

# Plant your Landscape

Where to get started and How to keep going



## Converting a landscape from sod to plants

Reduce irrigation and maintenance requirements while increasing butterfly, pollinator and bird species in your front yard

Native plants are becoming an interest to young and established homeowners alike. Valuing the environment, the food web, and our local communities, Florida homeowners see the development of nearby natural lands and realize we need to change the way we think about urban landscaping. Green space increases property value, personal mental health, and chances of talking to your neighbor. Re-growing our community connections.

1

### PLAN YOUR PATHWAY

Find the walking flow of the landscape. Consider trimming and watering activities. Find sitting spots with attractive views under shade

2

### CLEAR A BED

Rootball and soil conditions are important. Spend time in this stage. Detail removal of weeds. Use sand, fine mulch & plenty of pine straw

3

### PLANT NEW PLANTS

Texture, color, growth habit of leaves becomes important in this stage. Seasonal care is the new norm with germination & dormancy cycles



### Starting with Grass

Kill grass and cover with mulch straight away.



### Cover everything in mulch

Keep weeds down. Plant trees & shrubs and keep watered for 1-3 months.



### Keep weeding

Add new wildflowers and groundcovers after a full grow year or two. Water during drought conditions.

## Ready for a change

A working seasonal schedule can make the changes less difficult over time

If you have had the pleasure of a consultation with me, I begin or end the visit with a discussion about the geography of our state. Regular points of interest include the aquifer recharge and discharge areas of the state. Topography of the Lake whales ridge and its scrub, sandhill significance across to the marshes and intercostal ecosystems. And a monthly breakdown of average volume and duration of rainfall.

Is this too much detail? Nope. When we turn off our manufactured resources like pesticide, fertilizer, and in some cases irrigation, we rely on nature. Nature is affected by our storm water systems and fill dirt used to grade and level our subdivisions. It takes a little time to re-condition the soil for max absorption of the rainfall and get roots deep enough to provide a cooling effect amidst our growing heat island of pavement. Understanding there is an existing system that knows how to maintain itself can give us clues as to how best grow our landscape for the environment around us.



**“There is a hard way to do this and an even harder way to do this”**

There are not many people who feel the heat of the day and think about running out side to stand in the sun. Once the mosquitos set in for the evening, things get worse. I figured out there are methods of grooming the landscape that actually yield results for less maintenance over time. The tricky part is that the more detailed work up front yields the best results long term. Immediate gratification tends to be sacrificed for those who don't have thousands at their disposal for adequate labor and equipment needs. Even 2 guys and a shovel gets expensive in this day and age of fair and equitable labor practices.

## DESIGNS ARE WORTH IT

Designs are answers to the question 'What should I plant? Where should I plant it? And how many should I plant? Later, the question will come up, How far apart should I plant them?

Short answer - It depends on the conditions of your landscape, the desires of your aesthetic, and the value of resources you are willing to provide to achieve your vision.

Long answer - Let's engage in an hour long consultation to discuss each short answer. Each answer shapes a vision that can be drawn out in spacial detail. Within that detail we can describe walkway and view opportunities, color and texture combinations, canopy overhang, seasonal bloom timing, off-season pruning activities, plant names, planting distance and species quantity.

