

THE FLORIDA YARDSTICK WORKBOOK



Does your yard measure up?

By following the simple steps inside you can save time and money, make your yard the best it can be, and protect Florida's environment.



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

FLORIDA
YARDS &
NEIGHBORHOODS

THE FLORIDA YARDSTICK WORKBOOK

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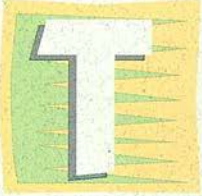
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Every inch makes a difference. Whether it's mulching, mowing your lawn or calibrating your irrigation system, a simple ruler can help you do it right.

INTRODUCTION



There's no doubt about it. Successful garden and lawn care in Florida requires special knowledge and skills. *The Florida YardStick Workbook* and its companion, *A Guide to Environmentally Friendly Landscaping: The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook*, show you how to create attractive and healthy yards by working with Florida's environment, rather than against it.

This *Workbook* guides you through an evaluation of your yard and yard care practices. Each action you take (or have already taken) earns you "inches" or credits on the Florida YardStick. **A yard that measures up to at least 36 inches is a Florida Yard!** The payoff? — a yard that meets your needs, enhances your neighborhood and helps protect Florida's natural beauty and natural resources.

You can use this *Workbook* in two ways.

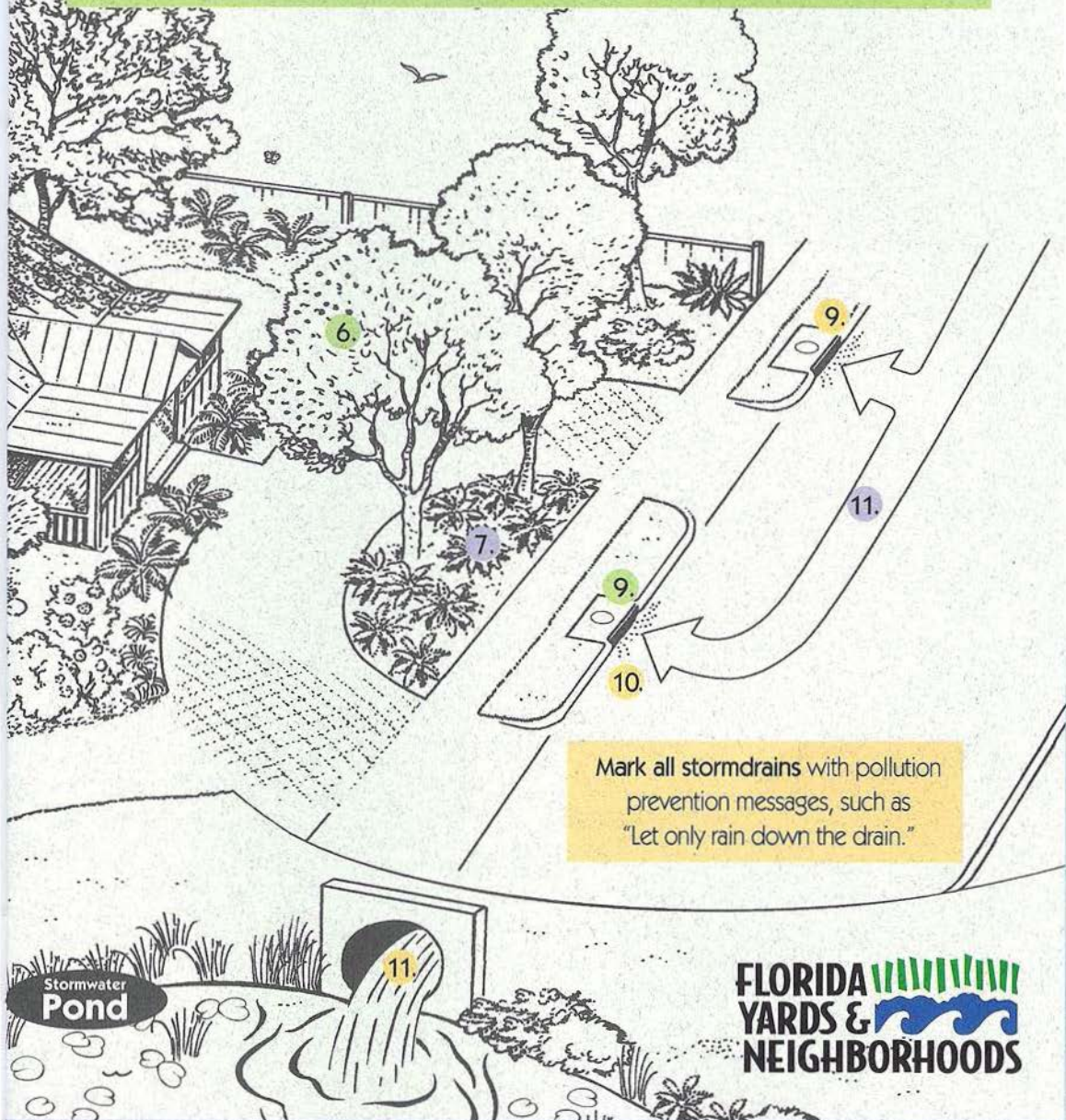
You can first read the *FY&N Handbook* and then evaluate your yard and yard care practices. Or you can start with the *Workbook* and use the *Handbook* as a reference. Under each category in this *Workbook* you will find references to the corresponding pages in the *Handbook*.

