

FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING GUIDELINES

The legislature passed SB2080 and the Governor signed it into law in 2009. This legislation affects landscaping practices in our community and encourages the use of Florida friendly landscaping practices.

HOA's are permitted to establish reasonable guidelines for Florida friendly landscaping so any homeowner who decides to transition a portion or all of their lawn to Florida friendly landscaping does so while staying within the parameters of the design of their community. Please keep these guidelines in mind when submitting your application for ACC approval.

There are nine principles inherent in Florida friendly practices. They are as follows:

1. Right plant, right place
2. Water efficiently
3. Fertilize appropriately
4. Mulch
5. Attract wildlife (helpful insects, butterflies and hummingbirds – not animals)
6. Manage yard pests responsibly
7. Recycle yard waste
8. Reduce storm water runoff
9. Protect the waterfront

Suncoast Lakes' guidelines are minimal and easy to follow.

1. The turfgrass strip between the sidewalk and road shall remain turfgrass (turfgrass shall include, but is not limited to, St. Augustine, Bahia, or Zoysia).
2. At least one-third of the front yard (corner lots shall include the side visible to the street) shall be turfgrass . The remainder of the front yard must be a combination of trees, shrubs, plants and mulch. This combination of trees, shrubs, plants and mulch shall be equally apportioned so that there shall be approximately 17% of each so that there is no incidence where a homeowner has a disproportionately higher amount of mulch than plantings.
3. Homeowners are encouraged to preserve and enhance existing butterfly host vegetation on their properties.
4. Rain barrels and compost bins shall be placed in the back yard where they are not visible from the street.

Florida friendly is not an excuse to keep a sloppy yard. **It is important to note that when these nine principles are not included in your landscaping scheme the landscape is no longer**

considered Florida friendly. Therefore it is important to research and plan your design to ensure you follow these principles.


As a homeowner you are responsible for maintaining your yard in a clean, attractive manner regardless of the style of landscaping you display.

For your convenience, below is a link from the University of Florida that details these nine principles more fully:

http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/nine_principles.htm

With the exception of small annuals and perennials, plants used for landscaping must be found on the Florida Friendly Plant List 2006 or other lists published by the IFAS Extension of the University of Florida. The link below will take you to a page at the UF/IFAS Extension that has links to a variety of sources which will help you in selecting the right Florida plants, trees, shrubs, soil, as well as a link to The 2006 Florida Friendly Plant List (middle of the page):

http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden/getting_started/choosing_plants.html


ce/23/11