



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Grounds Certified as Florida Friendly

Florida-Friendly Landscaping is a key component of water conservation



(Click on the picture for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL — The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) has certified several South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) facilities under the Florida-Friendly Landscaping program to meet water conservation goals.

"Water-smart landscaping makes sense considering outdoor irrigation accounts for half of all potable water use," said SFWMD Interim Executive Director Tommy Strowd. "Transforming an outdoor space into a Florida-friendly yard is a great way to conserve water and protect regional water resources."

The grounds at these District facilities are certified as Florida friendly: SFWMD headquarters in West Palm Beach; the Homestead, Fort Lauderdale, Okeechobee, West Palm Beach, Clewiston and Miami field stations; and the DuPuis Management Area Visitor Center. Other District facilities are being evaluated and are expected to be certified in the near future.

The DuPuis Management Area in Martin County and the Miami and Fort Lauderdale field station facilities each achieved Gold certification for features that exceed the minimum Florida-Friendly Landscaping requirements. DuPuis features a butterfly garden and large natural areas that attract abundant wildlife. The Miami Field Station maintains a healthy landscape without an irrigation system. The Fort Lauderdale Field Station has reduced irrigation by avoiding the watering of mature and established plants.

Nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping principles were developed to promote the wise stewardship of Florida's natural environment, including water conservation. The principles promote the use of native or non-invasive plants adapted to the local environment, efficient irrigation practices, attraction of wildlife and related environmentally friendly practices. These types of landscapes are also better able to withstand the periodic stresses of drought such as those South Florida is currently experiencing.

The nine principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping, as identified by IFAS, are:

1. Right Plant, Right Place
2. Water Efficiently
3. Fertilize Appropriately
4. Mulch
5. Attract Wildlife
6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly
7. Recycle
8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff
9. Protect the Waterfront

The District promotes Florida-Friendly Landscaping as part of the Comprehensive Water Conservation Program. The program was approved by the SFWMD Governing Board in 2008 to encourage more responsible use of water resources throughout South Florida.

For more information on Florida-Friendly Landscaping and how to incorporate the principles in your own yard, please visit www.floridayards.org or www.savewaterfl.com, and click on Florida-Friendly Landscaping.

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state’s five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.