount applied at each application. Explain that recommended rates of fertilizer depend on the grass species and geographic region of the state. Homeowners receive credit for this practice when the lowest of the range of recommended annual totals is not exceeded for that species and region. Clients may have used a higher rate within the IFAS recommended range to provide adequate cover and prevent erosion, but you must determine if that higher rate is justified and hence acceptable. For example, applying more fertilizer to grass that is thin because it is growing in the shade would not be justified.

Encourage clients to apply less fertilizer at more frequent intervals. Make sure they are not exceeding the maximum rate at each application or the maximum annual rate:

**Maximum rate each application:**
For slow-release fertilizers: 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.
For quick-release fertilizers: ½ pound of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.

**Maximum annual rate:** Consult the latest IFAS publications.
Explain to clients that **fertilization may be done on an as-needed basis**. Look carefully around town, and you will find that many of the older, well-established landscapes are maintained without irrigation and fertilization. When fertilization is needed, apply only as much as needed to keep the lawn and plants healthy. Stress that the recommended application rates are maximums. Many clients maintain healthy, high-quality landscapes with less than the recommended rate.

Emphasize the relationship between too much fertilizer and pest problems. For instance, research has shown that chinch bug problems increase with the over-application of fertilizer.

---

**A soil nutrient test has been performed within the last year.**

(3 points) (p. 7)

No Partial Points Available

---

**This entry is a requirement for the Gold recognition level.**

A soil nutrient test can provide information on the type of nutrients contained in the soil as well as the pH. These tests are available at labs like the UF/IFAS Extension Soil Testing Laboratory.
A broadcast spreader with an operational deflector shield is used to apply the fertilizer.

(2 points) (p. 24)

A drop spreader can damage the coatings on slow-release fertilizer, rendering it quick release.

A deflector shield will keep fertilizer granules from being distributed to places where they aren't wanted.

No Partial Points Available

Broadcast spreaders with deflector shields.

Uneven fertilizer application.

Improper fertilizer application can damage turfgrass.
If mulch other than yard waste is used, an FFL recommended product is chosen.

(3 points) (pp. 29-30)

Encourage the clients to use by-product and recycled mulch whenever possible. Consult The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook (p. 29) for a list of recommended mulches.

Mulch made from the invasive melaleuca tree contributes to the tree’s removal in South Florida, where it is a significant problem. Be sure that the mulch has been properly processed to sterilize all seeds.

Self-mulching areas exist under trees where leaves can remain as they fall.

(2 points) (p. 30)

University of Florida research has shown that clients have a difficult time accepting and implementing this practice. Stress its labor-saving and cost-saving virtues.

If exposed leaves are aesthetically unacceptable to clients, suggest planting the area with ferns or another groundcover to “swallow up” the fallen leaves.

Mulch is pulled away from the base of trees and shrubs (1-2 inches).

(1 point) (p. 30)

Be sure clients do not “drown” the plant in mulch and are aware that mulch piled against the base of the plant may rot the plant or cause fungal infection.
Vines, shrubs, and trees provide habitat and/or food sources for wildlife.

(2 points) (p. 32)

Encourage clients to select a variety of plants that provide food for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife throughout the entire year. Native plants often have the greatest wildlife value and smaller fruit that can be eaten by more creatures.

A landscape design that caters to wildlife will have a variety of layers to provide cover for animals (e.g., shade trees, understory trees, shrubs of varying height, groundcover).

Emphasize the connection between the kind of plants and the wildlife that will visit the yard. Teach clients to consider the structure of the plant as a source of cover. For instance, our Florida state tree, the cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*), provides cover and nesting area for birds, small mammals, frogs, and a variety of creatures. By contrast, a Queen palm (*Syagrus romanzoffianum*) has very little value for wildlife as a source of cover.

Host and nectar plants attract a variety of pollinators.

(2 points) (p. 31)

In addition to the aesthetic benefits they provide, pollinators are beneficial to neighborhood gardens and nearby farms. Every effort should be made to include plants in the landscape that will attract and provide food for pollinating insects.
A water source for wildlife exists in the landscape. (2 points) (p. 31)

No Partial Points Available

These can include a bird bath or a small pond. Caution clients to choose a bird bath carefully. Many commercial bird baths are too deep—the birds want to drink or bathe, not swim. A shallow bowl or the saucer for a garden pot can serve as an effective and inexpensive bird bath. Some homeowners set out garden pot saucers of different sizes to accommodate different-sized birds. Attracting bats requires a large water source like a pond.

