

# FYN Official Yard Recognition Checklist



By recognizing specific landscapes as Florida-Friendly, the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods (FYN) branch of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program honors homeowners' efforts to conserve water and protect water quality and other natural resources. A Yard Advisor should use this checklist to evaluate existing landscapes, referring to *Yard Advice: the FYN Yard Advisor's Guide* if necessary. (Page numbers in the right-hand column of this checklist refer to the FYN Handbook, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, *The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook (2009)*. New construction is evaluated with a separate checklist that focuses on design and installation practices.)

To maintain the integrity of the FYN program and to ensure that FYN Yard Recognitions have a positive environmental impact, yard evaluations must be as thorough and accurate as possible. However, the yard evaluation process should always be a positive, educational, and enjoyable experience for all homeowners. Focus should be on the educational aspects of the yard evaluation process, rather than on the recognition itself.

In order for a landscape to be considered for recognition it must contain landscape plants. Landscapes made up entirely of rock, mulch, shell or other similar materials are not considered Florida-Friendly and are not eligible for recognition.

There are two recognition levels available, Standard and Gold.

When filling out the checklist, partial points can be awarded if a practice is being implemented on a portion of the site but not the entire site.

## Homeowner Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Required Practices (Check or indicate N/A)

The following practices, when applicable to the landscape being evaluated, are required for Standard level recognition:

- Homeowner certifies that landscape complies with all codes, laws, ordinances, and HOA rules (if applicable).
- Landscape does not contain any plants found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment "**Prohibited**" list. (<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/conclusions.html>) (p. 9)
- Landscape contains at least 5 species of plants.
- Grass clippings are left on the lawn after mowing, and any spilled fertilizer is collected. (p. 24 & 39)
- Fertilizer is not applied when heavy rain is forecast in the next 24 hours. (p. 24)

- Fertilizer is applied to turfgrass and landscape beds at less than or equal to the UF/IFAS-recommended rate. (p. 26-28)
- Volcano mulching is avoided and a 2"-3" layer of one of the mulches recommended in the FYN Handbook, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., is maintained over tree roots, shrubs, and plant beds as appropriate. (p.30)
- Roof runoff (with or without downspouts) drains onto landscaped areas or pervious surfaces. (p. 43)

If an irrigation system is present:

- Irrigation system is calibrated to apply 1/2" to 3/4" of water per application. (p. 18)
- A functioning automatic rainfall shutoff device is maintained on in-ground systems, and a rain gauge is used to track rainfall amounts. (p. 20)
- Spray and rotor heads are installed on separate zones.

If turfgrass is present:

- Turfgrass is mowed at the UF/IFAS-recommended height for the grass species to encourage a deeper root system and increase drought and pest resistance. (p. 13)
- Fertilizer is only applied when grass is actively growing. (p. 24)
- "Weed and Feed" products containing herbicide and fertilizer together are not used. (p. 24)

If pesticides are used:

- Only affected plants and turf areas are treated with pesticide applications (spot treatments). (p. 34)

If the property is located on a waterfront:

- A maintenance-free zone of at least 10 ft. has been established around the water body. No pesticides, fertilizer, or irrigation water is applied in this zone. (p. 46)

**Aesthetics: Landscape must meet 4 of the following 5 requirements, in addition to all of the required practices listed above.**

- Landscape appears to be actively managed.
- Appropriate pruning practices are apparent.
- Defined landscape beds.
- Landscape matches aesthetic of community.
- Landscape and household debris is properly disposed of or recycled.

**Gold Level Prerequisites: Landscape must meet these 5 required practices in addition to everything listed above to achieve Gold status.**

- Landscape does not contain any plants found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment "Invasive-Not Recommended" list (<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/conclusions.html>) (p. 9)
- Landscape contains at least 10 species of plants.
- A soil nutrient test has been performed. (p. 7)
- No high-volume irrigation is used on site.
- Landscape meets 5 of 5 aesthetics requirements.

Points received	Points possible	Florida-Friendly Landscaping Practices	Hand-Book Page #
<b>FFL Principle #1: Right Plant, Right Place</b>			
	4	Landscape does not contain any invasive plant found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment “ <b>Invasive-Not Recommended</b> ” list ( <a href="http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment">http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment</a> ).	9
	4	Plants are placed in landscape locations that match their requirements for water, light, soil condition, wind tolerance, salt tolerance, mature size, etc.	5
	3	Turfgrass is maintained for specific uses only (e.g. children, pets, recreation, swales, right-of-way areas, etc.).	8
	3	Homeowner has had a soil nutrient test performed	7
	2	Trees and shrubs are positioned to improve the home’s heating and cooling capacity.	5-6
	2	Groundcovers are used to prevent erosion in any area that cannot support turf or landscape beds, including on steep slopes and in deep shade.	8
	18	<b>Total points earned for Principle #1.</b> (Minimum of 8 required)	
<b>FFL Principle #2: Water Efficiently</b>			
<b>For a yard that does not use an irrigation system:</b>			
	14	Landscape is designed and maintained to exist on rainfall and minimal hand watering <b>once plants are established.</b>	8-9
<b>For a yard that uses an irrigation system (in-ground, micro-irrigation, or hose-end sprinkler) (If points are earned for no irrigation system, these points are not available):</b>			
	2	No high-volume irrigation is used on site.	NA
	2	Turfgrass and landscape plants are irrigated only as needed (in compliance with any existing watering restrictions).	17-18
	2	A smart controller (evapotranspiration, soil moisture sensor, or similar) is installed and operational.	20
	2	Separate irrigation zones for turf and landscape plants are maintained.	19
	2	Low-flow irrigation is installed and maintained in plant and flower beds.	19-20
	2	The irrigation system is calibrated to apply 1/2-3/4” of water per application and is maintained regularly to repair clogs and leaks.	18
	2	Not more than 50% of irrigation system is high volume (rotors or spray heads). (NA for gold level which does not allow any high volume irrigation)	NA
	14	<b>Total points earned for Principle #2.</b> (Minimum of 6 required)	
NOTES:			

