

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program Overview

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Today's Agenda

- What is the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program?
- Why is FFL important?
- What does FFL do?
- How does FFL serve the community?
- FFL Resources





Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

Florida Statute 373.185

- Started in 1993 to address the problem of water quality degradation
- Program written into legislation
- “Quality landscapes that conserve water, protect the environment, are adaptable to local conditions, and are drought tolerant.”



Our Partners



FGBC
FLORIDA GREEN
BUILDING COALITION

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



 **CLUE** | CENTER FOR LAND
USE EFFICIENCY





Where are we located?

- UF/IFAS Program
- FFL State Office located in Gainesville
- Extension Agents in all 67 counties
- Partnered with MGVs statewide



Why is the FFL Program Important?

- FFL was created to protect our state's greatest resource:

Water

Clean and Plentiful Water is Essential

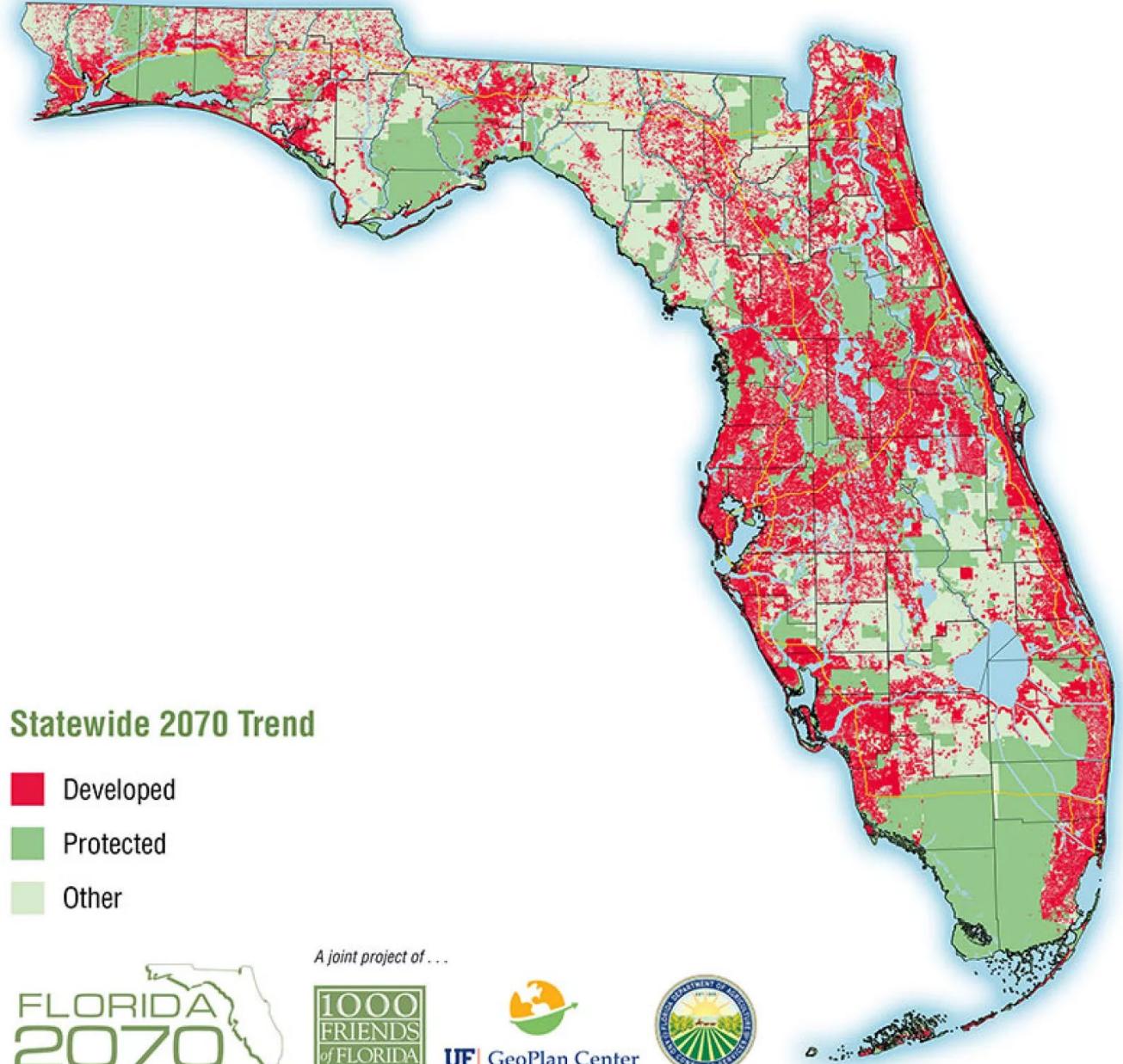
Threats to Florida's water

- Nutrient overload leading to eutrophication
- Decreasing water tables
- Habitat degradation
- Saltwater intrusion
- Sea level rise
- Sinkhole formation
- Impermeable surfaces
- Drinking water quality



Water Quantity

- Projected 33 million population by 2070





Water Quality

- Point Source Pollution
 - Single identifiable source
- Nonpoint Source Pollution
 - Cannot be pinpointed to any one place

Your Yard Can Make a Difference!



FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™ PROGRAM
OVERVIEW





What does the FFL Program do?

Educate Floridians to improve their landscapes

Florida-Friendly Yards:

- Conserve water
- Use less fertilizer
- Use fewer pesticides

How does FFL serve the community?

- Education
- Site visits
- Advising





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Principles of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program



Right Plant Right Place



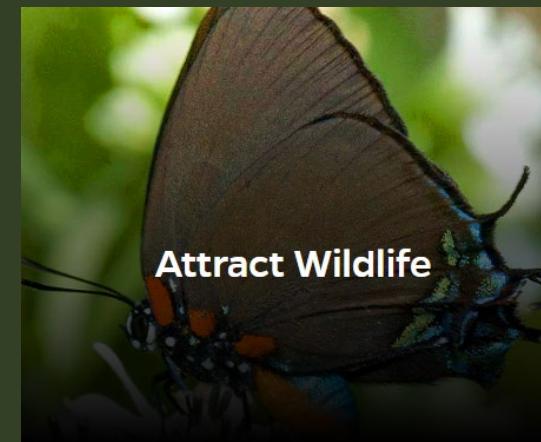
Water Efficiently



Fertilize Appropriately



Mulch



Attract Wildlife



**Manage Yard Pests
Responsibly**



Recycle Yard Waste



Reduce Stormwater Runoff



Protect the Waterfront



Principle #1: Right Plant, Right Place

Work with the natural ecosystem instead of
against it!

The right plant in the right place will be:

- Healthier
- Less susceptible to pests and diseases
- Need less or no water, fertilizer or pesticides





Principle #2: Water Efficiently

Efficient watering:

- Supports plant health
- Conserves and protects water
- Saves money

The right plant in the right place:

- Can become very drought-tolerant
- Requires little to no supplemental irrigation





Principle #3: Fertilize Appropriately

Excess fertilizer causes pollution

- Many plants require little or no fertilizer once established
- Conduct a soil test before you fertilize
- Check for visual signs of nutrient deficiencies
- No amount of fertilizer can replace healthy soil!
- Unsure? Ask your County Extension Agent



Check your county's
fertilizer ordinance





Principle #4: Mulch

- Many benefits to the landscape
- Can replace turf in shady areas
- Used recycled or byproduct mulch when available
- Pull mulch away from tree trunks and base of plants
- Apply 2-3 inches of mulch for best results





Principle #5: Attract Wildlife

Development decreases wildlife habitat

Your yard can provide wildlife their basic needs:

