

More Steps You Can Take!



Photo by Jess Van Dyke

Eutrophication - an algal bloom resulting from too much nutrient from sources such as phosphorus and nitrogen in fertilizers.

Control or eliminate pet

waste, especially near roadways, sidewalks and water bodies.

Don't lose a drop when changing oil or adding fuel to your vehicle or lawn mower.

Maintain your septic system.

Provide plants, groundcovers or brush piles for birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Eliminate exotic, invasive plants, especially Chinese Tallow and Air Potato.



**Florida Yards.org**



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Tips for a Water Friendly Yard!

“EVERY DROP YOU LOSE NATURE FINDS”

For More Information Contact Your Local Water Utility

“Slow the Flow”

The overall goal of a water friendly yard is to “slow the flow” of runoff, helping to assure that the water reaching streams and lakes is clean. Slowing the flow helps prevent pollutants such as silt, fertilizers and pesticides from washing off your yard into storm drains and eventually into local water resources. Keep in mind that many storm drains lead directly to water bodies, without treatment. The best way to slow the flow is to take steps to hold rainwater in areas of your yard where it can filter slowly through the soil. This can be done by minimizing erosion, creating mulch beds, planting rain gardens, building berms and swales, collecting rain water in barrels for future use, and managing the use of fertilizers and “icides”.



Examine the Lay of Your Land

Where does the water flow? Collect? Runoff? Surfaces that don't absorb rain, like the roof, driveway or even the lawn, will have water flowing from them. These are targets for “slow the flow” techniques . Minimize erosion by building berms (raised earthen areas covered with vegetation), swales (shallow, conveyances that allow water to be filtered) and terraces (converts steep slopes into series of stepped terraces).



Transforming Target Areas

Creating mulch beds can reduce the need for fertilizing, watering, mowing and pesticide use, making your yard easier to manage and keeping it from eroding. Creating mulch beds also reduces the size of your lawn not to mention the time spent mowing. If you prefer a grassy lawn there are a few things to keep in mind. Mow often enough to maintain the right grass height. Grass that is too short is susceptible to poor root systems and disease.

When fertilizing your yard less is best. Fertilizer can become pollution that disturbs the natural balance in a lake or stream. Ugly explosions of plant and algae growth are life threatening to the ecosystem and harmful to swimmers. A beautiful solution to pollution are rain gardens. Rain gardens are low spots landscaped with flowers and other moisture-tolerant plants . Rainwater collected from your roof, driveway or lawn is conveyed to this low spot where it naturally drains. The rain garden fills with a few inches of water and allows it to filter slowly into the ground.



Save Your Rainwater

Rain barrels and cisterns can save roof water for future watering needs or to wash the car. They should be covered

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