

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Checklist for New Construction

**(excludes communities)**

July 13, 2011

**Project Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Per the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC), 10 percent of government-owned land within the area seeking Green Local Government Certification must meet the minimum requirements and points for Standard. (Silver)

**Required Practices for Standard (Silver) and Gold**

*(All non-italicized items apply to all entities, including single-family. Italicized items are additional requirements for commercial, governmental and multi-family development.)*

**General**

	Landscape meets state, county and municipal codes. (Local ordinances may not prohibit Florida-Friendly Landscaping™)
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**Vegetation and Soils**

	Lots less than 1/5 acre do not contain any plants found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment “ <b>Prohibited</b> ” list ( <a href="http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/conclusions.html">http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/conclusions.html</a> )
	<b>OR</b>
	Lots that are greater than 1/5 acre do not contain any plants found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment “ <b>Prohibited</b> ” list ( <a href="http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/conclusions.html">http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/conclusions.html</a> ) within 50 feet of the structure (foundation or conditioned space)
	Where feasible, long-lived native trees are preserved.
	Maintained landscape contains at least five plant species.
	The results of a soil pH test have been used to guide plant choices. (Consult the local UF/IFAS Extension office for more information)
	<i>Entity has written plans to remove invasive plants on property, with elimination by _____ (specify date)</i>

**Irrigation (If no irrigation system is used, credit can be given for satisfying all practices)**

	Irrigation system meets or exceeds state and local regulations.
	Irrigation system has a properly installed and functional rain shutoff device as required by law. (Listed in specifications)
	Landscape beds will be established with micro-irrigation or handwatering. (Listed in specifications or on irrigation plan)

	Irrigation system maximizes uniformity.
	Irrigation system is calibrated to apply ½” to ¾” of water per application. (Listed in specifications)
	Spray and rotor heads are installed on separate zones.

**Mulch**

	3” - 4” of mulch is applied over tree roots, shrubs, and in plant beds.
	Volcano mulching is avoided

**Waterfront (If site is not on the waterfront, credit can be given for satisfying all practices)**

	A maintenance-free zone of at least 10 feet is created with low-maintenance plants along waters’ edge.
	<b>OR</b>
	Native aquatic plants are located in the littoral zone or on floating mats.

**Gold (All of the following required practices must also be met for Gold level recognition)**

**Vegetation and Soils**

	Maintained landscape does not contain any plants found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment “ <b>Invasive-Not Recommended</b> ” list ( <a href="http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/conclusions.html">http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/conclusions.html</a> ).
	Maintained landscape contains at least 10 plant species.

**Irrigation (If no irrigation system is used on site, credit can be given for satisfying all required practices.)**

	A smart controller (evapotranspiration, soil moisture sensor, or similar device) is installed and operational.
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**Installation**

	Installation of landscape is consistent with UF/IFAS recommendations.
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**Stormwater**

	All downspouts are directed to pervious areas.
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**Additional**

	Where feasible, native topsoil is to be saved and re-used onsite.
	<b>OR</b>
	<i>Where feasible, parking areas have depressed planted areas, or other innovative stormwater treatment systems (porous asphalt, pervious concrete, subsurface gravel wetland, tree box filter, bio-retention boxes) either in place of stormwater ponds or in addition to them, to capture and filter stormwater (develop, commercial and governmental).</i>