- Food
- Water
- Shelter
- Safety

Work with neighbors to connect and expand habitat





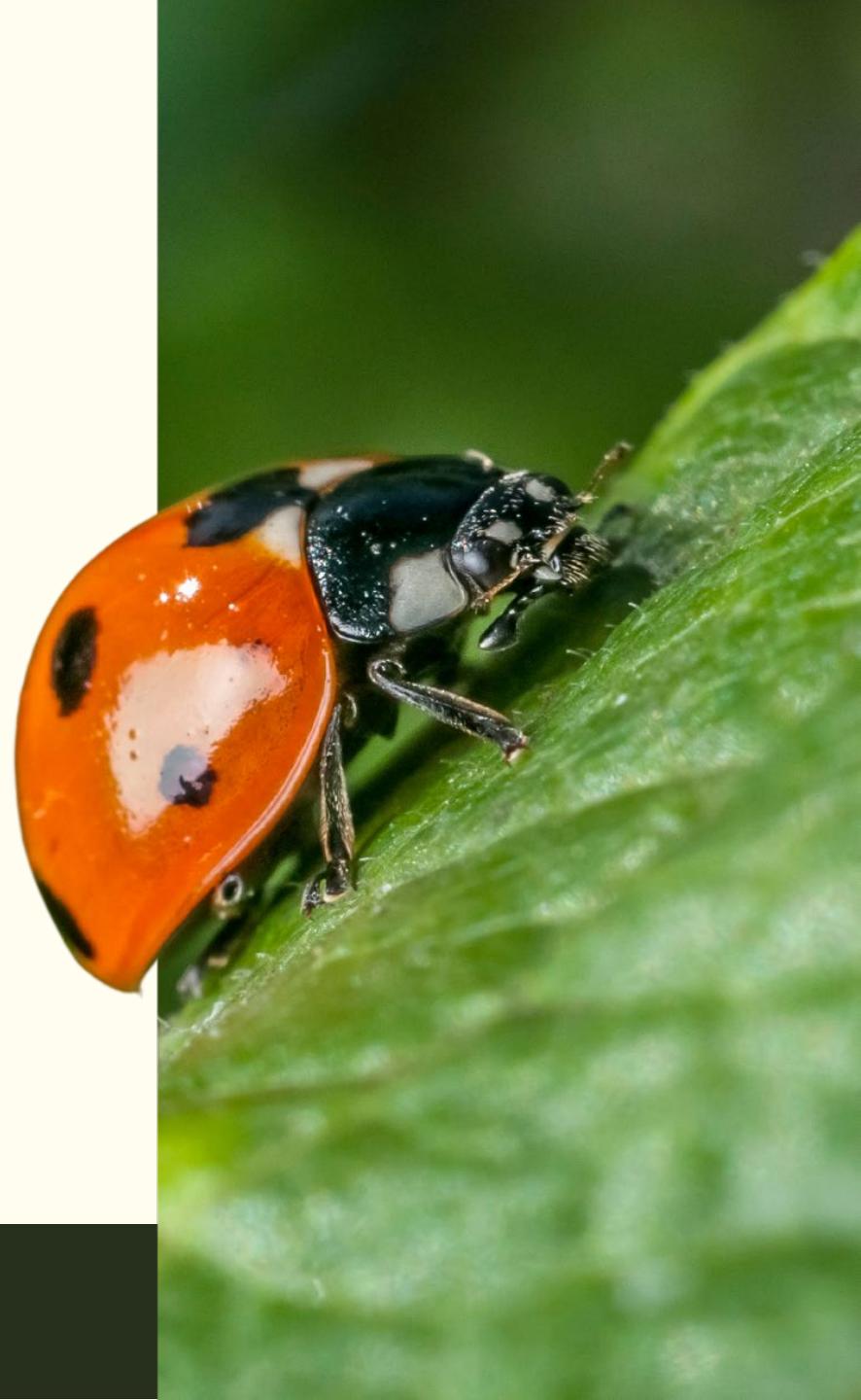
Principle #6: Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) when dealing with pests:

- Avoid
- Detect
- Treat

Results in decreased use of toxic chemicals

- Reduces runoff pollution
- Increases biodiversity in yard





Principle #7: Recycle Yard Waste

Reduce yard waste

- Avoid high maintenance plants
- Choose dwarf varieties
- Reduce pruning and maintenance
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn

