

## Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Commercial/Institutional/Parks Checklist

By recognizing specific landscapes as Florida-Friendly, the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods (FYN) branch of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program honors clients' efforts to conserve water and protect water quality and other natural resources. A Landscape Advisor should use this checklist to evaluate existing landscapes, referring to The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Landscape Advisor's Manual if necessary.

To maintain the integrity of the FYN program and to ensure that FYN Landscape Recognitions have a positive environmental impact, landscape evaluations must be as thorough and accurate as possible. However, the landscape evaluation process should always be a positive, educational, and enjoyable experience for all clients. Focus should be on the educational aspects of the landscape evaluation process, rather than on the recognition itself.

In order for a landscape to be considered for recognition it must contain landscape plants. Landscapes made up entirely of rock, mulch, shell or other similar materials are not considered Florida-Friendly and are not eligible for recognition.

### Client Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Required Practices for Silver and Gold: All of the following requirements must be met.

- Client certifies that landscape complies with all codes, laws, ordinances, and HOA rules (if applicable).
- Lots less than 1/3 acre do not contain any plants found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment "Prohibited" list (<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/conclusions.html>)
- OR
- Lots that are greater than 1/3 acre do not contain any plants found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment "Prohibited" list (<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/conclusions.html>) within 50 feet of the structure (foundation or conditioned space)
- Landscape contains at least 10 unique plant species.
- Volcano mulching is avoided
- There is a 2-3 inch layer of mulch over the roots of trees, shrubs, and in plant beds.
- For sites greater than ½ acre, the results of a soil pH test have been used to guide plant choices.

### If Fertilizers are used:

- Any spilled fertilizer is collected.
- Fertilizer is not applied when heavy rain is forecast in the next 24 hours.

- Fertilizer is applied to turfgrass and landscape beds at less than or equal to the UF/IFAS-recommended rate.
- Fertilizer is only applied when plants are actively growing.
- A broadcast spreader with an operational deflector shield is used to apply fertilizer.

**If an irrigation system is present:**

- Irrigation system is calibrated to apply 1/2" to 3/4" of water per application.
- A functional rain shut-off device is installed in an operable location.
- Spray and rotor heads are installed on separate zones.
- Irrigation system is free from leaks and broken emitters.
- The irrigation controller is set in compliance with water management district restrictions.
- Irrigation system is 75% efficient according to MIL report.

**If turfgrass is present:**

- Turfgrass is mowed at the UF/IFAS-recommended height for the grass species to encourage a deeper root system and increase drought and pest resistance.
- "Weed and Feed" products containing herbicide and fertilizer together are not used.

**If pesticides are used:**

- Only affected plants and turf areas are treated with pesticide applications (spot treatments).

**If the property is located on a waterfront:**

- A maintenance-free zone of at least 10 ft. has been established around the water body. No pesticides, fertilizer, or irrigation water is applied in this zone. **OR** Native aquatic plants are located in the littoral zone or on floating mats.
- Invasive exotic plants have been removed from the riparian zone and replaced with native aquatic plants.
- Seawalls, rip rap, or gabions are used where appropriate to control erosion.

**Aesthetics:** Landscape must meet 4 of the following 5 requirements, in addition to all of the required practices listed above.

- Landscape appears to be actively managed.
- Appropriate pruning practices are apparent.
- Defined landscape beds.
- Landscape matches aesthetic of community.
- Landscape and household debris is properly disposed of or recycled.

**Gold (All of the following required practices must also be met for Gold level recognition)**

- Landscape does not contain any plants found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment “Invasive-Not Recommended” list (<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/conclusions.html>)
  - Landscape contains at least 15 unique plant species.
  - The results of a soil nutrient test have been used to guide plant choices.
  - Not more than 50 percent of the irrigation system (by area) is high-volume.
  - Micro-irrigation is installed in all landscape beds and is zoned separately from traditional heads.
  - Landscape meets 5 of 5 aesthetics requirements.
  - 100% of roof runoff (with or without downspouts) drains onto landscaped areas or pervious surfaces
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## **Tier Practices**

For silver level recognition, a landscape must meet all required practices and achieve (4) First Tier, (4) Second Tier, (4) Third Tier, (4) Four Tier, and (3) Five Tier practices. If the landscape has an in-ground irrigation system, (4) Irrigation practices must also be met.