The Horticulture staff and Master Gardener volunteers at your county's Cooperative Extension Service can provide you with more information and answer questions. They can also tell you about additional services they may provide such as diagnostic tests, workshops, and on-site resources.

Remember, Rome wasn't built in a day and neither is a Florida Yard. Take this adventure a step at a time and have fun!

What does a Florida Yard Look Like?

A Florida Yard can take any form — unique or traditional. In fact, you can create a Florida Yard simply by changing the way you take care of your yard.



Mark all stormdrains with pollution prevention messages, such as "Let only rain down the drain."

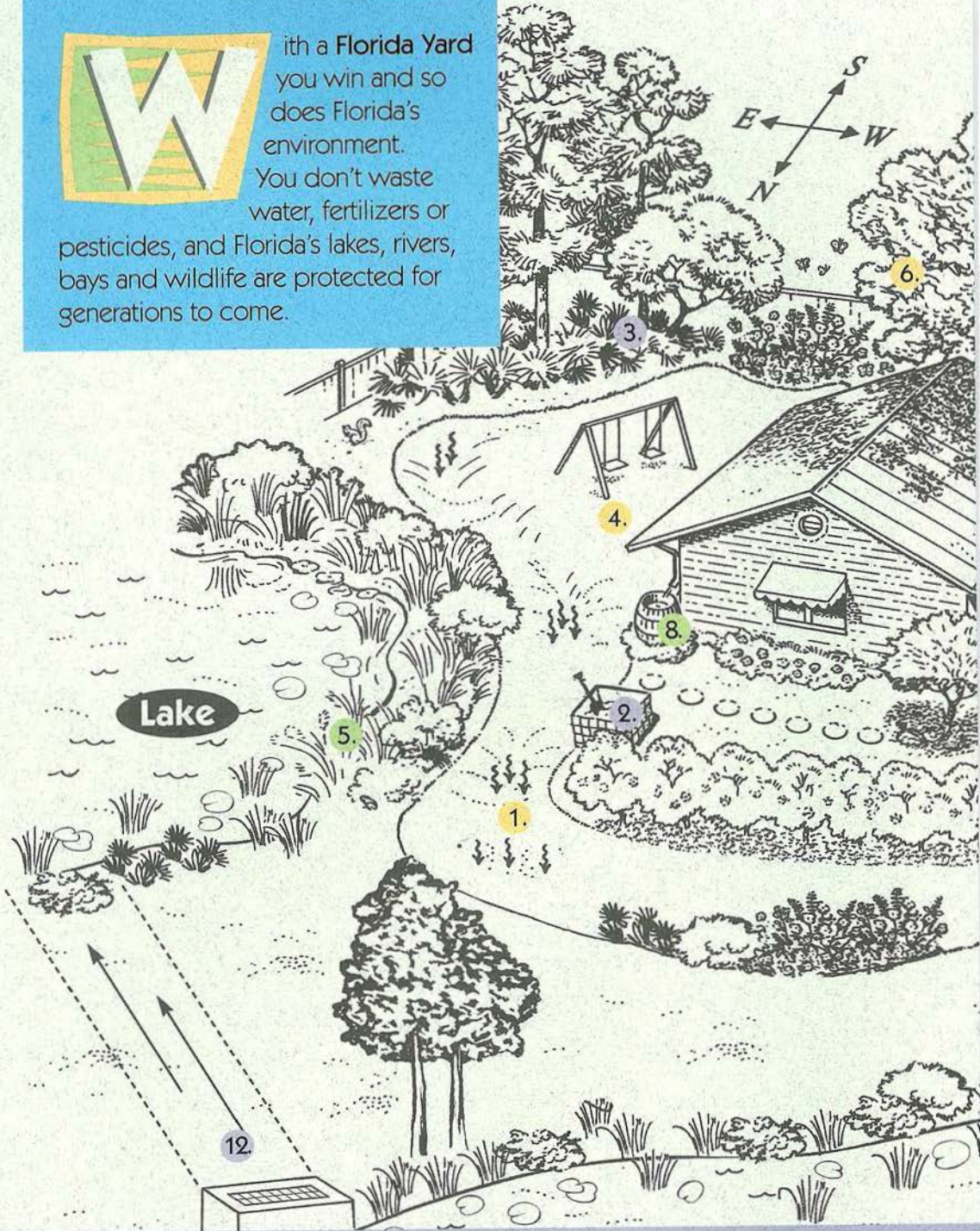
Stormwater
Pond

7. Mulched plant beds
8. Rain barrel
9. Stormdrains
10. Street gutters and stormdrains clear of dirt, fertilizers and grass clippings
11. Stormwater runoff from street
12. Stormwater can flow from stormwater ponds into lakes, rivers and bays



With a Florida Yard you win and so does Florida's environment.

You don't waste water, fertilizers or pesticides, and Florida's lakes, rivers, bays and wildlife are protected for generations to come.



