Introduction to Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

What is a Florida-Friendly Landscape?

Xeriscaping

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- Replaced by Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) in 2009
- F.S. 373.185

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“Florida-friendly landscaping” means **quality landscapes** that **conserve water**, **protect the environment**, are **adaptable to local conditions**, and are **drought tolerant**. The principles of such landscaping include planting the right plant in the right place, efficient watering, appropriate fertilization, mulching, attraction of wildlife, responsible management of yard pests, recycling yard waste, reduction of stormwater runoff, and waterfront protection. Additional components include practices such as landscape planning and design, soil analysis, the appropriate use of solid waste compost, minimizing the use of irrigation, and proper maintenance.

FFL Program Summary Definition:

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ is the application of science-based landscape practices to help design and maintain attractive, healthy, and sustainable landscapes.

Mission

Conserve water in the landscape while reducing **stormwater runoff** and **non-point source pollution.**

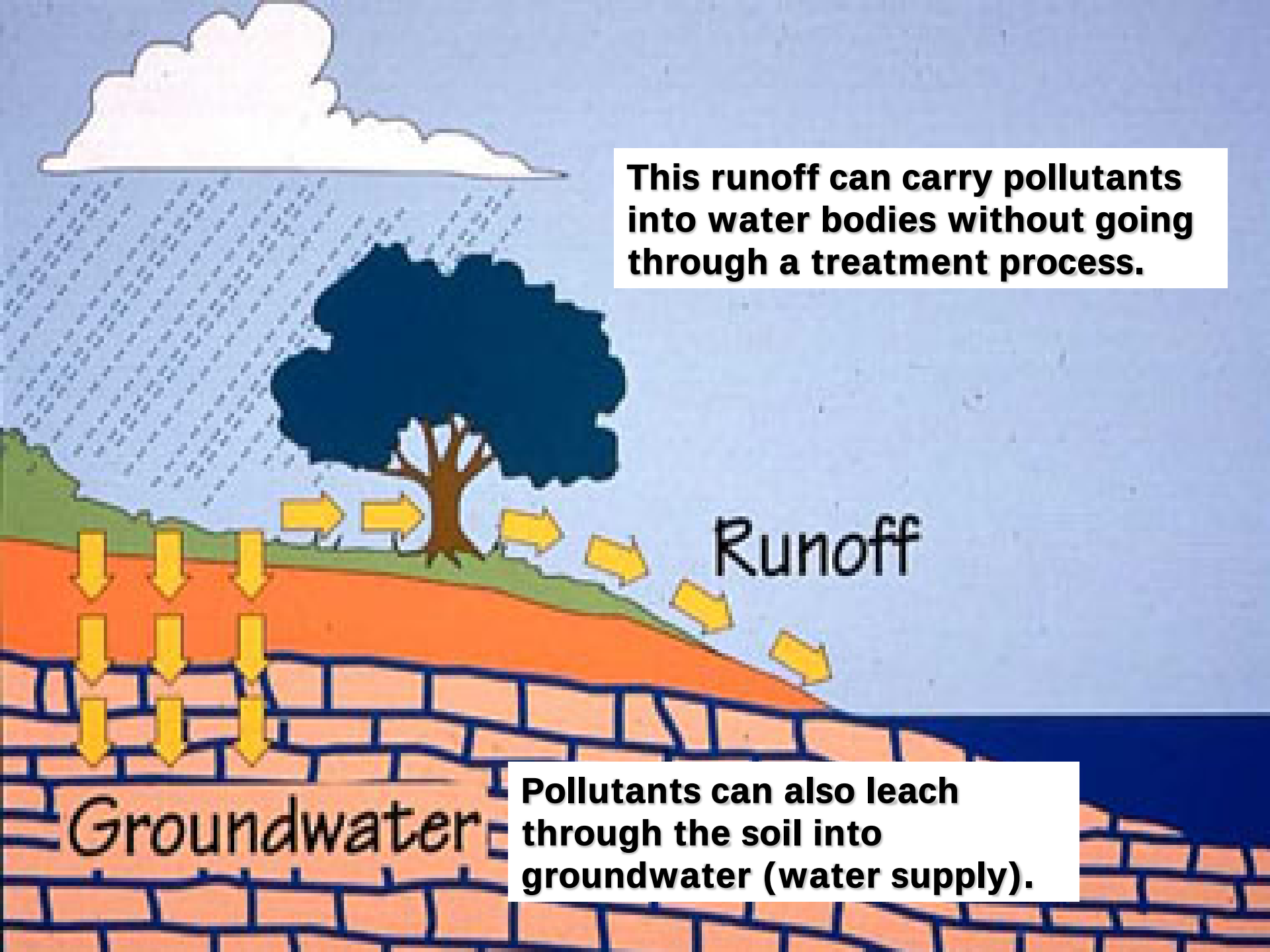
The Facts:

