

Grow Smart

A quarterly newsletter from the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Statewide Builder and Developer Program

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SolutionsForYourLife.com/FYN or www.FloridaYards.org

Fall 2007

Low Volume Irrigation and Permeable Pavers Featured at Hastings

By Joe Sowards

On Saturday, August 18, 2007 a 6-hour Low-Volume Irrigation / Permeable Paver Workshop was hosted at the Florida Partnership for Water, Agricultural and Community Sustainability at Hastings. Thirty-four people attended the presentations conducted by Rain Bird Corporation, Paver Systems Inc. of Jacksonville and KB Industries of Clearwater, Florida.

Participants saw a presentation of low-volume irrigation from Mark Roberts and Rick Wagner of Rainbird Corp. including a hands-on demonstration on how to assemble a low-volume irrigation system. Each participant received a bag of low-volume irrigation parts and information.

Two different permeable pavement pathways were installed as well. KB Industries supplied Flexi-Pave™, made from recycled tire crumb. Two men installed 300 sq. ft. of pathways in under 3 hours. (see photo in header)

Paver Systems also installed 300 sq. ft. of Aqua-Bric®, a permeable paver system of molded concrete pavers that is very durable, meets ADA standards and is also attractive.

Participants included builders, St. Johns River Water Management District personnel, St. Augustine city employees, county extension agents and homeowners.

For more information on future workshops at the Hastings Demonstration Unit, contact Joe Sowards, sewards@ufl.edu.



Urban Turf Fertilizer Rule

[Excerpted from a Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services press release: www.doacs.state.fl.us/press/2007/08302007.html or www.flrules.org/Gateway/View_notice.asp?id=4640400 for a copy of the rule.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) adopted the final statewide Urban Turf Fertilizer Rule. The rule limits the phosphorus and nitrogen content in fertilizers for urban turf and lawns.

The rule was developed by the Florida DACS with input from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agri-

cultural Sciences, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the state's five water management districts, the Florida League of Cities, Florida Association of Counties, fertilizer manufacturers and concerned citizens.

DACS expects a 20 to 25 percent reduction in nitrogen and a 15 percent reduction in phosphorus in every bag of fertilizer sold to the public. The new rule requires that all fertilizer products labeled for use on urban turf, sports turf and lawns be limited to the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus needed to support healthy turf maintenance.

Inside this issue:

Program for Resource Efficient Communities	2
New Ordinances and Standards	2
Success Stories	3
Events and Publications	4

PREC Provides Continuing Education Statewide

The Program for Resource Efficient Communities (PREC) promotes the adoption of best design, construction, and management practices in new residential community developments that measurably reduce energy and water consumption and environmental degradation.

PREC, a UF Extension program, has a new website domain at <http://buildgreen.ufl.edu> (formerly www.energy.ufl.edu). Information about the following courses can be found under 'Continuing Education'.

Upcoming Workshops

Low Impact Development (LID) 8-hour CEU Course

(for Professional Engineers, Architects, and Landscape Architects)

- October 19— Palm Beach County (West Palm Beach) in collaboration

with Florida Association of Environmental Professionals and hosted by SFWMD.

Contact: <http://buildgreen.ufl.edu/cecampus> or Jennison Kipp, mjkipp@ufl.edu.

Landscape Architect CEU Course

This PREC program offers 9 continuing education hours (4 on Florida Yards & Neighborhoods; 2 on Trees and Construction, and 3 on Windstorms and Tree Damage) conducted by local IFAS Extension Agents (Horticulture and FYN) in the following counties:

- October 3— St. Lucie County (Ft. Pierce)
- October 17— Alachua County (Gainesville)
- October 18— Palm Beach County (West Palm Beach)

- October 30— Manatee County (Palmetto)
- November 9— Lee County (Estero)
- November 9— Escambia County, Contact: <http://buildgreen.ufl.edu/cecampus> or Craig Miller, 352.392.5684.

Past Workshops

Local Government Workshops on Low Impact Development (LID) and Water Resource Protection

(for audiences of local planners, elected officials, builders, and developers, delivered by PREC and sponsored by FDEP and SJRWMD)

- September 20— Seminole County (Sanford)
 - September 25— Duval County (Jacksonville)
- Contact: Jennison Kipp, mjkipp@ufl.edu

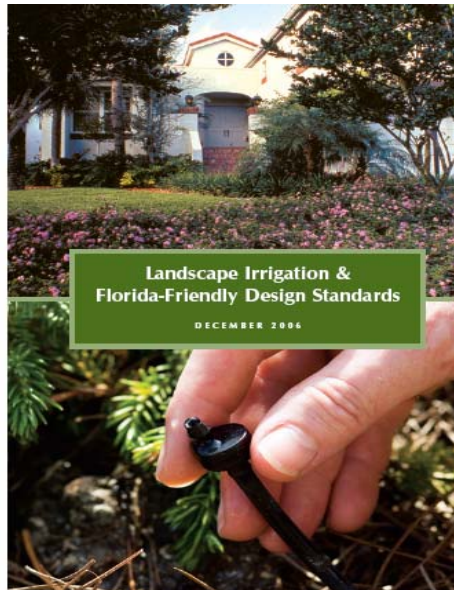
New Ordinances and Standards

Statewide Landscape Irrigation and Florida-Friendly Design Standards

Section 373.228 of the Florida Statutes mandated the creation of the Committee on Landscape Irrigation and Florida-Friendly Design Standards. Building on previous efforts to improve landscape and irrigation design, the committee developed a set of standards to be used by local governments when drafting landscape irrigation and Florida-friendly ordinances. For a copy of these standards, see http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/waterpolicy/land_irr.htm