1. Porous surfaces — brick driveway and mulch paths — allows water to soak into the ground
2. Compost bin
3. Wildlife habitat
4. Practical lawn area
5. Native plant buffer along shoreline
6. Trees to shade southern and western sides of home

Right Plant, Right Spot

(See pages 10-14 in FY&N Handbook)



ood landscape design hinges on one basic concept — the right plant in the right spot. Careful planning and site evaluation are the first steps in applying this concept. The following checklists will guide you through some important considerations and decisions you should make when designing a landscaped area.

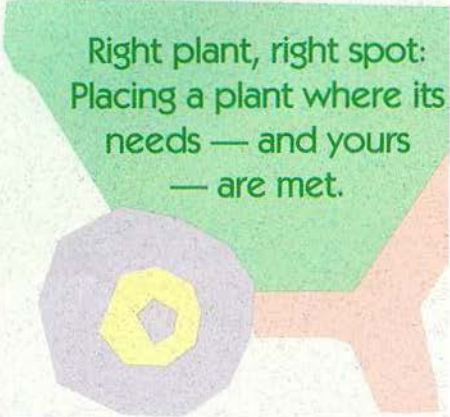
Resist (for now) the temptation to rush out and purchase plants. That will come later! If you have an in-ground sprinkler system, or are planning to put one in, make sure the designs for the landscape and sprinkler system match each other.

Florida is a diverse state which includes climatic zones. Soil types, temperature ranges and rainfall patterns differ dramatically from region to region. It's important to remember that a plant that thrives in a friend's yard on the coast may freeze in your yard just a few miles inland. Different conditions often exist in the same yard. The front yard may be high and dry, while the backyard may be poorly drained and soggy.

Once you know your site conditions and have decided how you will use your yard, you are ready to begin with the step of plant selection. The Cooperative Extension Service has resources to help you with your selections. Prioritize your landscape projects, and then work on them one at a time.

1st Determine your needs for an area. (A few suggestions)

- Play area for children
- Vegetable/Herb/Fruit garden
- Screen home from road or neighbors
- Wildlife habitat/Butterfly garden
- Water garden/Aquascape
- Sitting garden
- Area for entertaining
- Pet area
- Storage area
- Pool, spa, hot tub
- Outdoor barbeque area
- Showcase the home



Right plant, right spot:
Placing a plant where its
needs — and yours
— are met.

2nd Determine the level of maintenance you want.

(Time needed for mowing, pruning, and weeding. Requirements for water, fertilizers and pesticides.)

- High
- Medium
- Low

3rd Determine the site conditions in your yard.

- North Florida
- Central Florida
- South Florida

- sandy
- marl
- clay

- full shade
- partly shaded
- sunny

- well-drained soil
- poorly drained soil
- compacted soil

- alkaline soil
- acidic soil
- coastal soil

Your county's Cooperative Extension Service can give you information on how to collect a soil sample for a pH, soluble salts, or complete analysis test.

FLORIDA YARD ACTIONS

- Reduce the need for water, fertilizer, pesticides and pruning by using plants suited to the site conditions in your yard. Credit: 2 inches.
- Group plants according to their maintenance needs. For example, group drought-tolerant plants with low-water needs separately from lawn areas. Credit: 2 inches.
- Determine how much grass you need for children, pets and recreation. Use low-maintenance ground covers, shrubs, mulch or other porous surfaces where possible. Credit: 3 inches.
- Save energy by using trees and shrubs to shade the air conditioner compressor and eastern and western walls of your home. Credit: 1 inch.
- Use deciduous trees or shrubs on southern exposures to allow sun to passively heat your home in the winter. Credit: 1 inch.
- Help stop the spread of invasive exotic plants by removing them from your yard. (Examples . . . Brazilian Pepper, Melaleuca, Australian Pine, and Chinese Tallow). Credit: 2 inches.
- Reduce yard waste by choosing plants that will not require frequent pruning when they reach maturity. Credit: 1 inch.
- Preserve native plants, especially trees, when building on a new site. Maintain a protective "do not disturb" barrier under the dripline of trees. Credit: 3 inches.

Total Inches

Right Plant, Right Spot

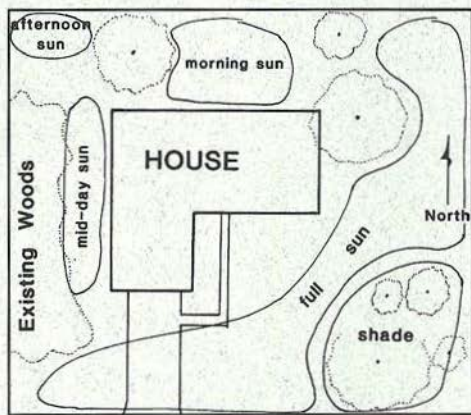
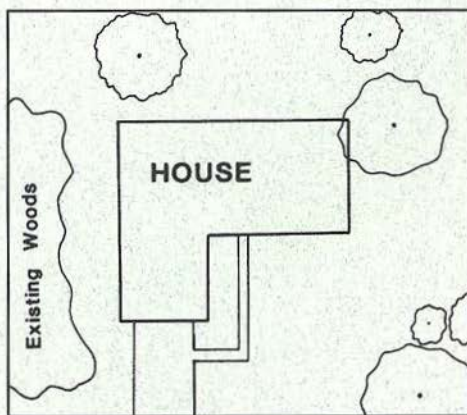
(See pages 10-14 in *FY&N Handbook*)

Choose among plants with these characteristics to reduce maintenance:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> drought tolerant | <input type="checkbox"/> shade tolerant | <input type="checkbox"/> slow growing shrubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pest tolerant | <input type="checkbox"/> freeze tolerant | <input type="checkbox"/> ground covers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> salt tolerant | | |

4th Create your design plan.

