

Landscaping the ‘Florida-Friendly’ way

The state of Florida, in collaboration with the University of Florida, has adopted Florida-Friendly Landscaping guidelines to protect waterways, wildlife and native plants. The SPCSA encourages residents to follow these guidelines when seeking approval for landscaping changes through the Architectural Review Committee (ARC).

The guidelines are designed to promote quality landscapes that conserve water, protect the environment and are drought-tolerant and adaptable to local conditions. Florida-Friendly principles are:

- Planting the right plants in the right place.
- Watering efficiently.
- Fertilizing appropriately.
- Mulching.
- Attracting wildlife (pollinators).
- Managing yard pests responsibly.
- Recycling yard waste.
- Reducing stormwater runoff.
- Protecting waterfronts and ponds.

Two publications to help you learn more are available online from UF: “Florida-Friendly Landscaping Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design” and “Florida-Friendly Handbook for Home Landscapes.” Reminder: HOA regulations require that all landscapes be trimmed and maintained so as not to become unsightly.