

As a member of the Sustainable Landscape Council, I and our company/affiliate agree to uphold the Standards & Guidelines as follows:

Design, implement and maintain landscapes that are in balance with nature and protect the environment without compromising future generations by adhering to these sustainable landscape methods, standards and guidelines.

WATER CONSERVATION

- Utilize plants and planting materials that are native or drought-tolerant plants.
- Utilize drought-resistant turfs and grasses that require less water.
- Reduce water consumption by utilizing low-flow, drip or micro-spray irrigation systems and technologies that reduce water loss.
- Adhere to automatic rain shut-off sprinkler systems that are required by the state and other ordinances and that use soil moisture sensors and intelligent irrigation systems.
- Adjust or realign sprinkler heads to prevent overspray onto sidewalks or streets.
- Use 2-3 inches of environmentally-friendly mulch around shrubs, plant beds and trees to retain water and moisture.
- Use separate irrigation zones for lawn and landscape plants.
- Group plants together that have similar water requirements.
- Avoid plants that are not well-adapted to the local conditions or placed in environmental conditions (lighting, moisture, temperature) which cause the plant to become overstressed, may require more water and become more prone to pest problems.
- Create swales and rain gardens where water can be filtered. Use berms along with swales that allow for proper drainage and grade.
- Create slopes that can be terraced with a series of raised beds or planters.
- Use rain barrels, downspouts and guttering to direct and collect water that can be used for irrigation of plants.
- Adhere to all codes, ordinances and regulations regarding the landscape plan.
- Adhere to new fertilizer ordinances recently passed in many Florida Counties as well adhere to all EPA, state and environmental regulations.

WATER QUALITY

- Reduce soil inputs and fertilize only when necessary.
- Base fertilizer applications on soil analysis and specific plant fertilizer needs.
- Use fertilizers that are slow or time-released nitrogen and reduced phosphorus to prevent run-off of nutrients into water ways.
- Establish fertilizer-free areas for landscapes near shorelines, bays, estuaries and waterways of at least a 10 foot setback.
- Plant eco-friendly, drought resistant plants in the buffer zone from the lawn to the shore line, bay, estuary or waterway that can absorb harmful run-off from nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus).
- Use hardscape or paver materials that are eco-friendly and permeable such as permeable interlocking concrete pavers and crushed stone layers that allow water to infiltrate back into the soil subgrade, allowing stormwater to be filtered and reduce pollutants.
- Reduce stormwater run-off also using crushed shell, gravel and mulch for sidewalks, driveways and footpaths to absorb water.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & SAFETY

- Utilize mulches that are recycled or by-products that are environmentally sustainable such as Melaleuca, pine needles, bark, leaves.
- Remove invasive plant species such as pepper trees, melaleuca, air potato, Chinese privet, coral vine, wedelia, and kudzu.
- Select plants that don't require too much pruning or create yard waste.
- Create compost areas from organic yard wastes (such as grass clippings, leaves, vegetable and flower plants and small amounts of woody material) to be used as soil amendments and to reduce them from going to landfills.
- Reuse materials, such as broken concrete or recycled plastic material to erect retaining walls to create visual features instead of removing it to the landfill.
- Avoid using reuse materials that may be harmful to the soil or dangerous to food or crops nearby such as creosote-stained railroad ties to build raised beds.
- Select trees that are more prone for wind protection. Do not plant trees too close to homes or structures due to fires or lightning strikes.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

- Southern exposures of houses and buildings receive the most intense sunlight while east and west exposures receive morning and afternoon sunlight respectively while north-facing exposed structures receive the least. Select trees that can offer shading to help cool homes and buildings, particularly on the south side to reduce energy consumption.
- Shade air conditioning and cooling units that will run cooler and increase energy efficiency.
- Use shade trees for parking areas or other hardsurface areas.
- Use solar power for lighting where possible to reduce energy consumption.
- Adhere to municipality and other government agencies outdoor lighting ordinances.
- Incorporate lighting that reduces light pollution, reduces excessive glare, prevents light trespassing on others, improves security and safety, and reduces energy consumption.
- Use down lighting rather than up lighting techniques.
- Use solar garden lighting versus electrical lighting. Solar lights are typically dimmer than wired landscape lighting and do not use consumable energy.

