

2026
ISSUE NO.
5



RECYCLING

WATER AWARENESS

SPEAKER SERIES

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Your watering times have changed!

Beginning April 3rd, 2026 through July 1st, 2026:

*From midnight to 4 am **OR** 8 pm to midnight*



Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday

One Day A Week, based on the last digit of your house number



HCUD

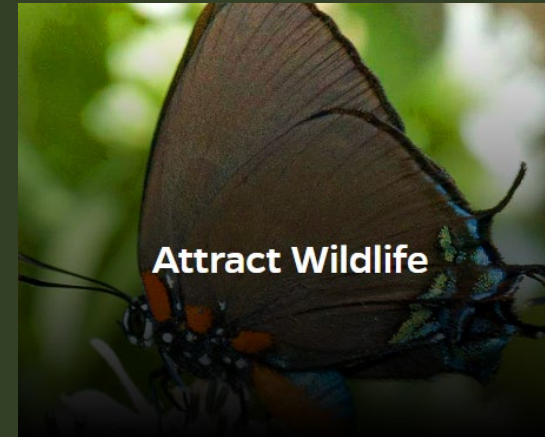
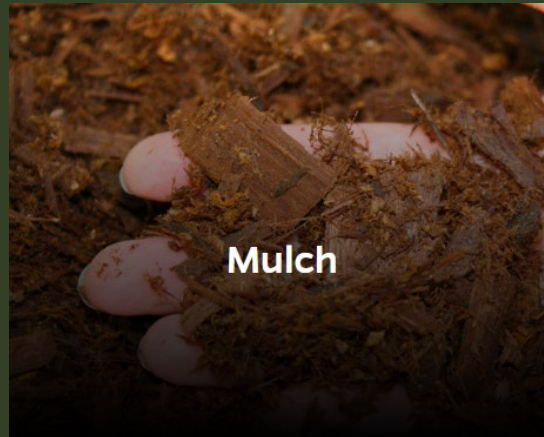


Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Principle 7: Recycle Yard Waste



9

Principles of Florida- Friendly Landscaping™



7 Recycle Yard Waste



Why Recycle Yard Waste?



Sources of Yard Waste

Removed plants and
debris





Pruning

Definition: selectively removing parts of a plant to improve plant health, control growth, or enhance fruiting, flowering, or appearance.

Pruning

Importance of healthy trees

- Maintaining healthy trees is especially important in Florida
- Pruning affects tree health

