

FYN Yard Recognition Checklist

Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) honors as “Florida-Friendly Yards” model landscapes that strive to protect our water and other natural resources. Use this checklist to evaluate existing landscapes. New construction is evaluated with a separate tool that focuses on design and installation practices. Page numbers refer to *A Guide to Florida-Friendly Landscaping: Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook*.”

Homeowner Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

County: _____ Email: _____

Required Practices (Check or indicate N/A)

All landscapes should comply with all existing codes and laws. Shaded practices are required for Golden Oak level recognition. The following practices, when applicable to the landscape being evaluated, are required for all levels of Florida Friendly Yard recognition:

For all landscapes:

- Landscape does not contain plants identified by legal code as invasive exotics (e.g., Brazilian pepper, melaleuca, Australian Pine, Chinese tallow). (p. 32)
- Grass clippings, fertilizer, and soil are swept off the driveway and walkways and onto the lawn or landscape. (p. 53)
- A 2”-3” layer of organic mulch is maintained over tree roots, shrubs, and plant beds as appropriate. (p.59)

If an irrigation system is used:

- Irrigation system is calibrated to apply 1/2” to 3/4” of water per application. (p. 45)
- A rain gauge is used to track rainfall amounts. (p. 41)
- A functioning automatic rain shut-off device is maintained on in-ground systems (required post 1991, Florida Statute 373.62). (p. 41)

If the yard has mulch:

- Mulch is pulled away from the base of plants and trees by 2 inches. (p. 59)

If a lawn is present:

- Lawns are mowed at recommended height to encourage a deeper, more drought and pest resistant root system. (p. 82)

If supplemental fertilization is used:

- Lawn and landscape beds are fertilized at the lowest of the fertilizer ranges recommended by the UF Turfgrass and Landscape Science Programs (unless a higher rate within the range is deemed necessary to provide adequate cover). (p. 50)

If pesticides are used:

- Only affected plants and lawn areas are treated with pesticide applications (spot treatments used). (p. 73)

If property is located on a waterfront:

- A “no fertilizer, no pesticide” zone of responsibility of at least 10 ft. has been established with low maintenance lawngrass or plants. (p. 101)

Inches received	Inches possible	Florida-Friendly Landscaping Practices	Hand-book Page #
Using the Right Plant in the Right Place			
	4	Landscape does not contain invasive plants not recommended for the region by the current IFAS Assessment (http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment).	32
	3	Low maintenance plants (requiring minimal watering, fertilizing, pruning, etc.) predominate in the yard.	32
	3	Plants are grouped according to their water and maintenance needs and suited to the site's conditions.	41
	2	Lawn is maintained for specific uses only (e.g. for children, pets, recreation, swales, right of way areas, etc.).	33
	1	Trees and shrubs are positioned to improve your home's heating and cooling capacity.	30
	1	Plants and plant placement are chosen to account for seasonal storms.	30
Watering Efficiently			
<i>For a yard that does not use an irrigation system:</i>			
	14	Landscape is designed and maintained to exist predominantly on rainfall once plants are established.	32
<i>For a yard that uses an irrigation system (in-ground, micro-irrigation, or hose-end sprinkler) (Golden Oak level requires yard to exist predominantly on rainfall):</i>			
	4	Lawns and landscape plants are irrigated only when needed (and in compliance with any existing watering restrictions).	40
	2	Separate irrigation zones for lawn and landscape plants are maintained.	41
	2	Drip- or micro-irrigation is installed and maintained in plant and flower beds.	42
	2	Functioning smart irrigation technology (soil moisture sensors, ET controllers or other automated method) is used on in-ground systems.	44
Fertilizing Appropriately			
If the yard is maintained in a natural state:			
	4	Minimal to no supplemental fertilization is used in the landscape.	54
If the yard has grass and/or plant beds that are maintained with supplemental fertilizer:			
	2	Fertilizers with at least 30% of N in slow-release form are used.	49
	1	If a lawn is present, iron is used instead of nitrogen to "green-up" the lawn in the summer rainy season.	53
Mulching			
	1	Self-mulching areas exist under trees where leaves can remain as they fall.	87
	2	If mulch other than yard waste is used, known by-product mulches (e.g. pine bark, melaleuca) are chosen.	60

Providing for Wildlife			
	2	Vines, shrubs, and trees provide cover, nesting areas, and/or food sources for wildlife (including biological control agents).	64
	1	A water source for wildlife exists in the landscape.	64
	1	Wildlife shelters exist in landscape (bird or bat houses, snags, brush piles, etc.).	66
Managing Yard Pests (Insects, Diseases, Weeds, Nematodes) Responsibly			
	2	Landscape avoids plants highly prone to pest attack.	70
	2	The landscape is checked every 1 to 2 weeks for signs of problems, and pests and beneficials are identified.	69
	2	Non-chemical approaches to pest control, such as pruning off affected areas, hand removing insects, etc., are used whenever possible.	72
<i>For a yard in which NO pesticides are used (Golden Oak level requires either this practice OR the next two practices):</i>			
	10	No pesticides are used in the landscape.	69
<i>For a yard in which pesticides are used (if pesticides are used, Golden Oak level requires both of these practices):</i>			
	4	Only biological and biorational pesticides (i.e., horticultural oils, insecticidal soaps, B.t.) are used when needed.	73
	4	“Weed and Feed” products containing herbicides and fertilizer together are not used.	53
Recycling			
	3	If a lawn is present, grass clippings are left on the lawn or used on site.	81
	2	Yard waste (i.e., tree trimmings, fallen leaves, pine needles) is used on site.	80
	1	A compost pile is maintained with yard clippings, leaves, kitchen scraps, etc.	87
Reducing Stormwater Runoff			
	3	Roof runoff (with or without downspouts) drains onto lawn or landscaped areas rather than onto impervious surfaces like concrete or asphalt.	93
	1	No thinly vegetated areas prone to erosion are present.	33
	2	Pervious surfaces, such as mulch, bricks, gravel, porous pavers, or flagstone are used for walkways, patios, and driveways.	95
	2	Rainwater is collected and used to water plants.	94
	2	Rain gardens, swales or terracing catch or filter stormwater runoff.	93
	1	Pollutants such as pet waste and car oils are cleaned up and kept out of the storm drains.	
	1	Street gutters are kept free of grass clippings, trash and debris.	
Protecting the Waterfront (where applicable)			
	2	Invasive exotic plants have been removed and replaced with appropriate native vegetation (with appropriate DEP permits obtained, where applicable).	98
	1	Mangroves are pruned appropriately and according to existing law.	100
	1	Where feasible and following all applicable DEP permit requirements, clean, native limestone rock is placed in front of your seawall to decrease wave action and increase habitat.	98
		Total Inches	

Recognition Level Requirements

Bronze Magnolia:

- All required applicable practices
- At least 36 inches, 40 for yard on waterfront

Silver Palmetto:

- All required applicable practices
- At least 50 inches, 54 for yard on waterfront

Golden Oak:

- All required applicable practices
- At least 50 inches, 54 for yard on waterfront
- All shaded practices

A yard sign and certificate are available for each recognition level. A sticker on the yard sign designates the level achieved and lists the year the yard was evaluated.

Recognition Level Achieved:

- Bronze Magnolia
- Silver Palmetto
- Golden Oak

Yard Advisor: _____

Comments:

This publication was funded in part by a Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program Implementation grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through a contract with the Nonpoint Source Management Section of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, Larry R. Arrington, Director, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, publishes this information to further the purpose of the May 8 and June 30, 1914 Acts of Congress; and is authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. This information was published January 2007.