

## FFL Commercial and Common Area Recognition Checklist

By recognizing specific landscapes as Florida-Friendly, the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program honors clients’ efforts to conserve water and protect water quality and other natural resources. A Landscape Advisor should use this checklist to evaluate existing landscapes, referring to *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Landscape Advisor’s Manual*, if necessary. Page numbers in the right-hand column of this checklist refer to the, *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Handbook for Home Landscapes (2022)*, new construction and home landscapes are evaluated with separate checklists that can be found at <http://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/recognitions.htm>.

**Client Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 County: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you employ a lawn service? Company name \_\_\_\_\_

Is your lawn service Green Industries Best Management Practices certified? Yes or No (Circle one)

If performed, please fill in how often each of the services is performed:

Mowing	Weed Control	Fertilizer
Pruning	Landscape Beds	Pest Control

Landscapes made up predominately of rock, mulch, shell, synthetic turf, or other similar materials are not eligible for recognition.

There are two recognition levels available—Silver and Gold. The required practices for Silver and Gold recognition are shown below. The FFL Recognition is valid for 24 months from the date of recognition/re-recognition (unless revoked for non-compliance). Please contact [ffc@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:ffc@ifas.ufl.edu) for information on how to renew your recognition.

For a landscape to be awarded recognition or re-recognition under the FFL Program, the landscape must be in compliance with the checklist in effect at the time the landscape is evaluated for recognition/re-recognition. The current checklist may be found on the FFL website (<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/about-ffl/landscape-recognition/>).

The FFL Program reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to award or deny recognition to any landscape. The FFL Program further reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to revoke FFL Recognition if a landscape falls out of compliance with the checklist under which recognition/re-recognition was awarded.

### Required Practices for Silver (Check or indicate N/A)

**The following practices, when applicable to the landscape being evaluated, are required for Silver level recognition Note: In order to achieve Silver level recognition, the landscape must also satisfy the FFL Principle requirements set forth on pages 4-7):**

- Client confirms that landscape complies with all codes, laws, and ordinances., and HOA rules (if applicable).
- Landscape does not contain any plants found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment “Prohibited” list. (<http://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/assessments/?types=24208>). (p. 10)
- Most plants are placed in landscape locations that match their requirements for water, light, soil condition, wind tolerance, salt tolerance, mature size, etc.
- A FFL recommended mulch is maintained at a depth of 2-3 inches. (p.38)
- Volcano mulching is not practiced on site. (p. 38)
- Cypress mulch is not used. (p. 38)
- Spilled fertilizer is collected and disposed of properly. (p. 31)
- If fertilizer is used, it is not applied when heavy rain is forecast in the next 24 hours. (p. 31)
- If fertilizer is used, it is applied to turfgrass and landscape beds at less than or equal to the UF/IFAS-recommended rate. (p. 34)
- If pesticides are used: only affected plants and turf areas are treated with pesticide applications (spot treatments). (p. 46)

**If an irrigation system is present:**

- Irrigation system is calibrated to apply 1/2” to 3/4” of water per application. (p. 23)
- A functioning automatic rainfall shutoff device is maintained on an operational in-ground irrigation system. (p. 23)
- Irrigation system is free from leaks and broken emitters.
- Irrigation emitters apply water in correct spray patterns, minimizing overspray on impervious surfaces.
- The irrigation controller is set in compliance with water management district restrictions.

**If turfgrass is present:**

- Turf is mowed at the UF/IFAS-recommended height for the grass species. (p. 14)
- Grass clippings on sidewalks and driveways should be blown back into the turfgrass.
- Fertilizer is only applied when grass is actively growing. (p. 31)
- “Weed and Feed” or other combination products containing pesticide and fertilizer together are not used. (p. 31)

**Aesthetics:**

- Plants are not overgrown.
- Plants do not show signs of decline (untreated diseased, infested, or dead plants).
- Appropriate pruning practices are utilized. (p. 53)
- There are defined and maintained (routinely weeded and mulched) landscape beds.