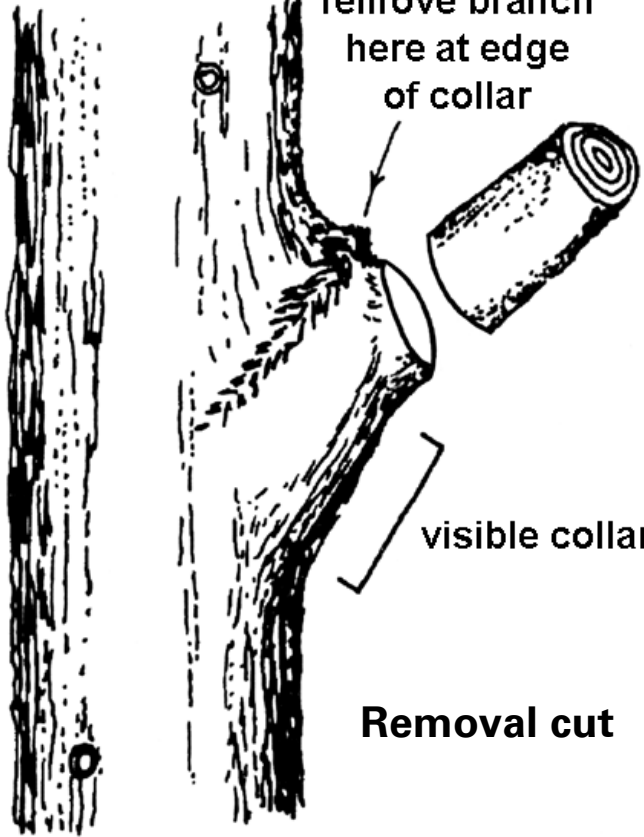


visible collar

remove branch
here at edge
of collar

visible collar

Removal cut

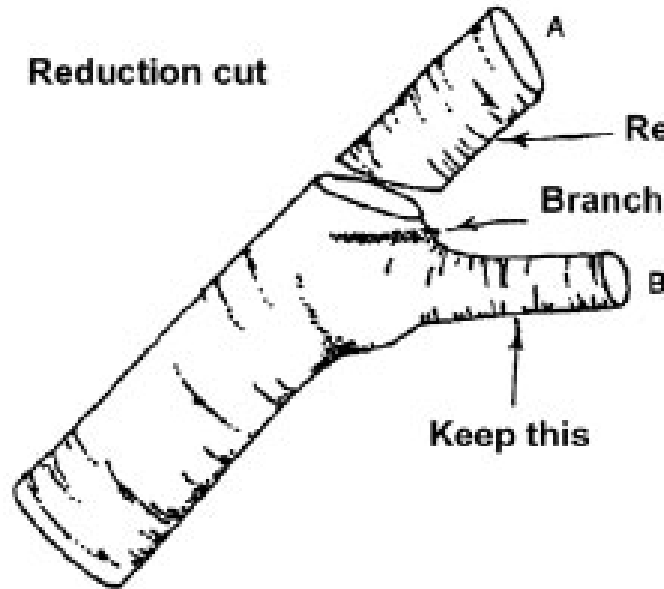


Reduction cut

Remove this

Branch bark ridge

Keep this



Pruning

Proper cuts

- Removal cuts
- Reduction cuts



Pruning

Best practices

- Never top trees
- Avoid over-elevating the canopy
- Practice structural pruning



Pruning

Hiring professionals

- Arborists are experts at maintaining tree health
- Hire ISA certified arborists



<https://treesaregood.org>

Pruning

Palms

- Only prune brown fronds
- Never “hurricane cut”
- Don’t prune from “9-3”





Pruning

Mangroves

- 1996 Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act
limits trimming mangroves
without certification
- Indispensable part of Florida's
ecosystem
- Called “kidneys of the coast”



Pruning

Shrubs and hedges

- Informal hedges

Pruning

Shrubs and hedges

- Formal hedges





Pruning

Pruning tools

- Hand shears
- Loppers
- Handsaw

Leaf Litter

- Raking is not necessary
 - Leaves can remain in place
- Recycle leaves and needles as mulch
- Plant shrubs under trees to catch and hold leaves



How to Recycle Yard Waste



Keep grass clippings out of waterways!





Compost

- Recycle kitchen and yard waste
- Create your own black gold
- Use it for:
 - Amending soil
 - Mulch
 - Potting soil mix



Compost

Why compost?

- Releases nutrients without addition of synthetic fertilizer
- Boosts soil biodiversity
- Improves soil in general

Compost

Why compost?

- Saves money on fertilizer and water
- Diverts food waste from landfill
- No more stinky trash cans!



Composting at home

Five steps to home
composting

1. Select a location
2. Choose a container





Composting at home

Five steps to home composting

3. Assemble the pile



Composting at home

Five steps to home composting

4. Maintain the pile
5. Harvest finished compost



Composting at Home

What NOT to compost

- Meat, dairy, fats, leftovers
- Toxic chemicals
- Problem plants
- Pet waste

Composting at Home

Using compost

- Apply as soil amendment
- Lay down as mulch
- Use in potting medium





Compost Happens!

- The more work you put into your compost, the higher the quality
- BUT given the right conditions, compost will decompose on its own

Your yard can make a difference!



Are you ready for the next steps?

Show your commitment to a
Florida-Friendly Landscape
and save water.



FFLPledge.com

Take the Pledge



GET *Recognized*

FOR YOUR FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE



SILVER



GOLD



NATURAL

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- Homeowners
- HOAs
- Business Owners
- Developers
- Municipalities

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program recognizes landscapes that use sustainable landscaping practices. Recognitions are offered for three different categories of landscapes: Home, Commercial, and New Construction. Landscapes are evaluated based on a [checklist](#) of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices and can receive a sign or flag to display once recognized.

RECOGNITION PROCESS:

1. Download the checklist from the website:
2. Use the checklist to evaluate your landscape and make any changes needed.
3. If you need help making your landscape more Florida-Friendly, contact your county's [Extension office](#) or see our [online materials](#)
4. When your landscape is ready, contact your local UF/IFAS [Extension office](#) to schedule a site evaluation.



<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/about-ffl/landscape-recognition/>



FFL Resources



[https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/
resources/](https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/)

FFL Website



<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu>



Questions?





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2026
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6

THE IMPORTANCE OF

WATER



WATER AWARENESS

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2026
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KAT SQUITIERI



AND

ROBIN GRANTHAM

**SWFWMD
CONSERVATION
PROJECTS**

WATER AWARENESS
SPEAKER SERIES

A decorative graphic of a water droplet with a pink and blue gradient, surrounded by several smaller, stylized droplets of the same color, located to the right of the 'WATER AWARENESS' text.

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