- Largest outdoor use of H_2O is irrigation

  (30% to 50% of total household use)

- One watering day for 2,500 sq. ft. lawn = domestic water needs for 10 people

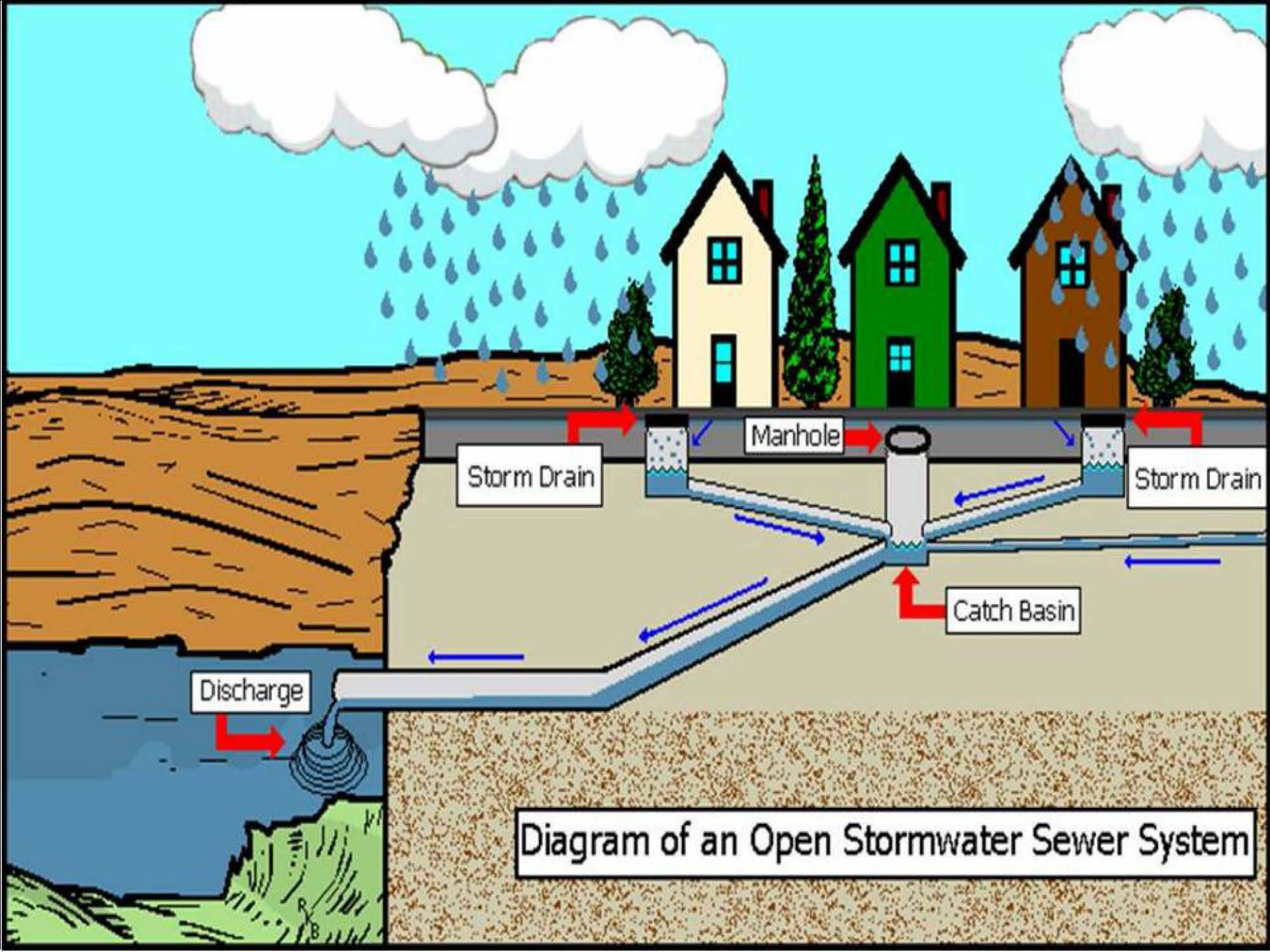
Stormwater Runoff


This runoff can carry pollutants into water bodies without going through a treatment process.
Runoff
Groundwater
Pollutants can also leach through the soil into groundwater (water supply).

Nonpoint Source Pollution

Sometimes called “personal pollution”

- Trash
- Car oil
- Chemical lawn products
- Soil and other residues that are easily carried away by flowing water


Storm Drain
Manhole
Storm Drain
Catch Basin
Discharge
Diagram of an Open Stormwater Sewer System

