## Water Efficiently

Typically, at least 50 percent of water used by households is used outdoors. Creating a yard that thrives on rainfall only is the best way to reduce maintenance, save on water bills, conserve our water resources and have a healthy landscape.

If you are planning to install a new irrigation system or modify 50% of your system by area, the system must adhere to the design standards of the Alachua County Irrigation Efficiency Code. Homeowners planning on doing the work themselves should call 352-264-6800 to consult with County staff.

## **Resources:**

- Florida Friendly Landscaping Program<sup>™</sup> www.floridayards.org http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu
- UF/IFAS Extension Alachua **County Office** Dr. Denise Debusk ddebusk@alachuacounty.us
- Alachua County Environmental **Protection Department** www.AlachuaCountyWater.org
- Florida Water Star and Water Wise Plant Database www.SJRWMD.com/floridawaterstar/
- Florida Native Plant Society www.FNPS.org



**UF/IFAS Extension** Landscaping for Water Conservation

A Homeowner's Guide to Low Maintenance Landscaping for Saving Our Springs

Extension

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Landscaping PROGRAM

Saving water is important in Alachua County because we are surrounded by so many springs. The water that comes out of our faucets and sprinklers is from the aquifer beneath us and is the same water that replenishes our springs and rivers. If we over pump the aquifer, alternative water

## Saving Water, Saving Springs, Saving \$\$\$\$

- Use the right plant for the right place.
- Group plants and irrigation zones according to moisture needs.
- Use microirrigation for landscaped beds.
- Minimize turf and high volume irrigation.
- Cap irrigation heads that water established trees and shrubs



sources will be much more expensive (up to ten fold) and energy intensive. By making every drop count and reducing our demands on the aguifer, together we can help protect the springs and future water supplies.







**Sparkleberry** Vaccinium arboreum

12-18' ht. x 10-15' w.



Yaupon holly llex vomitoria

15-30' ht. x 6-20' w.

Yucca filamentosa Yucca filamentosa

**Black-eyed susan** 

3-4' ht. x 3-6' w.



Rudbeckia hirta

2-3' ht. x 1-2' w.



Fog fruit Phyla nodiflora

 $\frac{1}{2}-1$  ht. x 2' w.

Crown grass Paspalum quadrifarium

3-4' ht. x 3-4' w.

