

FACT SHEET: Extension Demonstration Gardens

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FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™ AGENT

(Adapted from *Demonstration Gardens in the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service*, by Sydney Park Brown, Kim Taylor and Emily Eubanks, UF/IFAS Extension, Fact Sheet ENH865)



What better way to present the nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles than to have demonstration gardens on-site or near University of Florida (UF) /IFAS Extension offices or UF/IFAS Research and Education Centers? For those of you that may not know, the nine principles include:

- **Right Plant, Right Place** – Select plants for your site that require minimal amounts of water, fertilizer and pesticides.
- **Water Efficiently** – Irrigate only when your lawn and landscape need water. Efficient watering is the key to a healthy Florida Yard and reducing runoff.
- **Fertilize Appropriately** – Less is often best. Over-utilization of fertilizers can be hazardous to your yard and the environment.
- **Mulch** – Maintaining a 2-3 inch layer of mulch after it settles will help retain soil moisture, prevent erosion, and suppress weeds.
- **Attract Wildlife** – Plants in your yard that provide food, water and shelter can conserve Florida's diverse wildlife.
- **Control Yard Pests Responsibly** – Unwise use of pesticides can harm people, pets, beneficial organisms and the environment.
- **Recycle** – In a Florida Yard grass clippings, leaves, and yard trimmings are recycled on site to provide added nutrients to the soil and to reduce waste disposal.
- **Reduce Stormwater Runoff** – Water running off from your yard can carry soil, debris, fertilizer and pesticides that can harm water quality. Reduction of this runoff will help prevent nonpoint source pollution.
- **Protect the Waterfront** – Waterfront property, whether on a bay, river, stream, pond or beach, is very fragile and should be protected as a natural treasure.

These demonstration gardens, located throughout the state, showcase environmentally-friendly (Florida-Friendly) landscape designs, plant materials and maintenance practices appropriate for their locations. Most gardens are open to the community free of charge, resulted from collaborations with UF, local municipalities, Florida's nursery industry, environmental agencies, plant societies and Master Gardener program volunteers. Interpretative materials are generally available and include brochures, signage and self-guided tours. Many host workshops, garden events and plant sales.



The photos in this article were taken at the Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden, located in the courtyard of the Hillsborough County Extension office, which is one of the many (fifty-nine) teaching gardens featured in the publication, *Demonstration Gardens in the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service*, by Sydney Park Brown, Kim Taylor and Emily Eubanks, UF/IFAS Extension, Fact Sheet ENH865.

To secure your own copy of this document, go to: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP10800.pdf>. Plan a road trip to your favorite garden sites and enjoy learning many things in the process!

Visit or call the Hillsborough County Extension office for additional horticulture information. We are located at 5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584, (813) 744-5519. Master Gardeners are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. We can help!