**Required Practices for Gold** (Check or indicate N/A)

The following practices, along with the Silver level practices identified above (when applicable to the landscape being evaluated), are required for Gold level recognition. (Note: In order to achieve Gold level recognition, the landscape must also satisfy the FFL Principle requirements set forth on pages 4-7). (If the landscape has no in-ground irrigation system, credit can be given for satisfying the irrigation practices.)

- Landscape does not contain any plants found on the current UF/IFAS Assessment “Prohibited, Invasive, Invasive (No Uses), or High Invasion Risk” list. (<https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/assessments/?types=25451,1080,1074,24208>). (p. 10)
- All plants are placed in landscape locations that match their requirements for water, light, soil condition, wind tolerance, salt tolerance, mature size, etc.
- Not more than 50% of the irrigation system (by area) is high-volume.
- 100% of downspouts, if present, are directed onto lawn or landscaped areas, pervious surfaces, drainage swale, or is harvested in a rain barrel or rain garden. (p. 62)
- Spray and rotor heads are installed in separate zones.
- Efficient irrigation such as microirrigation and Multi Spray Multi Trajectory (MSMT) nozzles are installed and maintained the landscape.
- Integrated Pest Management is used for pests in the landscape. (p. 46)

<b>Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Practices</b>	
<b>FFL Principle #1: Right Plant, Right Place</b>	
	Trees and shrubs are positioned to improve the building’s heating and cooling capacity if applicable. (p.5)
	Maintained turfgrass is used for functional purposes (e.g., play area, erosion control, dog run, and nutrient uptake).

	Shrubs and groundcovers are used where grass is difficult to maintain. (pp. 9, 13)
	Trees and shrubs are located at an appropriate distance from foundations and hardscape based on mature size.
	Landscape contains at least 7 plant species.
	Plants are grouped by similar moisture requirements.
	<b>Total for Principle #1</b> (3 for Silver, 4 for Gold)
<b>Notes:</b>	
<b>FFL Principle #2: Water Efficiently</b> (If site does not have an in-ground irrigation system, credit can be given for satisfying all practices.)	
	Not more than 50 percent of the irrigation system (by area) is high-volume.
	Turfgrass and landscape plants are irrigated only as needed according to UF/IFAS recommendations and in compliance with any existing watering restrictions.
	A smart controller (evapotranspiration, soil moisture sensor, or similar) is installed and operational. (p.25)
	Separate irrigation zones for turf and landscape plants are installed and maintained.
	Spray and rotor heads are not mixed on the same irrigation zone.
	Low-flow irrigation is installed and maintained in plant and flower beds. (p. 24)
	The irrigation system is maintained seasonally to adjust spray patterns and repair clogs and leaks.
	Irrigation emitters rise above turfgrass height.
	Sprinklers and emitters shall be located at least two feet from any structure
	Sprinklers in low-lying areas have check valves.
	<b>Number of Requirements Met for Principle #2</b> (5 for Silver, 7 for Gold)
<b>FFL Principle #3: Fertilize Appropriately</b> (If fertilizer is not used, credit can be given for satisfying all practices.)	
	A soil nutrient test has been performed within the last year prior to applying fertilizer.

	No supplemental fertilization (except for palms or correcting identified nutrient deficiencies) is used in the landscape once plants are established.
	A broadcast spreader with an operational deflector shield is used to apply fertilizer, or fertilizer is applied by hand. (p. 31)
	A soil pH test has been performed prior to installing new plant material.
	<b>Number of Requirements Met for Principle #3</b> (2 for Silver, 3 for Gold)
<b>FFL Principle #4: Mulch</b>	
	Self-mulching areas exist under trees where leaves can remain as they fall, if applicable.
	Mulch is pulled away (12"-18") from the base of trees. A thin (1 inch) layer of mulch can be placed over the root ball for aesthetic reasons. (p. 38)
	Mulch is pulled away (1"-2") from shrubs.
	<b>Number of Requirements Met for Principle #4</b> (2 for Silver, 3 for Gold)
<b>FFL Principle #5: Attract Wildlife</b>	
	There is plant material that provides habitat, shelter and/or food sources for wildlife. (pp. 41-42)
	Host and nectar plants are present for butterflies, hummingbirds and/or other pollinators. (p. 42)
	Wildlife shelters exist and are maintained in landscape (e.g., bird or bat houses, snags, brush piles, etc.)
	Planting a variety of trees, shrubs and groundcovers that increases vertical layering (layers of vegetation).
	<b>Number of Requirements Met for Principle # 5</b> (3 for Silver, 4 for Gold)
<b>Notes:</b>	
<b>FFL Principle #6: Manage Yard Pests Responsibly</b>	
	The least toxic method of pest control is used first.
	Landscape contractor is able to properly identify pest and disease issues in their landscape or has brought samples to their local Extension office.
	If chemical treatment is necessary, landscape contractor uses spot treatments.

