

Smart Choices for a Florida-Friendly Landscape!

Presented by People for Trees, Inc. A 501(c)3 non-profit native tree advocacy group since 1997. Having a Florida-Friendly yard uses drought-tolerant trees and plants (both native and non-invasive/non-native) that require little or no watering (once established), fertilizers, or pesticides!

FIRST! Get rid of that grass! It's as easy as 1-2-3! Block the sunlight in order to kill the grass.

- 1) Overlap layers of newspaper on the area you wish to transform (we suggest you start with a 10x10 area first, and then build on from there in stages).
- 2) Cover with a 3-inch layer of mulch which could be pine needles and oak leaves finished with a layer of commercial mulch. We suggest using Melaleuca Mulch ("Flori-mulch") as the Melaleuca tree is an extremely invasive tree so cutting it down for mulch is GREAT. Plus, melaleuca mulch has been proven to be the most insect-resistant mulch on the market! Available from Lowe's, Englewood Landscape Supply, and the Florida Native Plant Nursery in Sarasota. Let this area sit for about two weeks to allow the grass to die. When you're ready to plant, move aside the mulch and dig your hole.

SECOND! Choose some great native trees to provide energy-saving shade and to act as "anchors" for your landscape plan. When thinking about what tree to plant, plan for what you'd like to see in about 15 years-the average urban tree planted has a life-span of only 13 years (it will either die due to neglect/abuse, or be removed as landscape plans and home ownership change).

- 1) **Large-sized** native shade trees (40-50 feet AT MATURITY, which is in about 30-50 years!) Sweetgum, American Elm, Laurel Oak, Bald Cypress, Sycamore, Pignut Hickory, Longleaf Pine, Slash Pine, Red Maple.
- 2) **Medium-sized** native shade trees (30-40 feet AT MATURITY). Cherry Laurel, Black Olive.
- 3) **Small-sized** native shade trees (25-30 feet AT MATURITY). Winged Elm, East Palatka Holly, Dahoon Holly.

FOR PRIVACY: The Southern Red Cedar! **Non-native good tree choices:** Loquat, Tabebuia.

TREES TO AVOID: Jacaranda, Norfolk Pine, Silk Oak, Indian Rosewood, Orchid Trees, Ficus, Ear Tree, and Queen and Washingtonia Palms (which are not even trees- palms are members of the GRASS FAMILY). These trees all have problems, from brittleness, to being excessively messy, to having structural issues once grown.**TREES THAT ARE ILLEGAL TO PLANT, PROPAGATE, OR SELL IN FLORIDA DUE TO THEIR EXTREME INVASIVENESS:** Brazilian Pepper, Australian Pine, Carrotwood, Chinaberry Tallow, Melaleuca.

THIRD! Add some Plants and Shrubs! (*indicates native)

- 1) Shrubs: Native Firebush or Dwarf Firebush, Walter's Viburnum*, Sweet Viburnum, Wax Myrtle*, Yaupon Holly*, Simpson's Stopper*, Cassia, Porterweed (coral, blue, or purple), Beauty Berry*, Ilex Schillings*, Firespike, Golden Dewdrop, Thryallis, Indian Hawthorne, Indigo Berry*, Plumbago, Saw Palmetto, Coontie.
- 2) Butterfly-attracting plants: Pentas (red), Tropical Sage, Milkweed
- 3) Vine: Dutchman's Pipe, Crossvine, Passion Vine*, Confederate Jasmine, Coral Honeysuckle*
- 4) Groundcovers: Perennial Peanut, Sunshine Mimosa, Beach Sunflower, Boston Fern, Firecracker
- 5) Native Grasses: Fakkahatchee (regular (large) and dwarf (small)), Muhly, Purple Lovegrass

For more information/photos, visit our website www.peoplefortrees.com or contact Alice White @ (941)468-2486 or treelady12001@yahoo.com. Follow us on Facebook!