Follow the landscape design steps in the *FY&N Handbook* to draw plans similar to those below. You can use the graph paper provided on pages 8 and 9. Be sure to indicate where activities will take place, future plans for additions to the home, and your irrigation zones, if you have an in-ground system.



First indicate existing plants, then note site conditions.

5th Choose plants to meet all the conditions you've selected in this workbook.





The Top Five Common Mistakes in Landscape Plantings

Mistake #1: Over-planting.

Small trees and shrubs are often planted too close together to get a “full” look. The result several years later is a crowded landscape. Plants must be removed or drastically pruned to reduce competition.

Solution #1: Resist the temptation to have an “instant landscape.” Know the mature size of plants and give them room — and time — to grow.

Mistake #2: Lawn areas are cluttered with trees and shrubs.

Plants scattered throughout the lawn appear unorganized. They also create maintenance problems in terms of mowing, raking, and giving plants the amount of water and fertilizer they need.

Solution #2: Group shrubs and trees in mulched plant beds bordering the lawn.

Mistake #3: Shrubs around the home are too tall.

When plants grow too tall they cover windows and no longer enhance the home's appearance. We usually try to compensate for this “mis-planting” by shearing to control the plant size. This constant shearing weakens and disfigures shrubs. It also creates extra work and yard wastes.

Solution #3: Select foundation plants with an ultimate (mature) size that fits their location. Instead of shearing shrubs, selectively clip stray shoots to keep the plant neat and full.

Mistake #4: Plants are planted too close to the house.

Plants too close to the house have an unattractive “cramped” look. They also create a maintenance nightmare when it's time to repair or paint the house.

Solution #4: Foundation or corner shrubs should be planted half their mature width plus one foot away from the wall. Therefore, a shrub that will grow to be five feet wide should be planted $3\frac{1}{2}$ ($2\frac{1}{2} + 1$) feet away from the house.

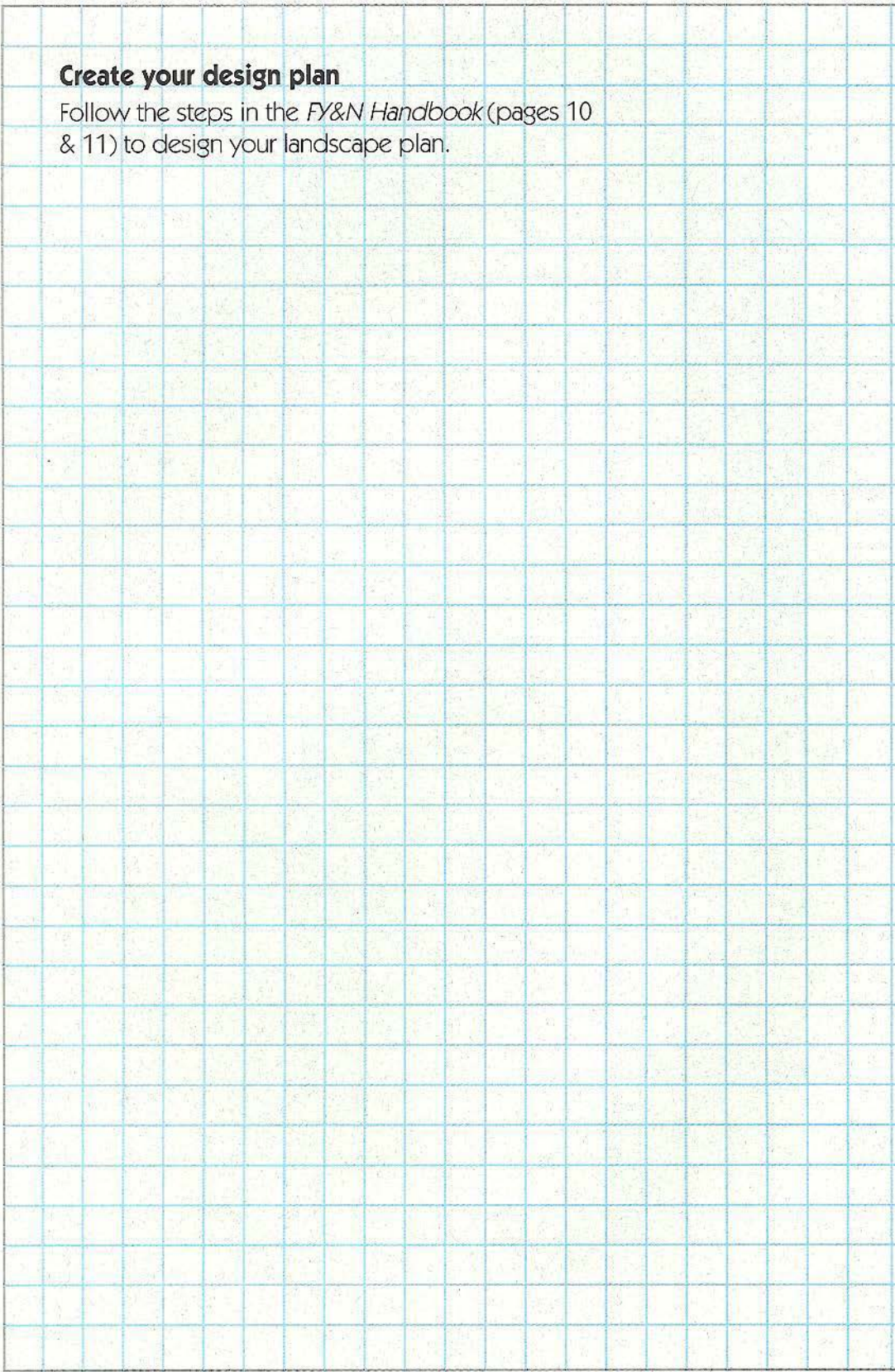
Mistake #5: Bright colors are scattered throughout the yard.