Wildlife shelters exist in the landscape (e.g., bird or bat houses, snags, brush piles). (2 points) (p. 32)

No Partial Points Available

A bird house, bat house, brush pile, or a dead tree provide shelter to wildlife. Snags (dead trees) can attract cavity dwellers including woodpeckers and owls. Snags can also provide places for birds to perch and an insect supply. However, local codes may prohibit snags in some communities.
CHECKLIST: MANAGE YARD PESTS (INSECTS, DISEASES, WEEDS, NEMATODES) RESPONSIBLY

Landscape is checked every one to two weeks for signs of pest damage.  

(5 points) (p. 33)

No Partial Points Available

Encourage clients to enjoy their landscape daily and to walk around at least twice a week to examine plants for signs of damage. Help them to understand that their landscape will change with the seasons. Let them know, for instance, that many oak and cypress trees will drop their leaves during the winter, and this is not a cause for concern.

Use the clients’ familiarity with ladybugs and praying mantis to stress that not all insects are bad. Emphasize the important role that beneficial insects play in the balance of nature. Encourage them to learn to identify different types of beneficial insects that provide natural control of harmful pests. Three examples of beneficials are shown here.

Assassin bug.

Syrphid fly.

Green lacewing.
Low-impact techniques are used for insect and disease management whenever possible.

(5 points) (p. 34)

Partial Points Available:
- 5 Pts. – Homeowner uses all 5 techniques
- 4 Pts. – Homeowner uses 4 of 5 techniques
- 3 Pts. – Homeowner uses 3 of 5 techniques
- 2 Pts. – Homeowner uses 2 of 5 techniques
- 1 Pt. – Not Possible; please do not award 1 point for this category

Review the basics of IPM with clients, and help them identify their pest control options.

Begin with Cultural Control (which is usually the source of the problem). Examine irrigation and fertilization practices. Look at plant placement. Suggest that they move or remove a plant that is perpetually pest prone.

Follow up with Mechanical Control. Can the pest be picked off or washed away with water? Can the affected plant part be pruned?

Try Biological Control, if possible. Biological controls do not work as quickly as pesticides, but they are far more beneficial.

Try insecticidal soap, horticultural oil, or Bt (Bacillus thuringiensis). Repeated applications or alternate applications of soap and oil may be necessary. Caution: Bt is a stomach poison for the larvae (caterpillars) of butterflies and moths.

Use chemical pesticides only as a last resort.

Clients are able to properly identify pest and disease issues in their landscape or have brought samples to their local Extension office.

(4 points) (p. 38)

No Partial Points Available

We want stakeholders to be aware of the services provided by their Extension office. Although they may not be able to properly identify what is afflicting their landscape, they should be aware of the role of the Extension office and the way in which to collect samples for diagnosis.

If chemical treatment is necessary, client uses spot treatments.

(4 points) (p. 34)

No Partial Points Available

If clients do not use chemical treatment, they can be awarded full points.

Broad-spectrum insecticides are not selective, meaning they also kill beneficial insects. Pest-specific products, which are designed to harm only target pests, should be chosen instead.
Grass clippings are left on the lawn or used on site.  

(3 points) (p. 39)

This entry is a requirement for all recognition levels.

Grass clippings provide added nutrients to the lawn. University of Florida fertilization guidelines assume that grass clippings are left on the lawn. However, some lawn diseases require that clippings be bagged and disposed.

Mulching lawn mowers or mulching blades are optional. Remind homeowners never to mow more than one-third of the grass blade. This practice will ensure that the lawn is not “swamped” with grass clippings.

To receive credit for this practice, the grass clippings must be used on site and not hauled away.

Sweep grass clippings up on yard.

CHECKLIST: RECYCLE YARD WASTE

Landscape waste (i.e., tree trimmings, fallen leaves, pine needles) is used on site.

