

Project Guide for Students - Educators - Parents

Florida Friendly Landscapes and Green Schoolyards

Excerpts from Guide to Plant Selection & Landscaping Design (copyright 2010 U. of FL)

The Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Handbook based on UF/IFAS science recommends Nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping principles:

1. "Right plant, right place" which means matching plants with sight conditions based on USDA zones, water and light requirements, soil makeup and conditions, salt and wind tolerance and the natural ecosystem. If the plant is well-suited to the site, less irrigation, fertilizer, and other treatments will be required.
2. Water efficiently. Prevent automatic irrigation during periods of sufficient moisture. Only water when plants show signs of wilt, preferably in the early morning. Overwatering can lead to pest infestation and higher water bills.
3. Native plants do not require purchasing fertilizer.
4. Mulch with organic matter instead of fertilizers protect soil erosion, maintain moisture, inhibit weed growth, improve soil structure and aeration. Use organic pesticides or herbicides.
5. Plant to attract native birds, bats, insects, and other creatures that diversify the yard ecology. Plants that supply berries, seeds and bird eatable insects are encouraged. Bat and bird houses, and water sources like bird baths or ponds work well. Increase vertical layering in landscaping plans.
6. Manage pests and invasives ecologically with low toxicity. Plant resistance should be studied.
7. Recycle yard waste by compost or mulching.
8. Manage stormwater runoff with porous pavers, rain barrels, cisterns, rain gardens, swales, and berms so water percolates into the ground or is captured for later use.
9. Protect the watershed and waterfront so that excess nutrients are contained in the wet season. Create a ten foot maintenance-free area from any waterway which means a no-mowing zone and no-toxic treatments.

Choices that you make can have more far-reaching consequences than you might imagine.



What happened to the naughty child at school?

Our Favorite Schoolyard Landscaping Websites and Links

Green Schoolyards America greenschoolyards.org

Link to Living Schoolyard Activity Guide US Edition for Elementary Schools - Loads of Kids Activities
http://ecoschools.com/Assets/Documents/GSA-LSYM_2018sc.pdf (may take a while to load)

Aldo Leopold Nature Center in Monona, Wisconsin (author of A Sand County Almanac)

AldoLeopoldNatureCenter.org

*The principal
egg-spelled the
child!*