Nine Principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping

- Right Plant, Right Place
- Water Efficiently
- Fertilize Appropriately
- Mulch
- Attract Wildlife
- Manage Yard Pests Responsibly
- Recycle Yard Waste
- Reduce Stormwater Runoff
- Protect The Waterfront

Principle 1:
Right Plant, Right Place

Right Plant, Right Place

- Site Assessment

Right Plant, Right Place

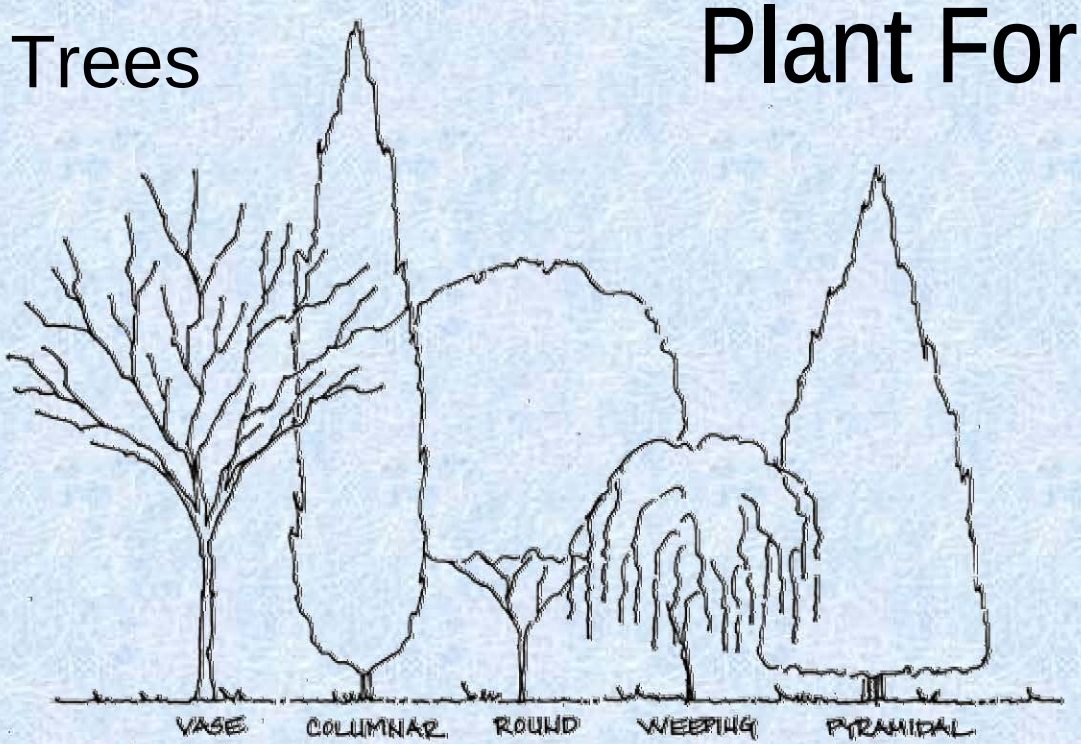
- Site Assessment
  - Sun/Shade Patterns
  - Wet/Dry Areas
  - Vertical/Horizontal Restrictions
  - Existing & Planned Structures & Features
  - Soil Characteristics & pH
  - Underground Utilities
  - Existing Invasive Exotics
    - http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/