Repurpose yard waste in your landscape

- Mulch
- Brush piles
- Compost





Principle #8: Reduce Stormwater Runoff

Polluted runoff is the #1 threat to Florida's water

All water is connected

- Runoff from your yard can pollute our water

Landscapes can hold and filter polluted runoff

- Capture the first flush
- Use FFL strategies to keep the water in your yard





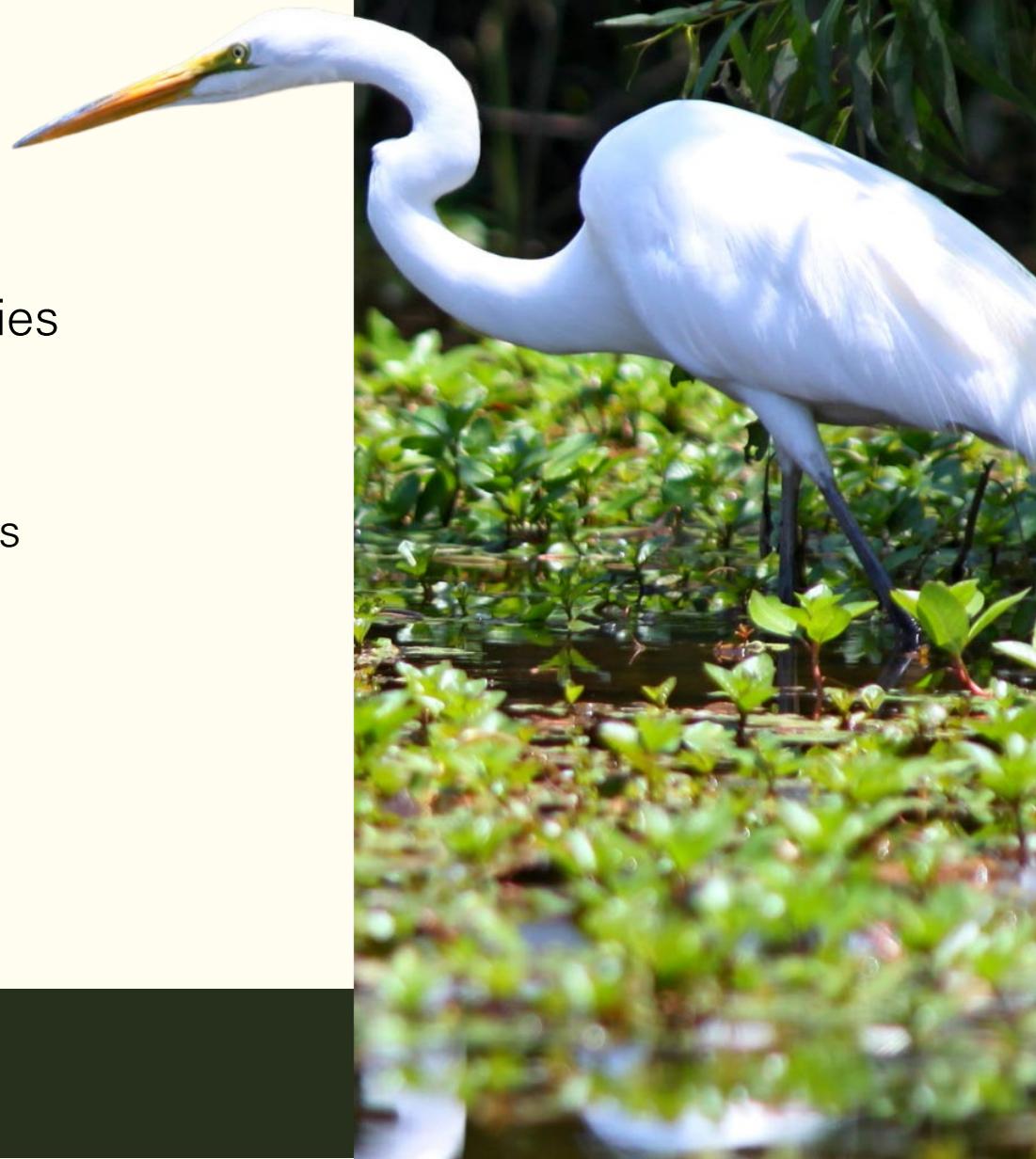
Principle #9: Protect the Waterfront

All waterways are connected!

Living on the water has special benefits and responsibilities

Maintain a 10-25 foot low-maintenance zone:

- ✓ Filters fertilizers and pesticides before entering waterways
- ✓ Provides habitat for wildlife
- ✓ Prevents erosion
- Do not mow, fertilize, or use pesticides in this zone





Are you ready for the next steps?

Show your commitment to a Florida-Friendly Landscape and save water.



FFLPledge.com

Take the Pledge



GET Recognized FOR YOUR FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE

SILVER

GOLD

NATURAL

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- Homeowners
- HOAs
- Business Owners
- Developers
- Municipalities

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program recognizes landscapes that use sustainable landscaping practices. Recognitions are offered for three different categories of landscapes: Home, Commercial, and New Construction. Landscapes are evaluated based on a [checklist](#) of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices and can receive a sign or flag to display once recognized.

RECOGNITION PROCESS:

1. Download the checklist from the website:
2. Use the checklist to evaluate your landscape and make any changes needed.
3. If you need help making your landscape more Florida-Friendly, contact your county's [Extension office](#) or see our [online materials](#).
4. When your landscape is ready, contact your local UF/IFAS [Extension office](#) to schedule a site evaluation.