## Points

Points	Possible Points	Category and Item	Reference guide
<b>Right plant, right place (Minimum points = 5) Actual points = _____</b>			
Points			Reference guide
	5	Plants are used appropriately.	Consult <i>The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection &amp; Landscape Design</i> at <a href="http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/publications.htm">http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/publications.htm</a> or equivalent list, for plant needs.
	1	Trees and shrubs are positioned to improve the building's heating and cooling capacity.	Plantings positioned on the eastern, southern, and western exposures help cool the building. Shrubs placed around air conditioning units but that allow air circulation reduce stress on the unit.
	1	At mature sizes, plants are outside drip line of roof overhangs.	Allow 2 feet of ventilation space for a mature plant between the house and the plant.
<b>Water Efficiently (Minimum points= 8) Actual points = _____</b>			
For a landscape that has an installed irrigation system: If landscape has no irrigation system, 15 points should be awarded.			
	6	Micro-irrigation is installed in landscape beds and is zoned separately.	Micro-irrigation is ideal for use in landscape beds while spray heads are more suitable for turf.
	3	Smart irrigation technology is installed, calibrated, and operational.	Includes soil moisture sensors and evapotranspiration or "ET controllers."
	1	Infrastructure for using non-potable or lowest quality water for irrigation is present.	Includes infrastructure at the large-scale, such as for reclaimed water, ponds and cisterns at the developer level; and ponds, cisterns and rain barrels at the builder level.
	1 for sub-meter 2 for flow sensor	Irrigation system has a flow sensor that is connected to the irrigation controller, or has a sub-meter.	A flow sensor connected to the irrigation controller does two things: 1) Minimizes free-flow conditions in case of damage or mechanical failure, and 2) Allows homeowners to track the quantity of their outdoor water use. Flow sensors are installed independent of the utility company. Some utility companies offer residents irrigation sub-meters at a set cost per month for the sub-meter and then charge a volumetric rate for irrigation water use in exchange for a credit to the sewer bill based on water use. If an irrigation sub-meter is installed independent of the utility, the developer or builder earns one point. Irrigation sub-meters cannot stop the irrigation system if it breaks, but flow sensors can. If flow sensors are installed, the developer or builder earns two points.
	1	Sprays and rotors do	Much water is wasted through improper aiming of sprays and

		not spray onto impervious surfaces or into micro-irrigation zones.	rotors.
	1	Emitters are located three feet from building, do not spray building, and are unobstructed.	Keeps molds, fungus and disease away from the foundation. There are no obstructions such as plants, signs and utility boxes in the way of any irrigation.
	1	Control system provides multiple programmability.	Being able to adjust the run times and frequencies allows adjustment for seasonal weather patterns and allows adjustments for weather conditions. It also provides the capability to match the amount of watering to the needs of plants by zones.

**Mulch (Minimum points = 0) Actual points =** \_\_\_\_\_

	2	If mulch other than yard waste is used, an FFL recommended mulch is chosen.	The FFL program does not recommend cypress mulch as the source can be difficult to determine.
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**Recycle (Minimum points = 1) Actual points =** \_\_\_\_\_

			Reference Guide
	3	Compost bin is installed or community compost bin is available for use.	Open bins are not recommended because they attract nuisance wildlife.
	1	Salvaged or remanufactured materials are used for landscape and other features.	Among the landscape features are landscape timbers, ponds, fountains, statues, garden ornaments, focal points, etc.

**Wildlife (Minimum points = 3) Actual points =** \_\_\_\_\_

	3	Plants that provide native or non-invasive berries and seeds for birds and other wildlife are present.	Plants provide native or non-invasive berries and seeds for birds and other animals. While a bird feeder may be present, the emphasis is on preserved or planted food sources by the builder or developer. Plants include grasses that provide seeds.
	1	Preserves snags, tall grasses, or other dense vegetation which provide cover and shelter.	While a homeowner might add a bird or bat house in the future, the emphasis is on naturally-occurring “shelters” created by the builder or developer through preservation of snags, tall grasses or other dense vegetation.
	1	Man-made wildlife shelters are installed.	Bird, bat houses or other shelters are installed.
	2	Host and nectar plants are present for butterflies, hummingbirds and/or other pollinators.	Butterflies need host plants for their life cycles and all need nectar in their adult stages. Other pollinators require nectar as well. Host plants provide food for butterflies in their larval (caterpillar) stage. Having host plants available keeps butterflies breeding in a given area. Host plants also help increase beneficial insect populations

			and expand on IMP rather than chemicals.
	Optional	Community ButterflyScape	See <a href="http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep420">http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep420</a> for more information. This is not a certification program. It applies to new and existing communities, and commercial, governmental and multi-family properties to pursue to set their own guidelines.

