This program is presented by the Hillsborough County Master Gardener Program

The Lazy Gardener
The Lazy Gardener

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Hillsborough County Extension Services
Definitions

- **Gardener**: any person who gardens or is skillful in gardening
- **Lazy**: aversion to or disinclined to work
- **Lazy Gardener**: any person who is disinclined or averse to working in their garden

(Per Random House Unabridged Dictionary)
Can’t Be a Lazy Gardener If…
Degrees of Laziness

Lazy
Not lazy
What You’ll Learn Today
(if it’s not too tiring)

● Have a beautiful garden while maintaining a lazy gardener life style!
● Tips and tricks
● Low maintenance plants
LAZY–ism #1

Perfection is over-rated!
Follow The Rules

- Right Plant / Right Place
- Hydro-zoning
- Size
- KISS
Right Plant / Right Place

- Sun, shade
- Water
- Soil
- Mature size
  - Space / garden area
Lazy Watering

- Hydro-zone – arranging plants by water needs
- Rain barrels
- Micro-irrigation
Water Conservation Options

Rain barrels

Micro-irrigation
Super-Sized Plantings

- Determine garden dimensions
- Mature plant size
- Laziest number of plants to fill space
The Lazy Gardener Creed:
- Keep
- It
- Simple
- Sweetgum
Limitations To Lazy Gardening

- Mulch
- Fertilizer
- Prune
- Weed
- Pests
Mulches

- Pine needles and bark
- Florimulch (Melaleuca trees)
- Eucalyptus
- Municipal mulch
- Nature’s “freebie” oak leaves and pine straw
More Mulches

Like frosting on a cake!
MULCH BENEFITS

- Regulate soil temperature
- Organic value
- Weed barrier
- Prettier than sand
LAZY-ism #2

Create self-mulching landscapes

When Mother Nature drops a hint – don’t fight it.
Lazy Fertilizing

- Only fertilize plants you want to flourish
- Use slow release fertilizer
Reasons For Pruning

- To train the plant
- To remove insect infestation
- To deadhead
- To reduce pruning

choose right plant
LAZY-ism #3

Don’t let weeds go to seeds!
Lazy Gardener’s War on Weeds

What is a weed?
- It’s the wrong plant in the right place
- It’s the right plant in the wrong place
- It’s a plant with nine lives
To Quote Ralph…

What is a weed?
A plant whose virtues...

...have not been discovered.

Ralph Waldo Emerson
Lazy Ways to Fight the Weed War

- Use mulch (depth 2-3 inches)
- Make new friends – learn to like a few weeds
Lazy Excuses For Ignoring Weeds
(What to tell the neighbors)

- Dandelion leaves are tasty in salads
- If it’s green, mow it
- Weeds make lawn fanatics feel smug
LAZY–ism #4

Less than $\frac{1}{10}$ of 1% are BAD BUGS

So, 99 and $\frac{9}{10}$ are good bugs
PESTS: Biting, Sucking, Chewing

- Aphids
- Caterpillars
- Slugs and snails
- Scales
- Spider mites
Lazy Pest Management (LPM)

- Murder by Hand
  - Use two pinching fingers to squish pests
- Hard spray with water
- Eyebrow tweezers
- Prune off most infested sections
LAZY–ism #5

- Too cheap to buy
- Too lazy to apply
Lazy Pest Management Cont’d

- Murder by chemical
  - Bt
  - Spinosad
  - Slug Bait / Iron Phosphate
  - Insecticidal soap
LAZY-ism #6

When we kill off the natural enemies of a pest, we inherit their WORK.

Carl Heffaker
If You’re Too Lazy To…

- Water during dry spells
  - Plant drought resistant bloomers
  - Wait until the rainy season
- Rake leaves or needles in the fall
  - Create self-mulching landscape
- Plant annual flowers
  - Plant perennials
Sweat Savers

- Repeat your successes
- Plant re-seeders
- Use a timer system
Sweat Savers but $$ Spenders

Garden rocker

Collapsible bag
Your Time or Your Money

Garden Cart
Your Time or Your Money

Port-A-Stool
LAZY–ism #7

Wear gloves – saves time cleaning your hands
VOLUNTEERS

- Maximize your laziness
  - Use your friends wisely
  - Start a garden raisers group
  - Learn to love volunteer plants
Commit larceny - steal from your neighbors!
Passalong Plants (Characteristics of official Passalongs)

1. Must have value
   - Fragrance
   - Long blooms
   - Sentimental
2. Easy to grow
   - No babying
   - Minimal overall care
3. Pest and disease free
4. Easy to propagate from seeds, cuttings, or divisions
5. No Thank You’s
Ways to Passalong...
Ways to Passalong…
Ways to Passalong…
Ways to Passalong...
LAZY-ism #9

Cheap and lazy go hand in hand!

Divide & relocate perennials

- No money spent
- Save on gasoline
- No need to shop
Wait A Minute –
No Shopping???
LAZY MAINTENANCE PLANTS
Plants For A Lazy Gardener

- Slow growers (less pruning)
- Wide spreaders (fewer plants)
- Drought tolerant (less watering)
- Pest and disease resistant (less LPM)
Low Demands and High Returns
Lazy–ism #10

Lazy gardeners don’t do lawns.
Groundcover Benefits

- Minimizes planting space
- Chokes out weeds
- Reduces yearly maintenance
- Lawn substitute
Rewards of Laziness
Bibliography

- *The Lazy Gardener’s Garden Book* – William Morwood
- *Tips for Carefree Landscapes* – Marianne Binetti
- *Passalong Plants* – Felder Rushing
- www.seedswapper.com
- www.gardenhere.com/forums
- www.gardenweb.com
Thank You!

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http://hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu