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Just because a curbside mail box looks utilitarian, doesn't mean it can't also have attractive landscaping. With a little planning, your mail box can enhance the curb appeal of your home. There are several things you'll need to consider during your planning phase.



FIGURE 1. CREDITS: CREATIVE COMMONS

### Postal Regulations:

Avoid any plants, such as vines, that can obstruct the letter carrier from their duties.

### City Ordinances:

Before you start planning, contact your city building department to determine what restrictions, such as plant height limits, may exist before plan your design and select plants.

### Utility Lines:

Many easement areas are also places for power, utility, or sewer lines, so call 811 to request the free marking service as part of your planning process so you know where you can dig!

### Homeowner's Associations:

Some associations restrict or have specific requirements regarding landscaping that must be adhered to, so check before you begin planning.

### Tips for Success

- Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles provide a wealth of information to help you be successful in your plant choices as well as maintenance after you plant.
- You'll have the best chance for success when you choose native plants, but there are many other non-natives that are attractive and will do quite well.
- Your design should reflect the design of your home. If you have a sleek modern house, a cottage garden would look out of place around your modern mail box.
- Observe the location to keep track of the changing light conditions in the surrounding area: full sun all day, dappled shade, full sun in the morning but shade in the afternoon?
- You'll want hardy plants that can withstand the possibility of vehicles possibly running over the plants or being splashed from passing cars during wet weather.

## Design Ideas

You can certainly plant directly into the ground, or try using landscape pavers to create a raised bed.

A bed can be a small radius or include a larger area.

Plant seasonal annuals and change them out with the seasons.

Perennials offer the opportunity to plant once, then just maintain.

You can edge your bed with bricks, landscape rocks, landscape edging.

With a little research and planning, your curbside mailbox will be a welcoming view to visitors and passersby.

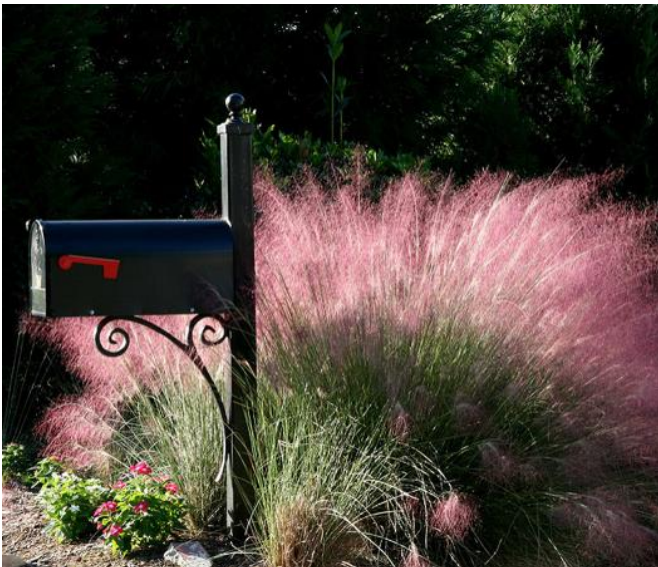


FIGURE 2. CREDITS: CREATIVE COMMONS

## Factsheet Layout by Kaitlin Hammersley, Master Gardener, UF/IFAS Extension, Pinellas County

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