

# FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING

*Save Water and Money*



Weaving Sustainability  
Through Everything We Do



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The *Reliable One*®

[www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com)

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## 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 drought-resistant plants, your yard can look beautiful for less money. Homeowners who adopt Florida-friendly 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 yard 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 (*1/2 inch to 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.

### 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](http://WWW.OUC.COM/WATER)

or view educational videos at

[WWW.OUC.COM/WAYSTOSAVE](http://WWW.OUC.COM/WAYSTOSAVE)



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