

Low Maintenance Landscape Calendar

Landscape questions? Call 321-697-3000

Year-round guidelines for keeping a healthy, beautiful landscape:

- Irrigate $\frac{3}{4}$ " of water per application, regardless of season.
- Established landscape plants do not require irrigation as often as lawns, if at all.
- Water in the early morning if water restrictions allow.
- The most efficient way to irrigate lawns is to water as needed. If you see these signs-it's time to water:
 1. Grass blades fold in half
 2. Grass turns blue-green in patches
 3. Footprints are visible long after walking on lawn
- Use a rain sensor or soil moisture sensor on your irrigation system to prevent over-watering. The sensor should be placed where it will be rained on, and set at $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

January

- Irrigate established plants/lawns once every 7-14 days.
- Start the New Year by planting a new tree for Florida Arbor Day. Keep recently planted trees and shrubs moist (not soggy) for several months as roots grow in.
- Obtain a soil test kit from the Extension Services Plant Clinic if you plan to fertilize your own yard.

February

- As your plants put out new growth, water about once a week.
- If you use a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent weeds from germinating, apply now.

March

- Check that your irrigation system is applying the appropriate amount of water:
 1. Place several straight-sided containers or a rain gauge within an irrigation zone.
 2. Time to see how long it takes for most of the cans or rain gauge to fill with $\frac{3}{4}$ " of water.
 3. Set each irrigation zone the appropriate amount of time to apply $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Never change these settings.
- Apply a slow-release fertilizer to your lawn.
- Change the battery in your irrigation control box to prevent it from resetting in the event of a power failure.

April

- Do not irrigate more than 2x per week.
- Replenish mulch to 3" with non-cypress mulch.
- Mow St. Augustine and Bahia 5" tall for a drought tolerant lawn.
- Check irrigation system for broken spray heads and leaks.
- Improve irrigation coverage; install at least 6" sprinkler heads in lawn areas.

May

- Check rain sensor functionality: turn on your irrigation system. Spray water directly onto rain sensor; the system should shut off within a few minutes. Make sure the sensor is activated on your control box.
- Make a rain barrel to collect water for irrigating plants and for hurricane preparedness.

June

- With the onset of the rainy season, adjust irrigation frequency based on rainfall received.
- Direct downspouts onto lawn areas rather than pavement.
- Never apply fertilizer or pesticides if rain is expected within 24 hours.
- Apply liquid iron sulfate to green up your lawn as needed throughout the summer.

July

- Check irrigation system for leaks and broken spray heads.
- Eliminate nematodes, diseases, and weed seeds in empty plant beds; moisten soil; secure clear plastic over area for a month.

August

- Check rain sensor functionality by turning on your irrigation system. Spray water directly onto your rain sensor.
- Plan your fall vegetable garden; request a Planting Calendar from the Extension Plant Clinic.

September

- Fertilize lawn with a slow-release fertilizer.
- Start planting your fall vegetable garden.

October

- Reduce irrigation frequency to only once per week.
- Troubleshoot entire irrigation system and clean, adjust, and replace malfunctioning components.

November

- Plan for landscape upgrades in the spring by working on your design ideas and plant lists now.
- Sharpen mower blades.
- Winter is a good time to plant trees and shrubs in Florida; visit Extension Services for suggestions.

December

- Adjust irrigation system to water once every 7-14 days.
- Clean and repair irrigation components

IFAS is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. USDA, UF, FAMU, and Boards of County Commissioner cooperating.

UF UNIVERSITY of Florida
FLORIDA Yards & Neighborhoods
IFAS Extension