#### **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™ 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



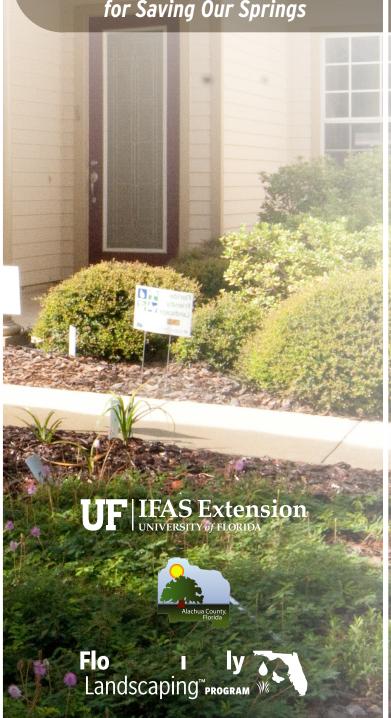




**UF/IFAS Extension** 

# Landscaping for Water Conservation

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



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

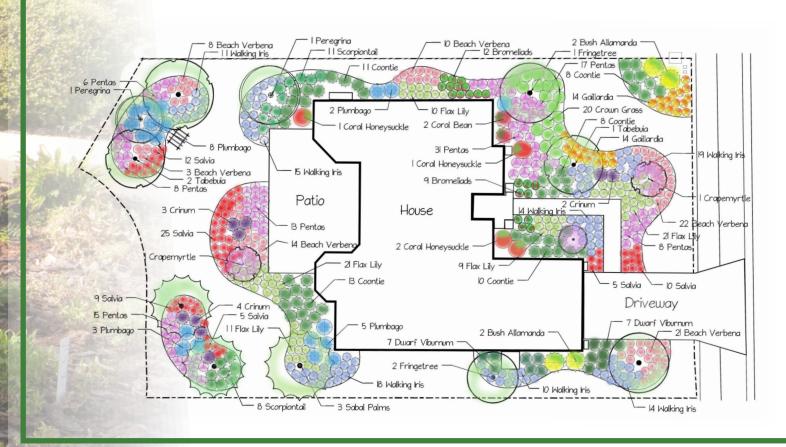
## Saving Water, Saving Springs, Saving \$\$\$\$

- 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

#### The Role of Landscaping

Putting plants in the right place is the key to ensuring they survive and remain healthy in your landscape. You can reduce the need for water, fertilizer, pesticides and pruning if you plant Florida-friendly plants and follow these tips.

- To conserve water, choose a drought tolerant grass and use drought tolerant plants.
- Understand the soil, sunlight and water conditions of the area you are planting.
  Choose plants that match and thrive under the conditions noted in your yard.
- Plant a variety of Florida-friendly plants, including flowering and fruiting plants that attract butterflies, birds, beneficial insects and other wildlife. Many Florida native plants are especially good at attracting wildlife.



### Low Maintenance Plants for Landscaping in Alachua County

#### Trees & Palms



Cabbage palm Sabal palmetto

40' ht. x 20' w.





Needle palm Rhapidophyllum hystrix

6-8' ht. x 5-10' w.





Live oak Quercus virginiana





Winged elm Ulmas alata

45-70' ht. x 30-40' w.



**Sparkleberry** Vaccinium arboreum

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



#### Large Shrubs



Ocala anise Illicium parviflorum

10–15' ht. x 6' w.





Saw palmetto Serenoa repens

6-10' ht. x 6-10' w. 



Walters viburnum Viburnum obovatum

8-25' ht. x 6-10' w.





Wax myrtle Myrica cerifera

10–40' ht. x 20–25' w.





Yaupon holly Ilex vomitoria

15-30' ht.  $\times 6-20'$  w.





**Beauty berry** Callicarpa americana

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





Coontie Zamia floridana

2-4' ht. x 3-4' w.





**Firebush** Hamelia patens

5–15' ht. x 6' w.





Coral bean Erythrina herbacea

5–10' ht. x 8–12' w.





Yucca filamentosa Yucca filamentosa

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





**Beach sunflower** Helianthus debilis

1' ht. x 3–4' w.





**Blanket flower** Gaillardia pulchella

1' ht. x 2–3' w.





Tropical sage Salvia coccinea

1–2' ht. x 2' w.





**Coreopsis** Coreopsis spp.

1–4' ht. x 1–3' w.





**Black-eyed susan** Rudbeckia hirta

2–3' ht. x 1–2' w.





Perennial peanut Arachis glabrata

6–8" ht. x 24" w.





**Sunshine mimosa** Mimosa strigillosa

6–9" ht. x 10' w.





**Border grass** Leriope muscari

1–2' ht. x 1–2' w.





**Aslatic jasmine** Trachelospermum asiaticum





**Foa fruit** Phyla nodiflora

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





Cordarass Spartina bakeri

2-5' ht. x 2-6' w.



**Elliot's lovegrass** Eragrostis elliotti

1–2' ht. x 1–2' w.





**Dwarf fakahatchee** Tripsacum floridanum

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





**Muhly grass** Muhlenbergia capillaris

½-1' ht. x 2' w.





Crown grass Paspalum quadrifarium

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



