### FFL Principle #3: Fertilize Appropriately

**If the yard is maintained in a natural state:**

	8	No supplemental fertilization is used in the landscape <b>once plants are established.</b>	25
--	---	--	----

**If the yard has grass and/or plant beds that are maintained with supplemental fertilizer (If points are earned for using no fertilizer, these points are not available):**

	3	Landscape is fertilized at the lowest recommended rate with a product containing at least 15% slow release nitrogen.	25
	3	Iron is used instead of nitrogen to “greenup” the lawn in the summer rainy season.	24
	2	A broadcast spreader with an operational deflector shield is used to apply fertilizer.	24
	8	<b>Total points earned for Principle #3.</b> (Minimum of 3 required)	

### FFL Principle #4: Mulch

	3	If mulch other than yard waste is used, known by-product mulches (e.g. pine bark, melaleuca) are chosen.	29-30
	2	Self-mulching areas exist under trees where leaves can remain as they fall.	30
	1	Mulch is pulled away from the base of trees and shrubs (1-2”)	30
	6	<b>Total points earned for Principle #4.</b> (Minimum of 2 required)	

### FFL Principle #5: Attract Wildlife

	2	Vines, shrubs, and trees provide habitat and/or food sources for wildlife.	32
	2	Host and nectar plants are planted to attract a variety of pollinators.	31
	2	A water source for wildlife exists in the landscape.	31
	2	Wildlife shelters exist in landscape (e.g. bird or bat houses, snags, brush piles, etc.).	32
	8	<b>Total points earned for Principle #5.</b> (Minimum of 2 required)	

### FFL Principle #6: Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

	5	Landscape is checked every 1-2 weeks for signs of pest damage.	33
	5	Low-impact techniques are used for insect and disease management whenever possible.	34
	4	Homeowner is able to properly identify pest and disease issues in their landscape or has brought samples to their local Extension office.	38
	4	If spot treatments are necessary, pest specific products are used.	34
	18	<b>Total points earned for Principle #6.</b> (Minimum of 4 required)	

NOTES:

<b>FFL Principle #7: Recycle</b>			
	3	Grass clippings are left on the lawn or used on site.	39
	2	Yard waste (tree trimmings, fallen leaves, pine needles) is used on site.	40-41
	2	A compost pile is maintained with grass clippings, leaves, pruned plant parts, kitchen scraps (no meat or dairy), etc.	40-41
	1	Compost pile is kept moist but not wet, and is turned regularly.	41
	8	<b>Total points earned for Principle #7.</b> (Minimum of 3 required)	
<b>FFL Principle #8: Reduce Stormwater Runoff</b>			
	6	Porous surfaces are used for walkways, patios, and driveways.	44
	6	Rainwater is collected in a rain barrel or cistern and used to water plants.	44
	6	Rain gardens, swales, and berms are used to catch and filter stormwater runoff.	43-44
	2	Pollutants such as pet waste and car oils are cleaned up and kept out of the storm drains.	43
	20	<b>Total points earned for Principle #8.</b> (Minimum of 6 required)	
<b>FFL Principle #9: Protect the Waterfront</b>			
Circle N/A, below, if yard does not immediately connect to a water body, including retention ponds and canals, a wetland, the ocean, a gulf or bay, a river, lake, stream, or any other open water body, fresh or salt (pg. 45-48).			
<b>N/A</b>			
	2	A maintenance-free zone of at least 10 ft. separates the water body from any landscaped area.	46
	2	Invasive exotic plants have been removed from the riparian zone and replaced with native aquatic plants.	45
	1	Seawalls, rip rap, or gabions are used where appropriate to control erosion.	45-46
	5	<b>Total points earned for Principle #9.</b> (Minimum of 2 required if on waterfront)	
		<b>Total points earned for all Principles.</b>	
NOTES:			

## Recognition Level Requirements

### Standard:

All required applicable practices  
At least 4 aesthetics practices followed  
At least 50 points  
At least 52 points for landscape on waterfront

### Gold:

All required applicable practices  
All 5 aesthetics practices followed  
At least 75 points  
At least 77 points for landscape on waterfront

Recognition Achieved: Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Points Achieved: \_\_\_\_\_

Yard Advisor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reviewer Comments:

### County Extension Office Contact:

This publication was funded in part by a Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program Implementation grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through a contract with the Nonpoint Source Management Section of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, Larry R. Arrington, Director, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, publishes this information to further the purpose of the May 8 and June 30, 1914 Acts of Congress; and is authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. This information was published April 2010.