(2 points) (pp. 40-41)

No Partial Points Available

If clients create self-mulching areas under shrubs and trees, leaves can remain as they fall. Falling leaves and pine needles make an attractive, natural mulch and are free. Emphasize the labor-saving and cost-saving benefits of this practice. Leaves, shrub trimmings, and other plant debris can also be collected and added to mulched beds or used in a compost pile.
A compost pile is maintained with grass clippings, leaves, pruned plant parts, kitchen scraps (no meat or dairy), etc.  

(2 points) (pp. 40-41)

No Partial Points Available

Composting is an art learned from experience. Effective composting returns valuable nutrients into the soil. Never place meat, animal fat, or dairy products in the compost pile as these attract rodents and other pests. Also never place pet waste into the compost pile. Nitrogen and carbon are required in proper proportions for effective composting.

Compost pile is kept moist but not wet and is turned regularly.  

(1 point) (p. 41)

No Partial Points Available

Proper moisture is necessary for microorganisms to decompose the compost material. Clients should not be able to squeeze water from the material produced at the bottom of the pile.

Active compost bin.

Finished compost.
Porous surfaces are used for walkways, patios, and driveways.

(6 points) (p. 44)

Partial Points Available:
6 Pts. – All surfaces are made of porous materials
4 Pts. – Most surfaces are made of porous materials
2 Pts. – Some surfaces are made of porous materials

These materials allow rainwater to seep into the ground, recharging groundwater, filtering pollutants, and reducing the amount of runoff from the yard. In some cases, these porous materials may even cost less to install than concrete or asphalt.

Rainwater is collected in a rain barrel or cistern and used to water plants.

(6 points) (p. 44)

Partial Points Available:
6 Pts. – Clients have a rain barrel or cistern AND they actively use it
3 Pts. – Clients have a rain barrel or cistern but do not currently use it

Rain barrels and cisterns can capture a significant amount of water and can have a tangible effect on water bills. A rain barrel should be made mosquito-proof with a tight-fitting lid and mesh screen, and can be painted or hidden by foliage or a trellis to make it more attractive.

Cisterns also catch rain but can hold hundreds or thousands of gallons and require more engineering than rain barrels. Remind clients that their community or county may require a permit for a cistern.
Rain gardens, swales, and berms are used to catch and filter stormwater runoff.

(6 points) (pp. 43-44)

Encourage clients to keep swales free of grass clippings and other yard waste. Nutrients released from decaying plant material can encourage the growth of nuisance weeds like cattails.

Pet waste can add significantly to the excess nitrogen found in our waterways. Emphasize the importance of properly disposing of pet waste by burying it, flushing it down the toilet, or using a pet waste disposal system (which works like a mini septic tank). Car oils and any other pollutants should also be cleaned off of impervious surfaces before they can enter storm drains.

(2 points) (p. 43)

No Partial Points Available

Sweep up spilled fertilizer.

Pollutants such as pet waste and car oils are cleaned up and kept out of storm drains.

No Partial Points Available
A low-maintenance zone of at least 10 feet separates the waterbody from any landscaped area.  

(2 points) (p. 46)

The following practices apply only to yards on the waterfront:

This entry is a requirement for all recognition levels.

This practice is required only for landscapes on the waterfront. Encourage clients to establish a border of low-maintenance plants between the lawn and shoreline/seawall to absorb nutrients and provide wildlife habitat. Encourage clients not to sod all the way to the shoreline or the seawall. If they do sod to their shoreline or seawall, they should maintain a buffer of at least 10-30 feet in which no fertilizers or pesticides are applied.

Where feasible, encourage clients to plant native vegetation in front of their seawall or along their shoreline. Under Florida law, only native vegetation can be planted along a shoreline. For estuarine areas, refer clients to Sea Grant publication #SG 003, Common Coastal Plants in Florida: A Guide to Planting and Maintenance. This publication provides detailed information about plant characteristics and availability, as well as planting guidelines.
Invasive exotic plants have been removed and replaced with appropriate native vegetation (with appropriate DEP permits obtained, where applicable).

(2 points) (p. 45)

Only native vegetation can be planted on shorelines, and a permit may be required. Encourage clients to check with their local Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) office before doing any work along a shoreline.