	Landscape is checked every 1-2 weeks for signs of pest damage.
	<b>Number of Requirements Met for Principle #6</b> (3 for Silver, 4 for Gold)
<b>FFL Principle #7: Recycle</b>	
	Landscape waste (tree trimmings, fallen leaves, pine needles) is used on site and/or removed and recycled.
	Grass clippings are left on the landscape after mowing.
	Palm trees are pruned using the FFL recommended 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock pruning recommendations. (p. 55)
	Shrubs are pruned so the bottom is wider than the top. (p. 56)
	<b>Number of Requirements Met for Principle #7</b> (3 for Silver, 4 for Gold)
<b>FFL Principle #8: Reduce Stormwater Runoff</b>	
	Erosion prone areas are managed to minimize erosion.
	50% or more of roof runoff (with or without downspouts) drains onto landscaped areas or pervious surfaces, if applicable. (p. 62)
	Pet waste stations available in common areas.
	Oil and other spills are cleaned up from parking lots and other public hardscape areas.
	A cistern, rain barrel or other water harvesting practices are used with proper mosquito control/prevention techniques in place. (p. 63)
	Rain gardens, swales, and berms are used to hold/contain/catch and filter stormwater runoff. (pp. 61-63 )
	<b>Number of Requirements Met for Principle #8</b> (3 for Silver, 4 for Gold)
<b>Notes:</b>	

**FFL Principle #9: Protect the Waterfront**

(If site is not on the waterfront, credit can be given for satisfying all practices.)

	Shoreline (riparian zone and littoral zones) is kept free of invasive exotic plant material. (p. 67)
	Seawalls, rip rap, or gabions are used where appropriate to control erosion. (p. 67)
	Plant material is located to provide at least a 10-foot low-maintenance zone to buffer, filter and prevent erosion. (p. 67)
	A low-maintenance zone of at least 10 feet or determined by ordinance whichever is greater has been established around the water body. No mowing, pesticides, fertilizer, or irrigation water is applied in this area. (p. 67)
	Appropriate FFL plants are installed and properly maintained in the low-maintenance zone.
	<b>Number of Requirements Met for Principle #9</b> (1 for Silver, 2 for Gold)

**Notes:**

Previous Review date (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Review Team Members Present: \_\_\_\_\_

With permission, can the FFL program use the landscape for training purposes? Yes

No

Contact name and phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Photos were taken?            Yes            No

Reviewed by Extension staff member: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

	Number of Principles met	Silver	Gold
<b>#1 Right Plant Right Place</b> (3 for Silver, 4 for Gold)			
<b>#2 Water Efficiently</b> (5 for Silver, 7 for Gold)			
<b>#3 Fertilize Appropriately</b> (2 for Silver, 3 for Gold)			
<b>#4 Mulch</b> (2 for Silver, 3 for Gold)			
<b>#5 Attract Wildlife</b> (3 for Silver, 4 for Gold)			
<b>#6 Manage Yard Pests Responsibly</b> (3 for Silver, 4 for Gold)			
<b>#7 Recycle</b> (3 for Silver, 4 for Gold)			
<b>#8 Reduce Stormwater Runoff</b> (3 for Silver, 4 for Gold)			
<b>#9 Protect the Waterfront</b> (1 for Silver, 2 for Gold)			

Recognition Level Awarded: \_\_\_\_\_ Silver \_\_\_\_\_ Gold \_\_\_\_\_ None