<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/about-ffl/landscape-recognition/>



FFL for Home Landscapes

- Homeowners, HOAs and Youth
- Provide resources
- Landscape recognitions
- Tips for choosing FFL landscape professionals



Resources for Homeowners

- Website
- Publications
- Other online resources



FFL for Communities

- Community and Property Managers
- Builders & Developers
- Municipalities/Local Government
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure





FFL for Landscape Professionals

- GI BMP
- FFL Certified Professional
- Landscape Designers
- Professional Webinars
- Online Courses and CEUs

FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™ PROGRAM
OVERVIEW



FFL Resources and Publications

- Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design
- Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Handbook for Home Landscapes
- Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by Green Industries
- FFL Apps (Plant Guide, Florida Fertilizer Ordinances, Florida Toxic Plants, FFL Butterfly Gardens
- UF/IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas
- UF/IFAS/FFL Publications
- HOA Resources
- Local Extension Agents





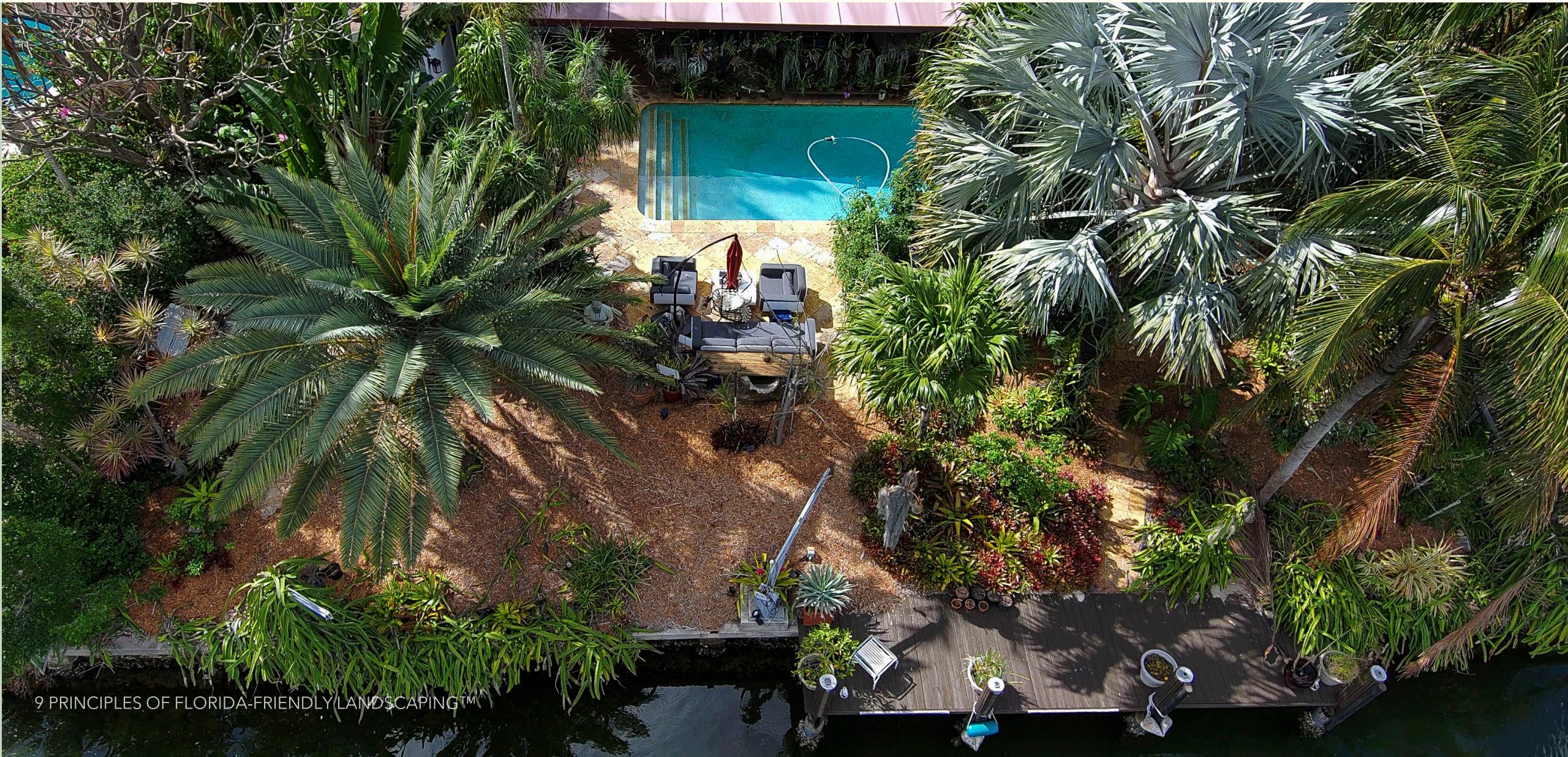
Flip My Florida Yard

- The crew and homeowners flip a traditional yard into a Florida-Friendly Landscape!
- Featured on PBS, YouTube, Discover Florida Channel





Your yard can make a difference!





FFL Resources



FFL Website



9 PRINCIPLES OF FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™





Questions?



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FloridaFriendlyLandscaping.com



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