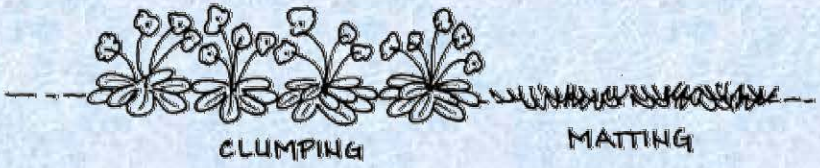
Right Plant, Right Place

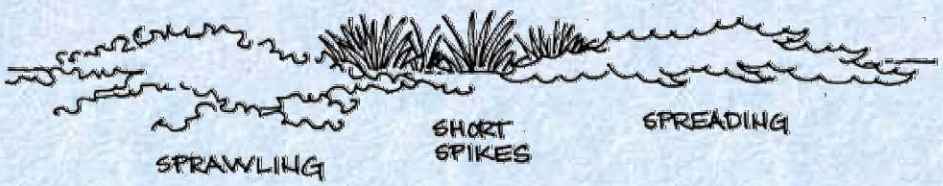
Plan Twice, Plant Once!

Plant Forms

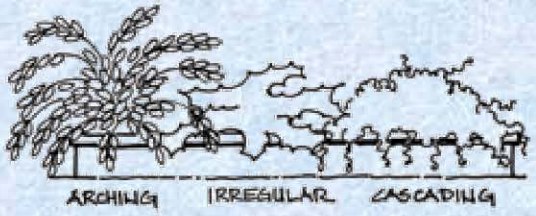
Trees

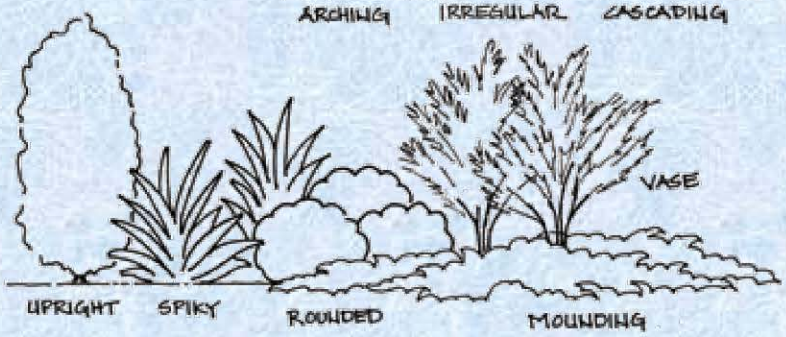






Groundcover





Shrubs

Image Credit: Gail Hansen

Native Plants in the Landscape

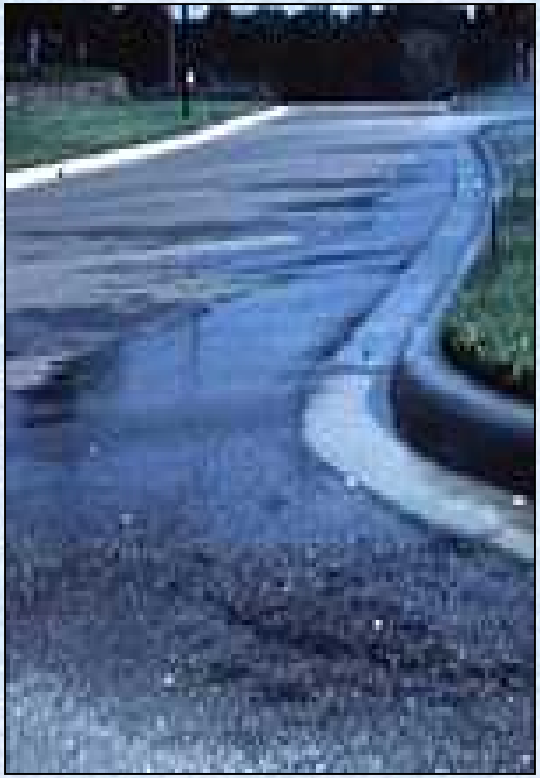
- Adapted to local soil conditions
- Adapted to local (typical) climate
  - Rainfall
  - Humidity
  - Temperatures & extremes
- Preferred by native wildlife

- Choose the right plant

Principle 2:
Water Efficiently

Water Efficiently

- Water is wasted due to:
  - Improper calibration
  - Excessive frequency
  - Turf or plant interference
  - Broken sprinkler heads
  - Misdirected sprinklers



Water Conservation Tips
- In the Landscape

- Consider reducing turf grass where practical
- Irrigate deeply (3/4”) to encourage drought resistance
- Use drought tolerant plants
- Use reclaimed water if available
- Install drip or micro irrigation

Advantages of Micro Irrigation

- Puts water where needed
- Erosion is minimized
- Decrease in evaporation
- Not as subject to wind drift
- Weed growth reduced
- Diseases minimized
- Flexibility in design & usage

Disadvantages of Micro-Irrigation

- High cost of initial set-up
- Complexity & variety of products
- Clogging of emitters
- An effective product has not been produced to be utilized in turf on sandy soils.
- Longer running times needed for proper watering.
- Easy to abuse by running too long.

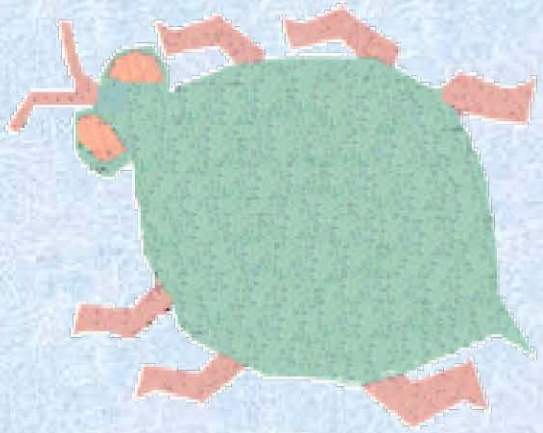
Establishment

Establishment period: the time it takes for a plant to regenerate enough roots to stay alive without irrigation.

- Roots grow to pre-transplanting length
- Trunk and shoot growth match pre-transplant rate
- Time: 3 - 4 months/ inch trunk caliper in Florida

  20-28 weeks for 3 gallon shrub

Principle 6:
Manage Yard Pests Responsibly



Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

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- Less than 1% of insects are pests.
- Beneficials naturally help keep pests under control.