Brightly colored foliage, flowers or fruit attract attention. When brilliant color is scattered along the foundation or elsewhere around the yard, it confuses and may overwhelm the viewer.

Solution #5: Concentrate color where accent is desired. The goal is to attract attention to focal areas of the house.

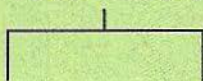
Create your design plan

Follow the steps in the *FY&N Handbook* (pages 10 & 11) to design your landscape plan.



Scale

1 inch = feet



Water Efficiently

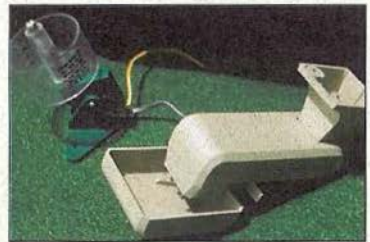
(See pages 33-38 in *FY&N Handbook*)



truly efficient way to use water in a yard is to design the yard so that it thrives predominantly on rainfall. Even if your yard has a lawn and specialty gardens, it is possible to design it as a Florida Yard in which you can water the plants "as needed."

However, even an ideal landscape design can be over-watered.

That's why many of the actions in this section deal with sprinkler systems. It's extremely important that each irrigation zone is set to meet the needs of the plants in that area. For example, a lawn in full sun will demand more frequent irrigation than an established plant bed of shrubs and groundcovers.



Two typical rain-sensing shut-off devices for automatic sprinkler systems.

MOWING HEIGHTS

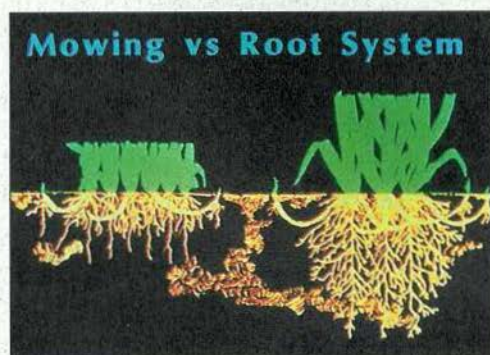


Give your lawn a break during the Winter!

Avoid the temptation to keep your lawn green and growing year-round. Lawns go semi-dormant in central and northern Florida from November through March. During this time, the lawn will only need water every ten days, at most.

Let your plants tell you when they need water — and then water them correctly.

See the *FY&N Handbook* for ways to tell when your lawn and plants need water. The *Handbook* also shows you how to calibrate your sprinkler system so your plants get the water they need.



The higher the grass — the more extensive the root system.

FLORIDA YARD ACTIONS

- Design and maintain a yard that thrives predominantly on rainfall once plants are established. Credit: 6 inches.
- Water your lawn and other plants only when they show signs of stress. (Comply with any existing watering restrictions in your community.) Credit: 3 inches.
- Calibrate your sprinkler(s) to apply 1/2 to 3/4 inch of water per application. Credit: 3 inches.
- Mow lawns high to encourage a deeper, more drought and pest tolerant root system. A higher cut also shades out weeds. Cut no more than 1/3 the height of grass blades with each mowing. Credit: 2 inches.
- Put a rain gauge in your yard to track rainfall to avoid unnecessary watering. Credit: 2 inches.
- Connect an automatic rain shut-off device to your sprinkler system's timer. Set the device to 1/2 inch so it will override your system's timer when enough rain has fallen. Replace back-up batteries in your system's timer each year before the rainy season. Check to see if the shut-off device is working properly. Credit: 2 inches.
- Design or modify your sprinkler system to water lawn areas separately from plant beds requiring less water. Credit: 2 inches.
- Use a drip or micro-spray irrigation system to more efficiently water plant and flower beds. Credit: 2 inches.

___ Total Inches

Mulch

(See page 38 in *FY&N Handbook*)



Mulch keeps moisture in the soil and moderates soil temperature. Mulch also reduces erosion and weeds.

Mulch is often sold in bags, by the yard or by the “truck-load.” So, how much mulch do you need for your yard?

MULCH: How much do you need to have the recommended depth of 3 inches?

By the bag:

1 bag containing 2 cubic feet covers 8 square feet (2 ft. X 4 ft.)