DIVERSITY & WILDLIFE HABITATS

- Most pest problems are directly related to the health of the plant. Start with pest-free plant materials and products. Diversity within a yard or landscaped area will help maintain beneficial organism populations. Predators and parasites of plant pests are beneficial organisms. Examples of beneficial organisms include birds, reptiles, small animals, insects and microorganisms. Since most plant pests target a certain species or family of plants, diversity of plants can help control pest problems.
- Plant trees, shrubs and plants that offer nesting areas and food for birds.
- Incorporate in the landscape design bird houses, fountains, and ponds as drinking areas for wildlife.
- Use plants, where appropriate, that attract butterflies which are attracted to sweet, pungent and acrid-smelling flowers that are orange, pink, purple and red.
- Use plants, where appropriate, that attract the honey bees which have been compromised recently. Plants that promote bee colony maintenance include citrus trees, magnolia, holly, and shrubs like privets and ligustrums, glossy abelia.
- Use plants, where appropriate, that offer sustainable edible landscape opportunities such as fruit trees, vegetables, and herbs that reduce food costs, add to the safety of where foods are grown, and that are convenient and fun to grow.

MAINTENANCE

- Utilize landscape contractors, lawn maintenance companies or laborers who are knowledgeable about sustainable landscape methods and who have been certified according to Best Management Practices (BMP's) by the state, county or municipality and organizations.
- Manage weeds and pest problems with organic, environmentally-friendly pest management solutions.
- Annually aerate lawn areas, reapply mulch as necessary, fertilize as directed and according to fertilizer ordinances and regulations. Remove dead plant debris and prune woody plants.

STEWARDSHIP

- Sustainable Landscape Council (SLC) members will be good stewards of the land by using eco-friendly and sustainable landscape methods.
- SLC members will design and maintain sustainable landscapes that are in harmony with nature and utilize "green" materials and methods.
- SLC members will reduce or eliminate usage of toxic chemicals in landscapes that harm the soil and cause run-off and pollution of waterways.
- SLC members will use organic or environmentally-friendly products and services and adhere to Best Practice Methods (BMP'S) regarding usage of plants, materials, landscape products and services.
- SLC members will conserve water, energy, resources through well designed landscape plans that will improve water quality and protect, preserve and respect wildlife habitats.
- SLC members will adhere to community, state and federal ordinances that affect landscape methods.
- SLC members will help educate others as to sustainable landscape methods in order to help protect ecosystems, waterways and the environment.
- SLC members and their employees will continue to update their education by attending Best Management Practices classes, attend local seminars or conferences that increase their knowledge and keep them updated as to sustainable landscape methods and horticultural methods.

In addition to the Sustainable Landscape Council Standards and Guidelines outlined, Sustainable Landscape Council members also support the initiatives of and encourage the adherence to the following:

U.S. Green Building Coalition
<http://www.usgbc.org>

Florida Green Building Coalition
<http://floridagreenbuilding.org>

Florida WaterStar Program
<http://www.floridawaterstar.com>

Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>

The five Florida Water Management Districts have experts and many programs that offer information about Florida-friendly sustainable landscape practices, water conservation and resource protection. Please see information about the Xtreme Yard Makeover program the SLC participated in with the South Florida Water Management District where SLC members donated product and services to help educate about the "how to's" of designing and implementing a sustainable landscape.

South Florida Water Management District
Naples, FL
<http://www.sfwmd.gov>

Southwest Florida Water Management District
Brooksville, FL
<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us>

Northwest Florida Water Management District
Havana, FL
<http://www.nwfwmd.state.fl.us/index.html>

St. Johns River Water Management District
Palatka, FL
<http://sjr.state.fl.us>

Suwanee River Water Management District
Live Oak, FL
<http://www.srvmd.state.fl.us>

Contact your local Native Plant Society, garden and horticultural clubs, botanical gardens, state and local colleges for landscape and plant material usage and education. Consult your IFAS or Cooperative Extension offices, green building coalitions, environmental, governmental and educational entities, and your local chapters of FNGLA that are there to help you with sustainability, environmental and green issues.

For help in identifying what is a native or invasive species you can contact the Florida Native Plant Society chapter near you.
<http://www.fnps.org> (See link to Florida Native plant Society individual chapters).

Many counties and municipalities offer courses and credits for Best Management Practices and updates on fertilizer ordinances and water conservation programs that also offer LEED and green credits. SLC members are encouraged to continue their education and attend courses regarding Best Management Practices.

All Florida Counties feature IFAS/Cooperative Extension expert staff that can provide educational information and answers regarding horticultural methods: <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/local.htm>

Please see the Florida-Friendly Plant Database for a list of native and drought-tolerant plants: <http://floridayards.org/fyplants/index.php>

Also, consult and join the leading coalitions for green building and horticultural authorities who are knowledgeable and have programs that promote sustainable and "green" methods which protect the Florida environment. SLC members are encouraged to join and participate in their local chapters of FNGLA (Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association) who offer many educational programs, tradeshow, and meetings to educate and promote the landscape and agricultural growing industry. <http://www.fn gla.org>