

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, 4th 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, 4th 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 #
FFL Principle #1: Right Plant, Right Place			
	4	Landscape does not contain any invasive plant found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment “ Invasive-Not Recommended ” list (http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment).	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	Total points earned for Principle #1. (Minimum of 8 required)	
FFL Principle #2: Water Efficiently			
For a yard that does not use an irrigation system:			
	14	Landscape is designed and maintained to exist on rainfall and minimal hand watering once plants are established.	8-9
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):			
	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	Total points earned for Principle #2. (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 once plants are established.	25
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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	Total points earned for Principle #3. (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	Total points earned for Principle #4. (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	Total points earned for Principle #5. (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	Total points earned for Principle #6. (Minimum of 4 required)	

NOTES:

FFL Principle #7: Recycle			
	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	Total points earned for Principle #7. (Minimum of 3 required)	
FFL Principle #8: Reduce Stormwater Runoff			
	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	Total points earned for Principle #8. (Minimum of 6 required)	
FFL Principle #9: Protect the Waterfront			
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).			
N/A			
	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	Total points earned for Principle #9. (Minimum of 2 required if on waterfront)	
		Total points earned for all Principles.	
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:

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