For gold level recognition, a landscape must meet all required practices plus the additional gold level practices. The landscape must achieve (6) First Tier, (6) Second Tier, (6) Third Tier, and (5) Four Tier practices. If the landscape has an in-ground irrigation system, (6) Irrigation practices must also be met.

### **First Tier (4 required for silver 6 required for gold)**

- Plants are placed in landscape locations that match their requirements for water, light, soil condition, wind tolerance, salt tolerance, mature size, etc.
- Plants are spaced for growth to maturity without the need for excessive pruning.
- Plants are grouped by similar moisture requirements.
- Maintained turfgrass is used for functional purposes (e.g., play area, erosion control, nutrient uptake).
- Trees and shrubs are positioned to improve the building’s heating and cooling capacity.
- Shrubs and groundcovers are used where grass is difficult to maintain.
- 1/2-acre to 1-acre sites have at least two shade trees, at maturity. Sites larger than one acre have at least four shade trees per acre.
- Edge of rootball nearest to the foundation is at least 2.5 feet away.

### **Second Tier (4 required for silver, 6 for gold)**

- A 2”-3” layer of one of the mulches recommended in the FYN Handbook, 4th ed., is maintained over tree roots, shrubs, and plant beds as appropriate. (p.30)
- Self-mulching areas exist under trees where leaves can remain as they fall.
- Mulch is pulled away (1”-2”) from the base of trees and shrubs.

- Landscape waste (tree trimmings, fallen leaves, pine needles) is used on site.
- Compost bin is installed or community compost bin is available for use.
- Compost pile is kept moist but not wet, and is turned regularly.
- Grass clippings are left on the lawn after mowing.

**Third Tier (4 required for silver, 6 required for gold):**

- Landscape is checked every 1-2 weeks for signs of pest damage.
- Low-impact techniques are used for insect and disease management whenever possible.
- Client is able to properly identify pest and disease issues in their landscape or has brought samples to their local Extension office.
- If chemical treatment is necessary, client uses spot treatments.
- Vines, shrubs, and trees provide habitat and/or food sources for wildlife.
- Host and nectar plants are planted to attract a variety of pollinators.
- A water source for wildlife exists in the landscape.
- Wildlife shelters exist in landscape (e.g. bird or bat houses, snags, brush piles, etc.).

**Four Tier (3 required for silver, 5 required for gold):**

- Erosion-prone areas are treated to minimize erosion.
- At least 50% of hardscape surfaces are made of porous materials.
- Porous surfaces are used for walkways, patios, and driveways.
- Roof runoff (with or without downspouts) drains onto landscaped areas or pervious surfaces.
- A cistern, rain barrel or other water harvesting practice is used with proper mosquito prevention techniques in place.
- Rain gardens, swales, and berms are used to catch and filter stormwater runoff.
- Pollutants such as pet waste and car oils are cleaned up and kept out of the storm drains.
- Infrastructure for using non-potable or lowest quality water for irrigation is present.

**Irrigation Tier**

For a landscape that does not use an irrigation system the following practice must be met:

- Landscape is designed and maintained to exist on rainfall and minimal hand watering once plants are established.

For a landscape that uses an irrigation system (in-ground, micro-irrigation, or hose-end sprinkler) (4 required for silver, 6 required for gold):

- Not more than 50 percent of the irrigation system (by area) is high-volume.
- Turfgrass and landscape plants are irrigated only as needed (in compliance with any existing watering restrictions).
- A smart controller (evapotranspiration, soil moisture sensor, or similar) is installed and operational.

- Separate irrigation zones for turf and landscape plants are maintained.
- Low-flow irrigation is installed and maintained in plant and flower beds.
- Irrigation system operates between 10pm – 7am.
- Sprays and rotors do not spray onto impervious surfaces or into micro-irrigation zones.
- Emitters are located at least three feet from building, do not spray building, and are unobstructed.

Required Practices Met: \_\_\_\_\_ Silver \_\_\_\_\_ Gold \_\_\_\_\_ No

First Tier Practices Met: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Tier Practices Met: \_\_\_\_\_

Third Tier Practices Met: \_\_\_\_\_

Four Tier Practices Met: \_\_\_\_\_

Irrigation Practices Met: \_\_\_\_\_

Recognition Level Awarded: \_\_\_\_\_ Silver \_\_\_\_\_ Gold \_\_\_\_\_ None