By the bale:

1 bale of pine straw covers 18 to 20 square feet.


By the yard:

1 cubic yard covers 108 square feet (9 ft. x 12 ft.)

By the truckload:

1 mini pickup holds 11½ yards and covers 162 square feet (9 ft. x 18 ft.)

1 full-sized pickup holds 21½ yards and covers 270 square feet (9 ft. x 30 ft.)



If you are buying bags containing 2 cubic feet of mulch, you can use the following chart:

Your plant bed in square feet

The depth of mulch

	2 inches	3 inches	4 inches
25 sq. ft.	2 bags	3 bags	4 bags
50 sq. ft.	4 bags	6 bags	9 bags
100 sq. ft.	9 bags	13 bags	17 bags

Recycle

(See pages 29-30 & 36-38 FY&N Handbook)



In a Florida Yard, grass clippings, leaves and yard trimmings are recycled rather than thrown away.

By recycling yard debris, we gain free mulch and return valuable nutrients to the soil.

Composting is a great American tradition that people are rediscovering. Turn plant and kitchen scraps into rich soil for your indoor and outdoor plants.

FLORIDA YARD ACTIONS

- Keep a 2-3 inch layer of organic mulch over the roots of trees, shrubs, and in plant beds. Remember to leave at least 2 inches of space between the mulch and the plant's trunk or stem. (Don't mulch citrus trees.) Credit: 2 inches.
- Replenish mulch once or twice a year, as needed to maintain a 2-3 inch depth. Credit: 1 inch.
- Create self-mulching areas under trees where leaves can stay where they fall. Credit: 1 inch.
- Use by-product or alternative mulches such as pine bark, Eucalyptus and Melaleuca, or use recycled mulches when available from your community. Credit: 1 inch.

___ Total Inches

FLORIDA YARD ACTIONS

- Recycle grass clippings by leaving them on the lawn. Mulching lawn mowers or mulching blades are not necessary. Credit: 2 inches.
- Use fallen leaves and pine needles as mulch under trees and shrubs. They make an attractive, natural mulch and are free. (If you have more leaves than you can use, share them with a friend or neighbor.) Credit: 2 inches.
- Create and maintain a compost pile with kitchen scraps and yard waste (no animal products, please). Credit: 3 inches.

___ Total Inches



Pull mulch away from stems and trunks to avoid stem rot.

Fertilizing

(See pages 31-32 in FY&N Handbook)



any trees and landscape plants demand little or no fertilizer once they are established and mature. In fact, fertilizers can be hazardous to the health of your yard and the environment when they are misused.

When over-applied, fertilizers aggravate insect and disease problems and force excessive growth which must be mowed or pruned. Excess fertilizers can run off yards into waterways or leach into aquifers, polluting drinking water.

How much fertilizer should you buy?

It's Spring, and Bob and Jane want to fertilize their lawn. Here are the steps they take to determine how much fertilizer to buy:

- They measure their lawn area and calculate square feet:
Backyard: 60×50 feet
($60 \times 50 = 3,000$ square feet)
Frontyard: 50×40 feet
($50 \times 40 = 2,000$ square feet)
Total square footage = 5,000 square feet.
- They shop for fertilizers which contain slow-release nitrogen and find two products priced the same, a 10-2-10 and a 16-4-8. The 16-4-8 contains 16% nitrogen, 4% phosphorus, 8% potassium. The 10-2-10 contains 10% nitrogen, 2% phosphorus, 10% potassium.
- They use this simple formula to determine the application rate of each fertilizer:
 $100 \text{ divided by the } \% \text{ N} = \text{the amount of fertilizer to spread over } 1,000 \text{ square feet.}$
- Therefore, $100 \div 10 = 10$ pounds per 1,000 square feet (for the 10-2-10) and $100 \div 16 = 6$ pounds per 1,000 square feet (for the 16-4-8).
- Their 5,000 square foot lawn would require 50 pounds of 10-2-10 (5×10) but only 30 pounds of the 16-4-8 (5×6).
- Both products contain 40 pounds of fertilizer. Bob and Jane save money by purchasing one bag of 16-4-8 instead of two bags of 10-2-10.
- Before spreading the fertilizer, they calibrate the fertilizer spreader to apply 6 pounds per 1,000 square feet. (Hint: This information is available from the spreader's manufacturer or the Cooperative Extension Services.)

The Fertilizer Tag:

Florida law requires that fertilizer manufacturers supply a tag with every bag of fertilizer. There's a wealth of information on the tag once you understand how to interpret it. *The FY&N Handbook* helps to demystify much of the information you will find.

Use fertilizers in which 30% or more of the nitrogen is in a slow- or controlled-release form.

Fertilizer Facts:

- 1. Fertilizer is not plant food.**
Food to a plant is the sugars it makes through photosynthesis. Fertilizer nutrients are used in this process, but a lawn or plant growing poorly in too much shade will not grow better if fertilized.
- 2. The truth about "100% Organic."**
The "100% Organic" claim often refers only to the nitrogen in the bag. Furthermore, the nitrogen can be derived from natural products such as manure or it can be from synthetic chemicals such as urea. Read the label to determine where the "organic" nitrogen is coming from.
- 3. Buy nutrients, not fertilizer.**
Many fertilizers contain a number of plant nutrients even though only one or two may be needed. What plant response do you want – greener growth? more flowers or fruits? Know which nutrients will provide these responses and buy only those.