No Partial Points Available

Seawalls, rip rap, or gabions are used where appropriate to control erosion.

(1 point) (pp. 45-46)

Encourage clients to look for ways to encourage native vegetation in and along these structures, especially rip rap and gabions.

No Partial Points Available
## Appendix A – Completed checklist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points received</th>
<th>Points possible</th>
<th>Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Practices</th>
<th>Hand-Book Page #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FFL Principle #1: Right Plant, Right Place</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Landscape does not contain any invasive plant found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment &quot;Invasive-Not Recommended&quot; list (<a href="http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment">http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment</a>).</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Plants are placed in landscape locations that match their requirements for water, light, soil condition, wind tolerance, salt tolerance, mature size, etc.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Maintained turfgrass is used for functional purposes (e.g., play area, erosion control, nutrient uptake).</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Homeowner has had a soil nutrient test performed</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Trees and shrubs are positioned to improve the home’s heating and cooling capacity.</td>
<td>5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Groundcovers are used to prevent erosion in any area that cannot support turf or landscape beds, including on steep slopes and in deep shade.</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td>Total points earned for Principle #1. (Minimum of 8 required)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FFL Principle #2: Water Efficiently**

For a yard that does not use an irrigation system:

| 14              | 14              | Landscape is designed and maintained to exist on rainfall and minimal hand watering once plants are established. | 8-9 |

For a yard 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):

| NA             | 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 similer) 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 |
| V              | 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**         | **14**         | Total points earned for Principle #2. (Minimum of 6 required) | |

**NOTES:**

- More trees on west side of house to block hot afternoon sun.
- Azaleas have too much sun.
Dear Mr./Mrs. _____________,

Thank you for meeting with Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Yard advisor and myself. We had a pleasant visit and enjoyed touring this corner property. We observed several maintenance practices which have a positive environmental impact in your neighborhood and the groundwater beneath it. Allowing vegetation tiers with pines, oaks, and shrubs, including Beautyberry and Virginia Creeper, will provide cover, shelter and food for wildlife. Reusing your oak leaves in self-mulching areas throughout the yard reduces the need for supplemental nutrients and irrigation. As they decompose, they improve the water holding capacity and may supply plants with available nutrients. They also create a favorable environment for microorganisms, earthworms, and insects that are natural “soil builders.” Allowing turf grass clippings to remain where cut also helps to improve the soil.

Enclosed are UF/IFAS publications regarding best management practices for turf grass care and maintenance. We discussed some of these, including watering in the morning (when dew is naturally on grass) when there is less wind/evaporation and reduces excess leaf wetting which may promote fungal disease. Adjusting your watering schedule makes the best use of your well water and the electricity to pump it. We discussed various methods to test your sprinkler to determine how much water is placed on the turf. I have included the one-page sprinkler calibration sheet with the goal of ½ - ¾ inches of water at each irrigation for an established lawn and also what signs to look for in determining if the grass needs water.

We discussed optimal mowing heights and the research is summarized in ENH10, for your reference. In terms of maintenance and irrigation requirements, replacing some of the turf areas, especially those around roots or uneven and low areas, with landscape beds might be an option. There are numerous plants that provide color, seed, nectar, berries and cover for wildlife that also look very nice in the sunny and shady areas of your landscape. The current tip sheet on homeowner landscape is also included in this mailing. If this is something that may interest you, please attend our Landscape Design program, Wednesday, December 7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the County Extension office. There is no charge for this program however seating is limited. Please call me to reserve a space.

Regarding the health of trees on the property, we suggest consulting a certified arborist.

Again, Mr./Mrs. ____________, we applaud your Florida-Friendly landscape practices and hope you continue to reap numerous benefits, including a reduction in maintenance, improved landscape and conserving our natural resources. Please feel free to contact me, insert phone number with any questions.

