



Florida Friendly Landscaping™ can beautify neighborhoods while supporting resilient landscapes. This can enhance habitats and help yards to adapt and thrive through various changes over time.



Photos by Michael Drummond

Florida Friendly Landscaping™ provides important habitat and food sources for wildlife. The right plants in the right place limit the need for water, fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides.

## Resources:

Alachua County Environmental Protection Dept.  
[www.AlachuaCountyWater.org](http://www.AlachuaCountyWater.org)  
[www.MyYardOurWater.org](http://www.MyYardOurWater.org)

UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County Office  
<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/alachua/>

St. Johns River Water Management District  
Florida Water Star & Waterwise Plant Database  
[www.SJRWMD.com](http://www.SJRWMD.com)

Florida Friendly Landscaping™ Program and  
Landscaping Guide  
<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Florida Friendly Plant Database  
<http://floridayards.org/fyplants/>

Florida Native Plant Society  
[www.FNPS.org](http://www.FNPS.org)

Audubon Bird-Friendly Plant Database  
[www.audubon.org/native-plants](http://www.audubon.org/native-plants)

Gainesville Clean Water Partnership  
[www.GainesvilleCreeks.org](http://www.GainesvilleCreeks.org)



[www.MyYardOurWater.org](http://www.MyYardOurWater.org)



## Homeowner Association Florida Friendly Landscaping™ Code



This guide provides information for homeowners and HOAs about Article VII of Chapter 77 of the Alachua County Water Quality Code.



## What is a Florida Friendly Landscape?

A *Florida-Friendly Landscape* is a quality landscape that conserves water, protects the environment, is adaptable to local conditions, and is drought tolerant. Florida Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) includes 9 general principles: planting the right plant in the right place, efficient watering, appropriate fertilization, mulching, attraction of wildlife, responsible management of yard pests, recycling of yard waste, reduction of stormwater runoff, and waterfront protection.

## Why was the FFL code adopted?

- Encourages landscapes that limit the need for irrigation, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.
- Allows Alachua County to enforce the State's Florida Friendly Landscaping legislation.

## What if the HOA and a homeowner disagree regarding proposed FFL ?

- Contact the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (ACEPD) for assistance in resolution.  
(352) 246-6800
- ACEPD will communicate with the homeowner and HOA to ensure both parties understand the code and that applicable HOA landscaping rules have been followed.
- ACEPD will refer cases to the Alachua County Extension Office to schedule an educational site visit if needed.
- If there is still not a resolution, ACEPD will hire an independent expert (FFL Certified Professional) to conduct a site visit and provide an expert opinion.
- If the expert determines the landscaping required by the HOA is not FFL and the homeowner is being prohibited from implementing FFL, ACEPD may issue a citation to the HOA or take the case to the Codes Enforcement Board.

## Homeowner Responsibilities

If you belong to a community governed by a homeowners association you must:

- Work with the HOA Landscape Review Committee/ Board when planning to convert to Florida Friendly Landscaping™.
- Provide a sketch or other documents that detail your plans if required by your HOA.
- Reach an agreement with your HOA on a landscape plan prior to making changes.
- Maintain your new landscape per your HOA requirements.

## HOA Responsibilities

Homeowners associations ensure the collective interests and rights of homeowners are protected. They also serve to protect property values within the neighborhood they represent. HOAs must:

- Work with homeowners to permit FFL that adheres to requirements agreed upon by the association to maintain acceptable aesthetics.
- An HOA may not require residents to violate county irrigation or fertilizer restrictions.