**Yard Pests (Minimum points = 0) Actual points = \_\_\_\_\_**

	3	A pesticide reduction plan has been presented to the certifying agent for comment	The plan should lay out the use of Integrated Pest Management specific to the community's plantings, and specify the contractor follow label instructions and best management practices.
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**Reduce Stormwater Runoff (Minimum points = 5) Actual points = \_\_\_\_\_**

	2	Landscape features retain runoff on the property.	<i>Commercial, governmental and multi-family: Low impact development practices used where feasible. Include, but not limited to, narrower streets and vegetated swales to hold runoff within development (rather than curb and gutter).</i>  Builder: rain gardens, swales, berms, low areas. These are among features that retain runoff.
	2	Trees: 1/5-acre to 1-acre lots have at least two shade trees, at maturity. Lots larger than one acre have at least six.	Trees intercept rainfall and can greatly reduce stormwater runoff.
	Up to 6	Pervious surfaces are used for walkways, patios and/or drives.	<i>Commercial, governmental and multi-family have porous surfaces, where feasible.</i>  Mulch, bricks, gravel, porous pavers are used for walkways, patios and drives—six points for all three (walkways, patios and drives), four points for two, and two points for one.
	2 - 4	Rain barrel used.	One or more 55-gallon rain barrels are included in the landscape (two points for each one, maximum of 4 points).
	3 - 5	Cistern used.	Cisterns hold significantly more water than rain barrels. They can be installed above-ground or below ground and used to water the landscape with gray water or rainwater. Cisterns also can be used for non-potable water use inside buildings. 3 for 56 – 200 gallons; 4 for 200 – 1,000 gallons; 5 for > 1,000 gallons

**Protect the Waterfront (Minimum points = 4) Actual points = \_\_\_\_\_**

			Reference Guide
	4-15	Ponds: Native aquatic plants are maintained in the littoral zone, a portion of the littoral zone or on floating mats.	While source control (using only the minimum amounts or no fertilizers and pesticides) is the best way to control the amount of nutrients and other constituents reaching water bodies, a properly designed and operated, ecologically sound retention basin can help water quality by filtering stormwater. 4: Some native aquatic plants are present in 1 pond 8: Some native aquatic plants are present in all ponds 12: All ponds have a complete ring of native aquatic plants

			15: A littoral shelf with native aquatic plants or a floating mat with native aquatic plants is used in 1 pond
	1 or N/A	Rip-rap is placed where needed.	For use where there is flowing water or waves.
<b>Construction (Minimum points = 4) Actual points =</b>			
	2	<i>Developer, commercial and governmental-- For designated conservation areas: The minimum combined area of all natural areas conserved at the site must exceed one acre.</i>	<i>The Department of Environmental Protection plans to encourage low impact design best management practices by awarding stormwater design and load reduction credits through establishment of designated conservation areas. No disturbance may occur in the conservation area during or after construction. The credit cannot be given for existing conservation areas.</i>
	2	<i>Developer, commercial and governmental: Have reforested a minimum contiguous area of greater than 20,000-sq-feet.</i>	<i>The Department of Environmental Protection plans to encourage low impact design best management practices by awarding stormwater design and load reduction credits through establishment of reforested areas. No disturbance may occur in the area during or after construction.</i>
	1	Native plants preserved during construction.	Patches of natural, native plant areas are undisturbed. Such patches protect native soil.
	1	Some or all of cleared material was reused for mulch.	Must not include seeds or parts of invasive vines or plants. Mulch needs to compost adequately to kill these materials.
	1	Erosion-prone areas are treated to minimize erosion.	Examples include rip-rap, groundcover, erosion control devices.
	1	Removed vegetation either replanted or donated.	Potted and replanted or donated to another site or public land. Can be cared for by a nursery then replanted.

Total points possible are 81.

**Existing Multi-Family:**

Minimum points required for Standard are 28 + all required practices.

Minimum points required for Gold are 35 + all required practices.

**New Multi-Family:**

Minimum points required for Standard are 30 + all required practices.

Minimum points required for Gold are 37 + all required practices.

**New Single Family:**

Minimum points required for Standard are 25 + all required practices.

Minimum points required for Gold are 30 + all required practices.

**New or Existing Commercial/Government Properties:**

Minimum points required for Standard are 23 + all required practices.

Minimum points required for Gold are 28 + all required practices.

Actual points earned: \_\_\_\_\_

Level of recognition: Standard Gold (circle one)