Respectfully Yours,

Barbara Edmonds
Multi-County Master Gardener Coordinator
Appendix C - Soil pH sample report

UF/IFAS Analytical Services Laboratories
Extension Soil Testing Laboratory
Wallace Building 631 PO Box 110740 Gainesville, FL 32611-0740
Email: soillab@ufl.edu  Web: soillab.ifas.ufl.edu  Phone #: 352-392-1940

Landscape & Vegetable Garden Test

TO:
Wilber, Wendy L
Alachua County Coop Ext Service
2800 NE 39 Ave
Gainesville, FL 32609-2658
Tel: 352-955-2402
Email: wilbewl@ufl.edu

Client Identification: sand live oak  Set Number: E7281  Lab Number: E15996
Crop: Woody om / trees in the landscape  Report Date: 26-Jul-11

These interpretations and recommendations are based upon soil test results and research/experience with the specified crop under Florida's growing conditions. We do not test soil for N as there is no meaningful soil test for predicting N availability. Thus, the N recommendation was developed from research that measured response of the indicated crop to applied N fertilizer. If you expect significant nutrient release from organic sources such as crop residues or organic amendments, estimate the amount mineralized and subtract that amount from the fertilizer recommendations given below to arrive at crop needs.

SOIL TEST RESULTS AND THEIR INTERPRETATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target pH</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH (1:1 Sample:Water)</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-E Buffer Value</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MEHLICH-1 EXTRACTABLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nutrient</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phosphorus</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potassium</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium</td>
<td>&gt;1107</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

V LOW | LOW | MED | HIGH | V HIGH
Landscape & Vegetable Garden Test

TO:

UF/IFAS Analytical Services Laboratories
Extension Soil Testing Laboratory
Wallace Building 631 PO Box 110740 Gainesville, FL 32611-0740
Email: soilsab@ifas.ufl.edu  Web: soilslab.ifas.ufl.edu  Phone #:352-392-1950

LIME AND FERTILIZER RECOMMENDATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop:</th>
<th>Woody orn/trees in the landscape</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lime:</td>
<td>0.0 lbs per 1000 sq. ft (1 Ton = 2000 Lbs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrogen:</td>
<td>2.30 lbs per 1000 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phosphorus:</td>
<td>0 lbs per 1000 sq. ft. (P₂O₅)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potassium:</td>
<td>1.40 lbs per 1000 sq. ft. (K₂O)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium:</td>
<td>0 lbs per 1000 sq. ft. (Mg)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Footnotes are printed wherever applicable. These footnotes are an integral part of fertilization recommendations. Please read them carefully.

See Footnote(s): 1 650 653 654
Foot Notes

7/26/2011

Note # | Description
--- | ---
1 | Soil test values noted with a ">" sign exceeded the normal working range of our extraction method and are interpreted as high or very high for P, K, or Mg. No positive plant response to addition of the nutrient is likely. In some circumstances, addition of this nutrient to the soil could be detrimental to plant performance or to the environment.

650 | Indicated fertilizer amounts, coupled with nutrients already in the soil, will satisfy the crop-nutrient requirement for this growing season. Fertilizer and water management are linked. Maximum fertilizer efficiency is achieved only with close attention to water management. Supply only enough irrigation water to satisfy plant requirements and minimize leaching conditions.

653 | Established trees (more than three to five years since transplanting) do not need routine fertilization.

654 | For recently-planted trees, broadcast fertilizer within a diameter of 1.5 times the dripline diameter.

654 | Broadcast P2O5 either in one application or as half the recommended amount in each of two applications during the growing season. To minimize leaching losses, broadcast N and K2O in small increments throughout the growing season. Schedule one application every 12 weeks (three times per growing season), adding 33% of the recommended amount of N and K2O at each application. To insure equal coverage when fertilizer rates are small, blend all compatible fertilizers.

This data report has been issued on the authority of Dr. Rao Mylavarpu, Laboratory Director, Mr. Bill d'Angelo, Laboratory Manager, and Mrs. Nancy Wilkinson, QA Officer, in support of Florida Cooperative Extension Services.
Florida-Friendly Landscaping Survey

1. Thank you for completing this survey. Your feedback is very important to us.

   1. Over the last 6 months, you attended an educational program offered by the
      Extension Service on Florida-Friendly Landscaping. As a result of this training,
      have you changed your landscape to make it more Florida Friendly?

      ☐ yes
      ☐ no
      ☐ in the process of changing
      ☐ plan to make changes in the next 12 months

   *2. In what county or counties did you attend the Florida-Friendly Landscaping
      program(s)?

