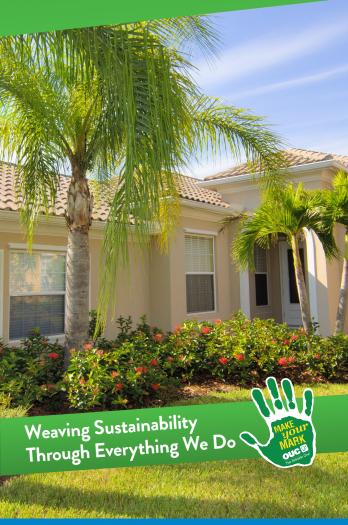
## FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING

Save Water and Money





www.ouc.com



## What is Florida-Friendly Landscaping?

Florida-Friendly Landscaping is a common sense way to landscape that conserves water and protects the environment. The main objective is to establish and maintain a healthy landscape by matching the right plants with existing site conditions so that the use of additional resources — such as water, fertilizer, pesticides and labor — is minimized.

Here in Florida, using mostly native droughtresistant plants, your yard can look beautiful for less money. Homeowners who adopt Floridafriendly landscaping techniques can reduce their water consumption by 25–75 percent, and it doesn't require any additional work, just careful planning.

### Most landscapes are divided into these zones.

#### 1 Natural Zone

Place plants here that have adapted to the wet and dry extremes of Florida's climate so that regular watering won't be necessary, except during prolonged drought.

#### 2 Drought Tolerant Zone

Place plants in this area that can survive extended periods of time without rain or supplemental irrigation.



### Watering Tips

In addition to choosing Florida-friendly plants for your landscape, OUC also recommends following these irrigation tips to keep your water bills low and your vard beautiful and healthy:

- Do not over-water plants. Over-watering not only wastes water, but also promotes shallow root growth and makes your lawn more susceptible to insects and disease.
- Water only before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. to minimize evaporation.
- Water no more than once a week in the cooler months and twice a week in the warmer months. Water for just 30-45 minutes per session ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch of water per zone).
- Check and make sure your rain sensor is working correctly.
- Avoid watering on windy days.
- Check your sprinkler pressure as high mist results in evaporation.
- Make sure plants are not blocking sprinklers.
- Check sprinkler heads for damage and overspray to ensure proper coverage for plants.
- Irrigation systems should be zoned so plants with different water needs are irrigated separately (grass, for example, should be watered separately from shrubs and flowers).
- Drip irrigation systems (which use less water than sprinklers) are recommended for trees, shrubs and flowers.

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#### 3 Natural Zone

Farthest from the house and will contain those plants that thrive with no rainfall.



# WATER CONSERVATION

To learn more about Florida-Friendly Landscaping, irrigation and other ways to conserve water, visit:

**WWW.OUC.COM/WATER** 

or view educational videos at

**WWW.OUC.COM/WAYSTOSAVE** 





Orlando Utilities Commission 100 West Anderson Street Orlando, Florida 32801 www.ouc.com

