Florida-Friendly Landscaping!

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Homeowner Program - FYN

- Florida Yards & Neighborhoods (FYN) program addresses the serious problems of
  - Pollution in stormwater runoff
  - Water shortages
  - Disappearing habitats for wildlife
FYN

- Provides education to help residents reduce pollution, conserve water and enhance the environment.
- Is made up of 9 principles.
#1 Right Plant, Right Place

- Natives vs. Exotics
- pH
- Light conditions
- Soil moisture
- Correct hardiness zone
- Mature height & spread for new plant
#2 Water Efficiently

- Use native & drought tolerant plants
- If you use an automatic sprinkler install a rain shutoff device.
- Water less in the winter (once a week.)
- Don’t overwater (can cause dollarweed & disease problems.)
#3 Fertilize Correctly

- This means DON’T....
  - Apply or spill fertilizer granules on the cement – if this happens sweep it up.
  - Let fertilizer go into water bodies so, use a drop spreader (don’t broadcast it)
  - Don’t use a lot of synthetic fertilizers because over-fertilizing can attract pests like aphids.
#3 Fertilize Correctly

- This means DON’T....
  - Use weed & feeds if you have trees & shrubs in your landscape.
  - Fertilize if heavy rain is forecasted!!
#4 Mulch – The Benefits

- Organic mulches add organic matter which is food for the soil microbes which supply the nutrients to the plants.
- Suppresses weeds.
- Moderates soil temperature so soil stays cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.
#5 Attracting Wildlife

- Provide Food: To attract birds, hummingbirds & butterflies you will need to add plants to your yard that provide food.

- Consider reducing turfgrass which is a “dead zone” for wildlife. Consider adding some tree islands to protect your house from hurricanes.
#6 Manage Pests Responsibly

- Here are the cultural practices to use
  - Right Plant, Right Spot
  - Healthy Soil for Healthy Plants
  - Composting
  - Watering
  - Mulching
  - Foliar Feeding
#7 Recycle

- Rule of thumb: mow your turf often enough so that no more then 1/3 of the grass blade is removed when mowing.
- Since turf is high maintenance you may want to consider reducing its amount to save you time and effort!
- Let the clippings fall!
- Compost!!
#8 Reduce Stormwater Runoff

- **Downspouts**: aim them into the landscape
- **Berms & swales**: keeps stormwater runoff on your property
- **Rainbarrels**: collect rainwater from roof
- **Porous surfaces**: let rainwater percolate into the ground.
#9 Protect the Waterfront

- To protect all bodies of water maintain at least a 10 feet “maintenance free zone”. Don’t mow, fertilize or spray any PESTICIDES! (Pesticides = insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.)

- Holly Abeels, our Marine Agent, can provide classes on pond management.
#9 Protect the Waterfront

Great turf alternative - Sunshine mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*)
How Can We Help You?

- Provide **free** classes at your local library (or other facility) for your residents.
- Offer the FYN Handbook as the handout for the class.
- We could use your help advertising the classes to your residents!
Your turn......

- Any questions?