

Every drop of water that lands in your landscape eventually moves on, and may take with it residues resulting from landscaping practices.



Water that runs off of your property makes its way to ground water and surface waters including the Lake Worth Lagoon, the Everglades, and the Atlantic Ocean.



This runoff water may contain fertilizers that have been inappropriately applied, pesticides that were overused, and other contaminants. Miles from their site of application, fertilizer components (such as nitrogen) may upset the balance of aquatic life and vegetation, while pesticides and herbicides can harm plants and animals.



Lake Worth Lagoon Watershed



**To Learn More:**

**UF / IFAS Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service:** [pbcgov.com/coextension/](http://pbcgov.com/coextension/)

**Palm Beach County Florida Friendly Landscaping™ Program** (to certify your yard or for more resources): (561) 233-1759

**Palm Beach County Master Gardener Plant Clinic** (helpful for ID and advice): (561) 233-1750

**Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL):** [fyn.ifas.ufl.edu](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu)

**University of Florida Electronic Database Information Source** (EDIS - many publications): [edis.ifas.ufl.edu](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu)

**FFL Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design:** [fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/fyn\\_plant\\_selection\\_guide\\_v090110.pdf](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/fyn_plant_selection_guide_v090110.pdf)

**FYN Handbook** (learn about the 9 principles): [fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/materials/fyn\\_handbook\\_vsept09.pdf](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/materials/fyn_handbook_vsept09.pdf)

**South Florida Water Management District** (water use and restrictions): [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)

**Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative (LWLI):** [pbcgov.org/erm/lwli](http://pbcgov.org/erm/lwli)

**PBC MS4 Stormwater and Me Program:** [stormwaterandme.org](http://stormwaterandme.org)

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

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# Protect & Conserve *Palm Beach County's* Water & Environment



*Every drop that enters and exits your landscape makes a difference. Use Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles to protect our precious ground water, surface water, and the environment around you.*





**Right Plant, Right Place:** Familiarize yourself with site characteristics (soil, pH, sunlight, moisture available) and match with plants that will thrive. To reduce water usage and runoff, use plants that will flourish on the amount of rainfall we receive in Palm Beach County. Healthy plants filter runoff and slow erosion.

**Water Efficiently:** Water in the morning so plants aren't wet overnight. This reduces water loss and the chance of disease. Apply no more than ½" – ¾" of water per application (this reaches the entire top layer of our sandy soil, where most plant and tree roots are). Use rain barrels to collect water and rain sensors to turn off irrigation when it isn't needed.



**Reduce Storm Water Runoff:** Use pervious materials, such as plants, gravel, and porous concrete to slow and clean water runoff. Use berms and swales to keep storm water onsite and/or slow it down. Create rain gardens to take advantage of rainy weather.

**Manage Yard Pests Responsibly:** Scout frequently so pests and diseases can be noticed sooner, so that fewer, less toxic products will be needed to manage problems. Make sure the insects you see are pests before you treat them – more insects are beneficial than harmful. Spot treat pest problems with the least toxic method that will do the job, and avoid blanket applications.



**Mulch:** Use recycled mulch from a known source to help soil retain moisture, help protect plants from damage, and help reduce competition for water between desired plants and weeds.

**Recycle:** Compost (heat or worm activated) landscape and kitchen waste to use as a soil amendment and/or as mulch. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to serve as fertilizer and to improve the soil. Make sure clippings aren't left on streets and walkways, where they can be swept to our waterways as pollution.



**Fertilize Appropriately:**

Use UF/IFAS recommended fertilizer amounts according to the product label (it is a legal document). Avoid overfertilization – a major cause of insect and disease problems. Avoid fertilizing before rainy weather to keep products onsite and out of our waterways.



**Protect the Waterfront:**

Avoid fertilizing or leaving grass clippings within ten feet of any

water body. These items are harmful to our waterways, and could easily be carried over to the water body.

**Attract Wildlife:**

Reduce lawn area, increase vertical layering, and provide a water source. A diverse plant selection can provide wildlife with food sources. Beneficial insects can control pests, helping to reduce chemical use in the landscape.