FLORIDA YARD ACTIONS

- Fertilize only as needed to maintain the health of lawns and landscape plants. If plants show signs of stress, such as yellow leaves or stunted growth, identify the problem before applying fertilizer. Do not exceed the rate of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per application. Credit: 2 inches.
- Use slow-release fertilizers. Buy fertilizers that contain 30% or more of the nitrogen in slow-release forms. Credit: 2 inches.
- Use iron (ferrous sulfate or chelated iron) instead of nitrogen to make your lawn green during the summer. Credit: 1 inch.

___ Total Inches

Slow-release Fertilizers

When fertilizer nutrients are in "slow release" forms, they are available to plants over a longer period of time and less nutrients are wasted or lost as pollutants. Look for these terms on the product or fertilizer tag:

- Timed-release, slow-release or controlled-release.
- Water insoluble nitrogen, Activated sludge, Sulfur-coated urea (SCU), IBDU, Ureaform (UF), Nitroform, or Polymer-/Plastic-/Resin-coated urea.

Managing Yard Pests

(See pages 39-47 in FY&N Handbook)



It is unrealistic, and even unwise, to strive for an insect-, disease- and weed-free yard. Many insects are beneficial, helping to keep pests under natural control. Many other insects simply coexist with humans causing us no harm.

Meet some of the “Good Guys.” Help protect these beneficial insects — so they can naturally keep pests under control.



Lady Beetle (larva)



Lady Beetle



Assassin Bug



Green Lacewing (larva)



Green Lacewing



Big-eyed Bug



Earwig



Syrphid Fly



Syrphid Fly (larva)

IPM-Integrated Pest Management

Communities and individuals are successfully managing pests by protecting beneficials and reducing the use of pesticides. By definition, pests include insects, diseases (such as viruses) and weeds. It is easy to practice IPM in your yard.

- 1st Check your lawn and plant beds regularly for pest problems.
- 2nd Identify the problem. Know the good from the bad. Is it a chinch bug or a big-eyed bug? It makes a difference. Big-eyed bugs eat chinch bugs.
- 3rd When appropriate, first try non-chemical approaches and least toxic pesticides such as insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils and *Bt* products.
- 4th Spot treat. If chinch bugs or weeds are the problem, don't treat the entire lawn – only the affected area. If one out of ten shrubs have scale, treat only the infested plant.
- 5th Be tolerant! Low levels of pests will do minimal damage to plants and many are a source of food for beneficials.
- 6th The label is the law! Read pesticide labels carefully for information on using pesticides and disposing of left-over chemicals and containers.

FLORIDA YARD ACTIONS

- Check plants regularly. Walk around your yard every week and observe your plants and lawn for signs of problems. Credit: 2 inches.
- Avoid routine applications of pesticides. Treat only affected areas rather than spraying your entire lawn or yard. (Require that your maintenance company follow these strategies.) Credit: 3 inches.
- Know five beneficial insects that provide natural control of harmful pests. Credit: 2 inches.
- Use environmentally-friendly pesticides such as horticultural oils, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*Bt*) and insecticidal soaps. These effective, safe materials can control most plant pests. Credit: 2 inches.
- Wherever possible use non-chemical approaches to pest control, such as pruning off affected areas, hand-removing insects, etc. Credit: 3 inches.

___ Total Inches

Friendly Fungus? *Aschersonia* is a fungus that attacks whitefly nymphs on citrus trees. The term beneficial applies to bacteria, birds, insects or any other organism that keeps pest populations under control.

Stormwater Runoff

(See pages 1 & 24-27 in *FY&N Handbook*)



Keeping rain and sprinkler water on our yards — and out of stormdrains — reduces pollution of our bays, rivers and lakes. Because water washes off our yards, it is important to reduce the amount of pollutants on our property. *The FY&N*

Handbook shows the benefits of having swales in your yard and using pervious surfaces for patios and walkways.

Making a Rain Barrel

Rain barrels are a great way to reduce stormwater runoff and to save water for a dry spell. If you have gutters on your house, you may be able to collect 55 gallons of water during a 1/2-inch rain by connecting a downspout to a rain barrel or cistern.

Tools:

Electric Drill
15/16" Drill Bit
Sabre Saw
(you can use a hand drill & hand saw)

Supplies:

Plastic Drum (55 gal. best)
3/4" Spigot (with male threads)
PVC Cement
Caulk

Directions: Use only barrels that have carried food products!

1. Drill 15/16" hole at the first even part of barrel, about 6" to 8" from bottom.
2. Screw 3/4" spigot into hole (should have a snug fit).
3. When spigot is about 3/4" of the way in, apply PVC cement to threads and finish tightening.
4. If using a downspout, use a sabre saw to cut a hole in lid to fit spout. After inserting down spout, caulk around the hole.
5. Other option: Take off the lid of a drum or trash can and cover the opening with a fine fiberglass screen. Place the container where water flows off your roof.
6. Elevate barrel on 2 to 3 cement blocks to allow easy access to the spigot. (If you want more pressure, raise the barrel higher above the ground.)
7. You may want to add a second spigot at the top of the barrel so you can direct the overflow through a hose into a specific part of your yard.

