

# Plant your Landscape

Where to get started and how to keep going



## Converting a landscape from sod to plants

Less irrigation and maintenance. More butterflies, pollinators and birds!

Native plants are compelling for young and established homeowners alike. As we increasingly realize the value of 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 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



#### Goodbye Grass

Kill grass and cover with mulch straight away.



#### Cover and 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 changes less difficult over time

Understanding and working with the rhythms of nature is key to native landscape success.

When we phase out manufactured resources like pesticide, fertilizer, and in some cases irrigation, we rely on nature. Understanding there is an existing system that knows how to maintain itself can give us clues as to how best to grow our landscape for the environment around us.

In Florida, we have many additional factors to consider, such as aquifer recharge and discharge areas, topography of the Lake Wales ridge and its scrub, sandhill significance, the marshes and intracoastal ecosystems, and seasonal volumes and duration of rainfall. Nature is affected by our stormwater systems and fill dirt used to grade and level our subdivisions. It takes time to re-condition the soil for max absorption of rainfall and get roots deep enough to provide a cooling effect amidst our growing heat island of pavement.



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

Florida landscaping isn’t easy. The heat of the day makes outdoor work challenging, and mosquitos can make evenings miserable. There are ways to care for the landscape that yield better results with less maintenance. These are slow approaches that reward patience, and they reveal the results of detailed upfront planning over years, not weeks.

This sustainable approach avoids wasted effort and resources. We invest in both the plants and the people we work with, ensuring that we build a community and a knowledge base for best practices. Our investment in hand-grown plants and equitable skilled labor will pay off in your landscape.

## DESIGNS TAKE THE PLAN BEYOND WHAT TO PLANT

How do you want to enjoy your garden? Do you need a place to relax? Do you want a gorgeous bounty of color to share with your neighborhood? How will your garden look and function in Year One vs Year Three?

**Short answer:** All of this 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 all of this and more. We can walk together and explore opportunities for color and texture combinations, canopy overhang, seasonal bloom timing, off-season pruning activities, planting distance and species quantity.

