

FACT SHEET: The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design

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The new Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design is available on line at: http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v090110.pdf. This Guide is intended for homeowners who want to design their own Florida-Friendly Landscapes. A Florida-Friendly Landscape's beauty and functionality depend on a mix of trees, plants and turfgrass chosen for their specific location and maintained according to the University of Florida (UF)/IFAS recommendations. Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles encourage the use of both native and non-native species of plants. Invasive exotics should be removed where possible and never planted.

The Guide provides a the number of landscape design scenarios provided, including front entry, along walls, sidewalks and fences, under windows and trees, for standing water, to blend-in utility boxes, and unique visual representations of transformed landscapes. Information is included on how to convert your yard to a Florida-Friendly Landscape, ecological considerations, five common gardening mistakes and, my favorite, the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Plant List of trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, grasses, perennials, annuals and turfgrass. Plant information covers the Florida Region and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cold Hardiness Zones, growth rate, height and spread, native status, soil pH range tolerated by the plant, soil texture, drought tolerance, light range and optimum light, salt tolerance and wildlife attracted.

This Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design is intended as a companion to The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook which is available at:
http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/materials/FYN_Handbook_vSept09.pdf

This handbook thoroughly covers each of the nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles. These principles are:

- Right Plant, Right Place – Select plants that require minimal amounts of water, fertilizer and pesticides.
- Water Efficiently – Irrigate only when your lawn and landscape need water.
- Fertilize Appropriately – Use time release fertilizer, and do not fertilize before a heavy rainfall.
- Maximize Mulch – Maintain a 2-3 inch layer of mulch after it settles to retain soil moisture, prevent erosion, and suppress weeds.
- Attract Wildlife – Plants that provide food, water and shelter are beneficial to Florida's diverse wildlife.

- Control Yard Pests Responsibly – Unwise use of pesticides can harm people, pets, beneficial organisms and the environment.
- Recycle – Convert kitchen scraps and yard waste into nutrient-rich organic matter.
- Reduce Stormwater Runoff – Harvest rainwater, sweep fertilizer, pesticides and grass clippings into your landscape and off your sidewalk and driveway to prevent nonpoint source pollution.
- Protect the Waterfront – Eliminate sources of pollution and protect our natural treasure, Florida's water bodies.

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!