Recycle Your Yard

UF IFAS Extension Hillsborough County

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Hillsborough County
Florida

MASTER GARDENERS
The 4 R’s for Yard Recycling

- Reduce
- Reuse
- Recycle
- Repeat

...and REPEAT
REDUCE

material flow into & out of your garden!

10 Bags down to 1
HOLD TO REDUCE

- Check plants prior to purchase
- Buy for quality, mature size & longevity
- Shrink lawn area
- Decrease yard & garden watering
- Reduce landscape clippings
- Reduce yard spending
Less Lawn More Beauty

Purposeful turfgrass
It Doesn’t Have to Be Alive!
Groundcovers or Mulch

Create self-mulching areas of yard under trees.
Recyilism - #1

Groundcovers don’t need to be DULL!
Reduce Landscape Clippings

- Choose slow to moderate growing shrubs
- Mature height suited the landscape
- No overcrowding = less pruning

It’s a jungle out there!
Reduce Garden & Yard Watering

- Hydro-zone
- Rain barrels /Cisterns
- Microirrigation
- Mulch
- Drought tolerant
Rain shut-off device
Rain gauge
Irrigation clock- don’t set & forget
Buy Quality Tools for Longevity

- Purchase quality products & re-sharpen periodically
- Use recycled material tools
Reduce Spending

- Permanently borrow from a neighbor
- Attend MG & garden club plant sales & exchange
- Follow the Southern tradition of *Pass-a-long* plants
Recyclism - #2

Don’t recycle this!
REUSE

- Plants – propagation (cuttings & seeds)
- Relocate – don’t cut & haul – divide & conquer
- Household items as planters or yard art
- Neighbors’ trash = your treasure
Propagation & Seeds

- Cut & pot
- Cut & root
- Seed & reseed
Reuse Home Fixtures

Easier & cheaper than paying to haul!
Reuse Home Fixtures
Reuse Home Fixtures
Landfill or Backyard?
RECYCLE
Recycle

- Reduce Lawn & Landscape Clippings
- Compost/Vermicompost
- Proper Plant Selection
- Yard Mulch
- Barter

WHAT A WASTE!
Yard Mulch – The Best!

- FREE! Oak leaves, pine needles & shredded prunings
- 3 inches after settling
- 1-2 inch space between mulch & stem or trunk
Benefits of Yard Mulch

- Conserves water
- Suppresses weeds
- Releases nutrients
- Increases root growth
- Regulates soil temperature
- Defines landscape beds
Right Plant – Right Place
Recyclism - #3

What goes in trash and what goes back into your garden?

Cats go in the recycling bin!
Develop a Sense of Humus - Compost

Turn yard and kitchen waste into a rich soil amendment
Composting –
The Ultimate Garden Recycling

Key to rapid or hot composting:

- 3 x 3 x 3
- Greens and browns
- Proper moisture content
- Frequent turning to aerate
- Particle size
What Is Vermicomposting?

Process of breaking down organic matter into nutrient-rich compost through the use of **WORMS!!!**
Recyclism - #4

Right idea – wrong location!
Grass Clippings – Love em’ & Leave em’

- Don’t bag em’ – use as mulch or compost
- Let them fall where they may – 90% water & break down quickly
- Great nitrogen boost = 1-2 fertilizations/year
- Prevent clippings from clumping – mow when dry & cut 1/3 of blade
THATCH – a spongy layer of organic matter

Thatch is NOT caused by leaving grass clippings

Thatch IS caused by too much water & fertilizer

- Moderate fertilizer & water:
  - 2 fertilizations a year
  - ½” - ¾” of water a week (less in winter)
  - Skip a week if it rains that amount (use a rain gauge)
Recycling *Live* Christmas Trees

- Put at the curb
- Place in your yard
- Grind and use for mulch
- Firewood – for outdoor use only
- Use branches for seasonal wreaths
Too Much Yard Waste for the Curb?

- Yard waste **ONLY** (no garbage) – deliver to local Yard Waste Recycling Facilities
- Most recent property tax receipt
- Taxpayer on the receipt must be present
Recyclism - #6

Whatever you recycle – put it in the proper container!
**REPEAT Your Successes**

- Propagate what you have
- Grows in one area, **move** to another
- Save the **seeds**, **plant elsewhere**
- Buy plants that **reproduce** themselves
Propagate & Move
Reseed or Reproduce

Bromeliad pups

Salvias Reseed
Win a Prize!

FIRST:
Write down how YOU Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Repeat in your yard.
Let Me Count the Ways…

SECOND:

Who has more than 5?

Who has more than 10?
Final Criteria...

THIRD:

Because you attended this presentation and learned how to
Recycle Your Yard!
You Are All Winners!

Thank you for attending!

UF IFAS Extension Hillsborough County

Created by Pat O'Shea and Lynn Barber

Revised, reused & recycled by Lynn Barber