

Useful Websites!

<http://brevard.ifas.ufl.edu/>

This site has information on the Brevard County Extension office. All program areas have information posted along with a program calendar, bulletins, etc.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>

This site has all of the bulletins written by specialists from the University of Florida. There is a search that your plant or topic can be typed in and then just click on the search button.

<http://hort.ufl.edu/fyn/handbook.pdf>

This site has the Florida Yards and Neighborhood Handbook that is a guide to Florida-Friendly Landscaping.

<http://www.gardensalive.com/> This is The Gardens-Alive site. They sell natural products for the lawn, vegetable garden and pets!

<http://soilslab.ifas.ufl.edu/ESTL%20Tests.asp> Go here to print up the Soil Testing form for the University of Fl. For \$7 you can find out the pH and nutrient level of P, K, Ca, and Mg. The results of this test will allow you to fertilize properly and not cause problems from excess nutrient levels in the soil.

Other Useful Services!

Unknown Bug! Bring a sample to the Cocoa office and if we don't know what it is we will send it to the Entomology ID Lab.

Attract Beneficial Insects!

By planting plants that have small flowers. Here is a list of some of the herbs that have flowers that are known to attract beneficial insects:

- Dill (*Anethum graveolens*)*
- Cilantro/Coriander * (*Coriandrum sativum*)
- Queen Ann's lace * (*Daucus carota* var. *carota*)
- Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) *
- Alyssum (*Lobularia maritime*)*
- Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) perennial;
- Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
- Garlic chives (*Allium tuberosum*),
- Anise hyssop * (*Agastache foeniculum*)
- Lovage (*Levisticum officinale*)
- Angelica (*Angelica archangelica*)
- Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*)
- Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
- Cosmos * (*Cosmos bipinnatus*)
- Mints (*Mentha* spp.)

Other plants that can be grown to attract beneficial insects include:

- Crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)
- Cover crops such as crimson clover, hairy vetch and white Dutch clover (this plant can be mowed to keep it flowering.)

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**University of Florida/
Brevard County Extension**



**Florida-Friendly
Landscaping™!**

Two Office Locations:

3695 Lake Drive	1455 Treeland Blvd. SE
Cocoa, FL 32926	Palm Bay, FL 32909
(321) 633-1702	(321) 952-4536

#1 Right Plant for the Right Spot!

When choosing new plants look at the following:

- pH – (important for acid loving plants such as azaleas, ixoras, blueberries, bahiagrass, and American holly which prefer a pH of 5.5 or below.)
- Light conditions – Full sun (a min. of 6 hrs of direct sunlight a day), partial sun/shade or full shade.
- Soil moisture – dry, moist or wet.
- Correct hardiness zone – 9B for the “mainland”, 10A for Merritt Island and the beaches.
- Mature height and spread of plant.
- Consider – large amounts of turf are a monoculture and is more prone to insects and is a dead zone for wildlife.

#2 Watering Efficiently

- Water deeply but infrequently!
- Water early in the morning.
- Don't overwater turf -2 deep waterings each week spring-fall and once a week in the winter
- Use a rain gauge to measure rainfall so you know when to water.
- Hook up rain shut-off device to irrigation timers.

#3 Fertilize Appropriately

- Test your soil before fertilizing. See Useful Websites for more information.
- BROADCAST the fertilizer around the base of plants.
- Use organic fertilizers (instead of synthetic fertilizers) like Milorganite,

corn meal, cotton seed meal, blood meal & bone meal to eliminate nutrient leaching.

- Keep fertilizer off the cement
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is forecasted

#4 Mulch

- Use a 3-4 inch layer of mulch around plants.

#5 Attract Wildlife!

- It's easy – just plant the correct plants to attract the wildlife you want.
- **Butterflies** are easy to attract. Just plant a host plant like milkweed, *Cassia* (now *Senna*), dill, parsley, fennel, Hercule's club or citrus, passion vine, pipevine or wild lime.
- **Birds** are easy to attract by planting many of our native trees (like Chickasaw plum, Dahoon holly, Flatwoods plum, Fringetree) and shrubs (like Beautyberry, Fiddlewood, Firebush and Walter's viburnum) that provide both nesting and food.
- **Hummingbirds** love the color RED. Just plant trees like the Coral bean and Geiger tree or shrubs like Firebush or Clerodendrum.
- Attract beneficial – more info. on the back.

#6 Manage Pests Responsibly

- Insecticidal soap and ultra-fine horticultural oil control aphids,

whitefly, mealybugs, scale and spider mites. Water well before spraying.

- Spray soaps or oils late in the day.
- Don't use Bt (Thuricide) on any host plant for butterflies (see the next column under butterflies.)
- Liquid seaweed (ex. Maxicrop) makes a great foliar spray for plants that produce food or are under stress from nutrient deficiency or environmental stresses of flood, drought or cold.
- Attract beneficial insects. More info. on the back.

#7 Recycle

- Let the grass clippings fall!
- Compost your yard waste
- Use leaves & pine needles as mulch
- Easiest way to compost: pile it and leave it!

#8 Reduce stormwater runoff

- Use rain barrels to collect rain from roof and reduce runoff
- Building a new home? Add a cistern or two!
- For driveways, sidewalks and patios use porous surfaces like pavers or mulch

#9 Protect the waterfront

- Create a 10 foot maintenance-free zone – no mowing, fertilizing or pest control!
- A great turf-alternative is the native sunshine mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*)