



Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

Irrigation of lawns and landscaping in Florida represents the single largest use of water from our municipal water supplies. This water use has seriously impacted the aquifer, which is the source of our drinking water and water that supports Florida's magical springs and other ecosystems. In addition, fertilizers and pesticides used on lawns are major sources of pollution in our lakes, rivers and bays.

Whether you are new to Florida or have lived here all of your life, learn how to protect Florida's environment. Get started in your own back yard by implementing the Nine Principles of Florida-friendly landscaping listed below. Learn to landscape and garden the Florida way - the smart way to grow!

Goal: To create a visually welcoming front entry through the use of texture, height, color and fragrance. To break the monotony of blank walls through the use of properly sized foundation plantings and small trees for cooling benefits. Utilize the Florida-Friendly Landscaping principles as a guideline in attaining these goals.

- 1) Right Plant, Right Place:** Plants selected to suit a specific site will require minimal amounts of water, fertilizers and pesticides.
- 2) Water Efficiently:** Irrigate only when your lawn needs water. Efficient watering is the key to a healthy yard and conservation of limited resources.
- 3) Fertilize Appropriately:** Less is often best. Over-use of fertilizers can be hazardous to your yard and the environment.
- 4) Mulch:** Maintain two to three inches of mulch to help retain soil moisture, prevent erosion and suppress weeds.
- 5) Attract Wildlife:** Plants in your yard that provide food, water and shelter can conserve Florida's diverse wildlife.
- 6) Manage Yard Pests Responsibly:** Unwise use of pesticides can harm people, pets, beneficial organisms and the environment
- 7) Recycle:** Grass clippings, leaves and yard trimmings composted and recycled on site provide nutrients to the soil and reduce waste disposal.
- 8) Reduce Stormwater Runoff:** Water running off your yard can carry pollutants, such as fertilizer, pesticides, soil and debris that can harm water quality. Reduction of this runoff will help prevent pollution.
- 9) Protect the Waterfront:** Waterfront property, whether on a river, stream, pond, bay or beach, is very fragile and should be carefully protected to maintain freshwater and marine ecosystems.

Florida Region Zone: Central USDA Cold Hardiness Zone: 9a

Local Nurseries:

Duncheon's Nursery & Landscaping www.duncheons.com 813-948-1890

The Greenery Nursery and Garden Center www.TheGreeneryofTampaBay.com 813-996-9821 (*this is the one we bought our plants from*)

The Plant Shop www.theplantshop.net 813-428-5922

Duke Lake Trees & Scrubs www.ducklakeonline.com 352-567-9809

Pine Lake Nursery www.pinelakenurseryinc.com 813-948-6209

What did we plant?



Little leaf boxwood (*Buxus microphylla*) Boxwoods are thought to be among the first shrubs domesticated by man for ornamental use. The Romans first appreciated their qualities, and today they are still one of the most versatile evergreen shrubs, particularly useful for hedges and topiary, or plant sculpture



Chinese Fringe Bush (*Loropetalum chinense*)

Loropetalum, sometimes called Chinese fringe flower, is a versatile shrub that is a member of the witch hazel family. It usually grows as a round shrub. Flowering is heaviest in the spring but sporadic flowers are likely to occur at anytime of the year



Society Garlic (*Tulbaghia violacea*) This is a perennial that will spread slowly by its rhizomes, but will not become aggressive. Flowers are most fragrant at night. The bulbs and leaves are edible and can be used like garlic and garlic chives.



Bulbine (*Bulbine frutescens*) This South African native is a perfect perennial for Florida since it tolerates hot temperatures, dry and sandy soils, and blooms throughout the warm months.



Coontie (*Zamia floridana*) **Native.** Florida's only native cycad. Sole larval food plant for Atala butterfly (*Eumaeus atala*) in fact, the Atala butterfly, a Florida native whose dazzling colors rival those of coral reef fish, almost disappeared from the wild, all because the tiny insect's host plant, the Coontie, was itself virtually wiped out. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg347>



Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaries*) **Native** Pink Muhly Grass is an absolute show stopping source of late-season color. When summer is winding down and all of your beautiful blooms from summers annuals and perennials are fading, your pink muhly grass with its giant puffs of cotton candy pink like plumes is beginning its autumn dance of color.



Bush Allamando, Bush Trumpet (*Allamanda neriifolia*) Bright yellow, trumpet-shaped year round flowers attractive to birds and butterflies.



Crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia x 'Muskogee'*). Has become a dominant landscape plant in north and central Florida and throughout the south. Breeding programs over the last 30 years have produced superior forms with a wide range of plant sizes and habits, improved flowering, new flower colors, ornamental bark, ornamental foliage, disease resistance and increased vigor.



Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) **Native** Red fruit on female plants provide food for wildlife in late fall and winter.



Bush Daisy (*Gamolepis spp.*) Finely-divided leaves with fern-like appearance; yellow, year round flowers attractive to butterflies



Firecracker Plant (*Russelia equisetiformis*) Red, summer flowers; provides food for wildlife-butterflies and hummingbirds.



Indian Hawthorn (*Raphiolepis spp.*) This small to medium shrub is grown throughout Florida. It is well adapted to our area because of its cold and salt tolerance that are combined with its attractive evergreen foliage, seasonal flowers and fruit, and low maintenance requirements. Provides food for wildlife. (Already established around foundation.)



Olive Tree (*Olea europaea*) Man has been cultivating the olive tree for over 8000 years. Olive branches figure heavily in many religions, as they did in the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome and throughout the Mediterranean. Olive trees do produce fruit in Florida. 'Arbequina' and many others do not require a pollinator; some other varieties are not self-fertile and do require a pollinator of a different cultivar. Info from: <http://www.olivetreegrowers.com>.