Sarasota County Fertilizer and Landscape Management Code

On August 27, 2007, Sarasota County adopted Ordinance No. 2007-062, called the Sarasota County Fertilizer and Landscape Management Code. The ordinance seeks to reduce nutrient leaching through the establishment of fertilizer application restrictions, fertilizer-free zones, low maintenance zones, and training and licensing requirements.



Under the new restrictions, no fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus shall be applied to turf and/or landscape plants between June 1st and September 30th. Applicators other than homeowners shall complete a Sarasota County approved Best Management Practices training program. Homeowners are encouraged to follow the FYN recommendations.

The ordinance is enforceable through a civil penalty of \$100 for the first offense and \$300 and \$500 for the second and third offenses.

A full copy of the ordinance may be found at: <http://www.scgov.net/EnvironmentalServices/Water/SurfaceWater/documents/OrdinanceNo.2007-062signed.pdf>

City of DeLand Provides Rebate for Florida Water Star Homes

The City of DeLand, Florida (Volusia County) passed Ordinance 2007-38 on September 4, 2007 which provides a 15% rebate on water and sewer impact fees for each residential unit that meets the Florida Water StarSM certification requirements. The Florida Water StarSM program, developed by the St. Johns River Water Management District focuses on water conservation through efficient irrigation design, indoor plumbing and Florida-friendly landscaping. Contact Ondine Wells at owells@ufl.edu for a copy of the ordinance. For more information on the Florida Water StarSM program, see <http://www.floridawaterstar.com>.

Success Stories

(alphabetical by county)

Alachua

Atlantic Design and Construction has had five more new homes certified under the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) in the Weschester development where all landscapes will be Florida-friendly. Contact Wendy Wilber at wwilber@ifas.ufl.edu.

Charlotte

Charlotte County is constructing a sports arena for the Devil Rays and plans to incorporate a FYN demonstration garden. Contact Allison Steele, Allison.Steele@charlottefl.com or Michelle Atkinson at michelleatkinson@ufl.edu.

Hernando

Ron King Homes received Florida-friendly certification for a model at Deerfield Estates in Spring Hill. Their newest model is the first green-built home in Hernando County and is featured on the Hernando County Extension television program, *Solutions for Better Living*. The first broadcast of the show aired in August.

Marion

Due to increased demand, On Top of the World Communities now provides monthly workshops to new residents and all new homes within the community are being certified as Florida-friendly.

The Spruce Creek Golf and Country Club HOA plans to landscape five dry retention areas to increase wildlife habitat and improve the aesthetics. One of the areas has been completed with native plantings around the pond.



Homeowners have also funded a demonstration garden overlooking the golf course. The garden is designed to help the community learn about plants that are low maintenance and drought tolerant in order to reduce their overall water use. Contact Kathleen Patterson Kathleen.Patterson@marioncountyfl.org

Nassau

The Neighborhood Stormwater/Landscape Program, developed as a partnership between UF/IFAS Nassau County Extension, local homeowner associations, the Water Action Volunteer (WAV) coordinator, and landscape maintenance businesses, has been offered ten times resulting in improved relationships between homeowner associations and landscape maintenance providers.

Both entities now use University of Florida research-based information as their source for Best Management Practices (BMPs) for ornamental landscapes and lawns. As a result, significant reductions in water usage (as much as 1/3) have been observed at

several local homeowner associations, specifically along common landscape areas.

The program was selected in 2007 to represent Northeast Florida Success Stories at the annual state Extension Professional Associations of Florida (EPAF) meeting and won the Florida Association of Agriculture Agents (FACAA) state "Search for Excellence in Horticulture" award in 2006. Contact Rebecca Jordi at rljordi@ufl.edu.

Orange

The City of Apopka is a new sponsor of the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods program focusing on homeowners, builders and developers. Contact Teresa Watkins twatkins@ufl.edu.

Congratulations

Teresa Watkins, FYN Coordinator for Seminole, Lake and Orange counties was recently honored with the 2007 Public Education award by the Florida Water Environmental Association. Ms. Watkins will also graduate from the UF/Florida Natural Resource Leadership Institute fellows program on October 13, 2007.

Pasco

The Woods at Caliente is an RV resort under construction with owned sites. The development was approved for 78 lots but only 75 are being built in order to preserve the maximum number of trees on site. Argentine Bahia-grass will be used sparingly and no conventional turf irrigation is planned for the common areas. Drought tolerant native plants will predominate and the RV pads will be constructed of pavers or other pervious surfaces. Contact Chris Dewey at cdewey@pascocountyfl.net.