      ☐ Alachua
      ☐ Baker
      ☐ Bradford
      ☐ Clay
      ☐ Columbia
      ☐ Duval
      ☐ Nassau
      ☐ St. Johns
      ☐ Suwanee

3. Do you employ a lawn maintenance company to maintain your landscape?

   ☐ yes
   ☐ no

4. Do you employ a lawn pest service to spray/fertilize your lawn? (If yes, go to
   question 7)

   ☐ yes
   ☐ no
5. Which of the following Florida-Friendly fertilizer practices did you add or adopt for your landscape?

- blow lawn clippings back onto lawn after mowing
- calculate the square footage of landscape to determine the correct amount of fertilizer needed
- remove fertilizers from hard surfaces following application, placing back in bag or on plants
- maintain a 10' no-treat fertilizer/pesticide zone adjacent to water bodies
- fertilize only if needed and apply the minimum amount
- purchase fertilizers that contain a minimum of 30% slow-release nitrogen

6. Which of the following Florida-Friendly pesticide practices did you add or adopt for your landscape?

- use pesticides as a last resort
- scout for beneficial insects when managing pests
- spray affected plants and small buffer area when using pesticides
- when using pesticides, use softer materials like soaps, oils and Bt
- discontinue use of "Weed and Feed" products

7. Which of the following Florida-Friendly irrigation practices did you add or adopt for your landscape?

- use a rain shutoff device to cut off irrigation system
- added a rain barrel or cistern to collect water
- use rain gauge to track rainfall to conserve irrigation
- calibrated sprinkler system to deliver 1/2" to 3/4" water
- turned irrigation system off when there was adequate rainfall
- adjust irrigation run times based on seasonal weather changes
- have different irrigation zones for lawn versus woody plants

8. What is your estimated square feet of lawn and landscape area that is irrigated?

   [ ]

9. Did you eliminate irrigation in some areas or convert some of the plant beds from traditional to low volume irrigation? (If no, skip next question)

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2LFNGWQ  
10/3/2011
10. If you answered yes to #9, what % of landscape was eliminated or converted to low volume irrigation?

11. Before attending this program, how often did you irrigate the landscape each week?
   - 7 days a week
   - 6 days a week
   - 5 days a week
   - 4 days a week
   - 3 days a week
   - 2 days a week
   - 1 day a week
   - I don’t irrigate

12. After attending this program, how often do you irrigate the landscape each week?
   - 7 days a week
   - 6 days a week
   - 5 days a week
   - 4 days a week
   - 3 days a week
   - 2 days a week
   - 1 day a week
   - I don’t irrigate

13. Which of the following Florida-Friendly right plant right place practices did you add or adopt for your landscape?

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2LFNGWQ  
10/3/2011
14. Which of the other Florida-Friendly practices did you add or adopt for your landscape?

- [ ] added compost bin/pile to create organic matter
- [ ] added a 2 to 3" layer of organic mulch to plant beds
- [ ] added plants, water source, and/or shelter to attract wildlife

15. What other Florida-Friendly practices did you adopt that are not covered in this survey?

[ ]

16. As a result of the training, did you reduce the amount of water used to irrigate landscape plants? (If no, skip next question)

- [ ] yes
- [ ] no

17. A modest size landscape (~1/4 acre lot) uses between 2,000 and 3,000 gallons of water each time the irrigation system cycles. Can you estimate the gallons of water saved in the landscape each month due to implementing Florida-Friendly practices?

- [ ] 10 to 500 gallons
- [ ] 501 to 2000 gallons
- [ ] 2001 to 4000 gallons
- [ ] 4001 to 6000 gallons
- [ ] over 6000 gallons

18. Have you shared information you learned with others? (if no, skip next question)

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2LFNGWQ

10/3/2011
19. Please estimate how many individuals you shared information with.

20. Please add any comments or suggestions of ways we can improve our services. Thank you for completing this survey.
References

UF/IFAS References:

- *Questions and Answers: 2009 Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Legislation*
- Frequently Asked Questions about Landscape Irrigation for Florida-Friendly Landscaping Ordinances
- Frequently Asked Questions about Landscape Fertilization for Florida-Friendly Landscaping Ordinances