FLORIDA YARD ACTIONS

Let only rain down the drain! While stormwater often travels through pipes under our roads just like sewage, it is *not* treated at a waste treatment plant. Instead stormwater flows directly into ponds, lakes, rivers and bays.



Blue plastic drum painted to match the house.

Note: Barrels come in many sizes, shapes and colors.

- Barrels either have sealed lids or lids that can be removed. Barrels with sealed lids have two small round openings. They have flat bottoms and are more stable. Barrels with removable lids have larger openings making cleaning out debris easier.
- Drums made of white plastic seem to disintegrate more quickly in the sun.
- Food-grade drums are also available in 48 gallon and 42 gallon sizes.

- ☐ Where possible, direct downspouts and gutters to drain onto the lawn, plant beds or containment areas where rain will soak into the soil rather than run off the yard. Credit: 1 inch.
- ☐ Decrease soil erosion by planting groundcovers where lawn grass doesn't thrive, such as under trees or on steep slopes. Credit: 2 inches.
- ☐ Use mulch, bricks, flagstone, gravel, or other porous surfaces for walkways, patios and drives. Credit: 1 inch.
- ☐ Collect and store rain runoff from your roof in a rain barrel or cistern. Credit: 2 inches.
- ☐ Create swales (low areas) or terracing to catch, hold and filter stormwater. Credit: 3 inches.
- ☐ Pick up after pets. This will help reduce bacterial and nutrient pollution entering stormdrain systems. Credit: 1 inch.
- ☐ Clean up oil spills and leaks on the driveway. Instead of using soap and water, spread cat litter over oil, sweep it up and then throw away in the trash. Credit: 2 inches.
- ☐ Sweep grass clippings, fertilizer and soil from driveways and streets back onto the lawn. Remove trash from street gutters before it gets washed into stormdrains. Credit: 2 inches.

___ Total Inches

Wildlife

(See pages 21-23 in FY&N Handbook)



With more than 1,200 kinds of animals, Florida ranks third in the nation in wildlife diversity.

Providing adequate food, water and shelter can increase the number and variety of species that live in your yard.



Butterflies add beauty to our yards and pollinate plants.



Protect butterfly larvae and provide them the plant food they need.



Frogs help keep mosquitoes and other unwanted insects under control. They also serenade us at night, especially after a good rain.

FLORIDA YARD ACTIONS

- Plant vines, shrubs and trees that provide cover, nesting areas, or food for birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Credit: 3 inches.
- Provide a water source, such as a bird bath or a small pond, for wildlife. Credit: 1 inch.
- Provide wildlife shelters such as a bat house, bird house, brush pile or a dead tree. Credit: 1 inch.
- Identify five kinds of wildlife critters (insects, reptiles, animals, birds, etc.) that live in your yard. Credit: 2 inches.

___ Total Inches

Aquascaping for You and Wildlife

Even small backyard ponds are beneficial to wildlife. A balanced system including fish and plants won't need a pump or filters (as long as you don't feed the fish).

- Flexible PVC or rubber liners allow you to create the pond shape you want. Create a 9-inch wide shelf, about 9 to 12 inches below the water line, for potted aquatic plants. Walls should have a 20 degree slope.
- Preformed ponds are usually rugged, made of fiberglass or PVC. They can be placed above or below the ground.

On the Waterfront

(See pages 1-3, 32, 49-55 in FY&N Handbook)

Waterfront property owners realize the special contribution our bays and waterways make to their quality of life. They also understand how fragile these natural treasures can be.



FLORIDA YARD ACTIONS

- Remove invasive exotic aquatic plants by cutting, pulling or raking. After using herbicides, remove dead plant material from the water to reduce pollution. Credit: 2 inches.
- Decrease wave action and increase habitat by placing clean native limestone rock in front of your seawall. Credit: 3 inches.
- Protect your native shoreline plants. (For example: mangroves in salt water; pickerelweed and duck potato in fresh water). Never prune mangroves or remove other vegetation without first seeking proper guidelines and permits. Credit: 2 inches.
- Establish a 10-30 foot "no fertilizer, no pesticide" zone along your shoreline. Credit: 2 inches.
- If possible, plant a border of low-maintenance plants between your lawn and shoreline/seawall to absorb nutrients and provide wildlife habitat. Credit: 2 inches.
- Where feasible, plant native aquatic vegetation in front of your seawall or along your shoreline. Credit: 4 inches.

___ Total Inches

Total Inches for All
Florida Yard Actions: ___

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods

is a program of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service
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Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program

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For lawn & gardening information on the internet visit the
University of Florida Website: <http://hammock.ifas.ufl.edu/>

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University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service resources used in this
publication: *Florida Guide to Environmental Landscapes*, *Florida Lawn
Handbook*, *Helpful or Harmful? Flash Cards*, *A Guide to Environmentally
Friendly Landscaping: Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook*, *Your Florida
Landscape: A Complete Guide to Planting and Maintenance*, *FAIRS
CD-ROM Multimedia Database*, *Maintaining Your Florida Yard* (slide set).

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FLORIDA
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