Sarasota

The first model in Sam Rogers Homes' Gran Paradiso in south Venice was certified as Florida-friendly and all future homes in this community will be Florida-friendly. Contact Michelle Atkinson at michelleatkinson@ufl.edu.

Did You Know?

- **Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.** has informed its suppliers that, effective January 1, 2008, the company will no longer buy and sell cypress mulch that is harvested, bagged, or manufactured in the state of Louisiana. (source: <http://www.saveourcypress.org/media.php>)
- **Miami-Dade County Landscaping Ordinance #18A-6 (G)(3)** prohibits the use of cypress mulch. (<http://www.municode.com/Resources/gateway.asp?pid=10620&sid=9>)
- The **Florida Department of Transportation Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction #580-2.3** prohibits cypress mulch. (<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/Specificationsoffice/2007BK/TOC.htm>)

Upcoming Events

Sustainable Water Resources: Florida Challenges, Global Solutions

(UF Water Institute Symposium, hosted by the University of Florida and Progress Energy.)

February 27 – 28, 2008

Hilton University of Florida Conference Center, Gainesville, Florida

- Abstracts Due: October 10, 2007
- Registration: Oct. 30 - Dec. 31, 2007

For more information go to

www.treeo.ufl.edu/conferences/water or contact Lisette Staal, lstaal@ufl.edu or (352) 392-5893 x2116

Florida's Future: Green AND Blue - Building Better Communities through Environmental Standards

October 19, 2007, 8:30 am – 12pm

Orange County/UF IFAS Extension Education Center, 6021 S. Conway Rd., Orlando, FL

Featuring speakers on Implementing Green Landscapes, Florida Water

StarSM Standards, and Creating and Connecting Wildlife Corridors. Contact Teresa Watkins or Ruth Howard to register (\$10 includes continental breakfast) at 407-254-9200.

Nuts and Bolts of LEED Process for New Construction and Major Renovation Projects

- October 23-24, 2007, Tampa, Florida
 - December 4-5, 2007, Miami, Florida
- Participants will learn how to maximize building performance, administer LEED projects from inception to occupancy successfully, and gain tools to become LEED consultants.

Register online (\$400 USGBC member, \$425 Non-member) at

www.treeo.ufl.edu or contact Janet Touchton, jtouchton@treeo.ufl.edu or (352) 392-9570 ext 212

How to Create an Award Winning Landscape

- October 30, 2007, 9:00 -10:30 am Polk County Homebuilders Association, 2232 Heritage Dr., Lakeland, FL
- November 6, 2007, 9:00 -10:30 am Home Builders Association of Manatee County, 239 301 Blvd. East, Suite D, Bradenton, FL
- November 8, 2007 Citrus County Homebuilders Association, 1196 S Lecanto Highway, Lecanto, FL

Contact Angela Maraj at angela.maraj@watermatters.org for the Polk and Citrus County workshops and Michelle Atkinson at michelleatkinson@ufl.edu or (941) 722-4524 ext. 256 for Manatee County.

Landscape Irrigation Technology Workshop: SMART Irrigation Technology – Soil Moisture Sensors

Dec 5, 2007, 9:00 am—3:30 pm
Manatee County Extension Service, 1303 17th Street W, Palmetto, FL
Featuring research updates by Dr. Michael Dukes (UF Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering), training, certification, displays, and introduction to Florida Water StarSM. Registration fee includes lunch. Contact Jack Tichenor, (941) 722-4524 or jtichenor@ifas.ufl.edu.

Protecting our Water through Living Green

February 9, 2008, 9:00 am-4:00 pm
The Rutenberg Eco-Living Center, 6500 S Pointe Blvd, Fort Myers, FL
2nd Annual FYN Conference featuring speakers on Influencing Change, Green Living, Water Quality, Florida Friendly Landscaping, Integrated Pest Management, and Water Conservation. Open to the public. Contact Tom Becker, TBecker@leegov.com or (239) 461-7515.

FYN Statewide Website Launched

FYN.ifas.ufl.edu

To list an event or resource on the FYN statewide calendar, contact Rebecca Birx at rbirx@ufl.edu.

Resources

Forest Resource Information on the Internet: Connecting to Today's On-line Resources

FOR-124, a 4-page fact sheet by Chris Demers, replaces a 1997 document with updated information on Internet technology and the latest forest resource Web sites available. Published by the UF School of Forest Resources and Conservation, August 2007. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR182>

Checklist of New, Improved and Underutilized Trees for North and Central Florida

ENH-995, an 8-page checklist by Gary W. Knox, shares with homeowners and green industry professionals some plants worthy of attention for inclusion in Florida landscapes. Published by the UF Department of Environmental Horticulture, April 2007. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP331>

Legal Questions?

Do you have a legal question related to Florida-friendly landscaping? Please send your questions to Ondine Wells at owells@ufl.edu. We will select and answer questions in future issues of *Grow Smart*.

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