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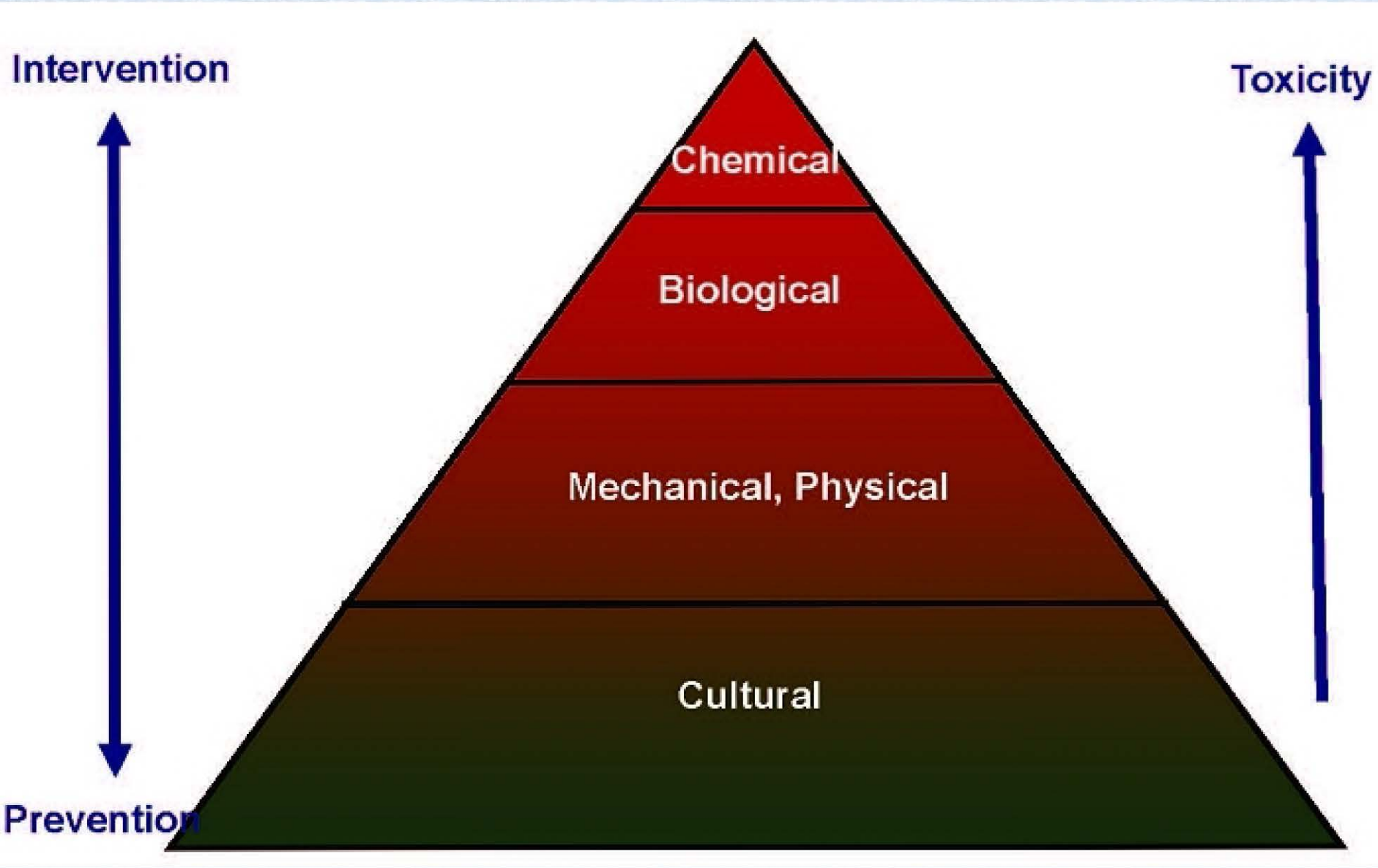
Green lynx spider

Green lacewing

Praying mantis


Intervention
Toxicity
Chemical
Biological
Mechanical, Physical
Cultural
Prevention

Cost Savings?

Cost Savings?

Cost Comparison

- Sustainable Garden (SG) cost 33% more to install
- Water use - SG uses 77% less
- Green waste - SG produces 66% less
- Maintenance labor - SG cost 68% less time

Is this Florida-Friendly?

Is this Florida-Friendly?

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