Dear “Broward Green Bites” Readers,

We are excited to share the 2023 Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Broward Green Bites newsletter sharing our latest Broward County landscape recognition projects. The FFL program is an educational outreach program informing homeowners and professionals how they can be more environmentally friendly with their landscape care practices and how this can help protect Florida’s natural environment for future generations. We can all play a role in protecting Florida’s natural resources.

Enjoy our summer edition.

Warm Regards,

A Note From the Broward County’s Urban Horticulture Extension Agent...

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2023 Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Recognitions

Sign the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ pledge! Signing the pledge signals your commitment to protecting Florida's environment.

Please indicate one or more behaviors you pledge to adopt within the next 6 months to make your home more Florida-Friendly.
Celebrating our Summer 2023 Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Recognitions

1. MGV Laura Metrick FFL Landscape Recognition
   - Estimated Water Savings: 53,884 Gallons Annual Water

2. MGV Keith London FFL Landscape Recognition
   - Estimated Water Savings: 159,777 Gallons Annual Water

3. Meet UF/IFAS Intern Sarah Marc

An Equal Opportunity Institution and Employer
Project 1: MGV Laura Metrick Landscape

Silver FFL Certification
Project Location: Dania Beach, Florida
2,389 sq ft for landscape.

“I LOVE nature, and I love to garden to be out there with nature. Orchids are my hobby, but my yard is my sanctuary. Keeping it Florida Friendly, conserving water, and remaining eco friendly is truly important to me. Our future depends on it.”
-Laura M. MGV Class 2022

FFL Principle #2: Water Efficiently
- No in-ground irrigation - homeowner only waters manually as needed

Impact Statement
In Florida in 2023, these efforts resulted in a combined estimated water saving of 53,884 gallons of water annually, based on Extension clients’ reported behavior change.

This is enough water to supply nearly 1 households with water per year.

This water savings is valued annually at a total of $178.36 in water bill savings for participating households.

and $140.10 in water delivery costs for utilities statewide.

FFL Principle #5: Attract Wildlife

An Equal Opportunity Institution
"I LOVE nature, and I love to garden to be out there with nature. Orchids are my hobby, but my yard is my sanctuary. Keeping it Florida Friendly, conserving water, and remaining eco friendly is truly important to me. Our future depends on it." – MGV Class 2022 & Water Ambassador-Laura M.  
-Laura M. MGV Class 2022
Project 2: MGV Keith London Landscape

Gold FFL Certification  Project Location: Hallandale Beach, Florida

5,484 sq ft for landscape

What motivates people to adopt and model sustainable landscape practices in their urban environment?

Florida-Friendly Landscaping -My Slice of Paradise

Article by UF/IFAS Extension Broward County Urban Horticulture Agent Lorna Bravo

What motivates people to adopt and model sustainable landscape practices in their urban landscapes?

Meet Broward County Master Gardener Volunteer Keith London. Keith graduated from the UF/IFAS Extension Broward County Master Gardener Volunteer program class of 2000.

PLEASE READ OUR LATEST FFL BLOG & 3-MINUTE VIDEO TO HELP YOU GET STARTED ON YOUR NEW LANDSCAPE JOURNEY
MGV Keith London FFL Gold Certification

Project Location: Hallandale Beach, Florida
Landscape Area: 5,484 Square Feet.

FFL Principle #1: Right Plant Right Place

FFL YARD REMOVED THE FOLLOWING INVASIVE PLANTS:

- Surinam Cherry (Eugenia uniflora)

South Florida homeowners should no longer plant Surinam cherry. If you have any shrubs in your yard, consider removing them to help curb their spread. It moves into wild areas and displaces native plant species.

Photo credit: Keith London-MGV 2000-Broward County Water Ambassador Team

Dragon fruit growing since 1998 (varieties)
Property is located on a Waterfront

- No grass clippings, pesticides fertilizer, or irrigation water is applied in this zone.
- Established a border of low-maintenance plants along the shoreline to absorb nutrients and provide wildlife habitat.

Project Location: Hallandale Beach, Florida
Landscape Area: 5,484 Square Feet.

Principle #9: Protect the Waterfront

Low Maintenance Zone.
Growing Dragon fruit in the home landscape
Meet Our New UF Summer Intern

Sarah Marc recently graduated the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science.

Did You Know?

Rainfall in Broward County is often enough to meet annual needs of South Floridians’ landscapes.

- Rain gauges help track rainfall reaching a landscape.
- Rain barrels can capture and store water for future use.

In a survey of the 2023 Master Gardener Volunteers class, 87% of the participants found it helpful to use a rain gauge to control their irrigation systems.

- This implies rain gauges may be a way for UF/IFAS Extension agents to connect urban dwellers with their water behavior.

Rain barrels and rain gauges can help homeowners reduce runoff leaving the landscape. This can reduce water pollution, save residents money, and help conserve water quantity.

SARAH’S PROJECT

Sarah will work with Broward County’s Extension urban horticulture Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program. Her project supports the mission of the program by creating short 3-minute educational videos focusing on the importance of FFL environmental principles and how residents can start implementing them in their urban landscapes.

She plans to use her project to connect with urban dwellers and inspire action to reduce water usage and preserve water quality.
As a Broward County Summer Intern for 2023, Sarah worked with the Broward County’s Extension urban horticulture Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) program.

Part of her project is a three-minute educational video. The video provides an overview of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program and the recognition process. This involved visiting the new Flamingo Garden Butterfly Conservatory for a pre-site evaluation. The visit let Sarah become familiar with the evaluation process and gain footage to use in the video. The video serves as an introduction for Broward County residents interested in having their landscape be Florida-Friendly.

Creating the video has improved Sarah’s communication skills and understanding of how Florida-Friendly Landscaping can help conserve water and preserve water quality. It aligns with Sarah’s goal of bridging science and communication to benefit people and the environment, particularly with empowering Broward County’s urban dwellers to reduce water usage and preserve water quality.
Interested in having your urban yard Florida-Friendly Landscape™ recognized?

STEP 1: WATCH OUR 3-MINUTE VIDEO
(Video created by UF Intern Sarah Marc)

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