ENH1177

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Pattern Book:

Sample plant lists and designs for four Florida regions

USDA HARDINESS ZONE 9B, SOUTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

Gail Hansen, Kelly Perez, and Esen Momol[2]

Purpose

THE DESIGN AND maintenance of landscapes in residential yards has a significant impact on water shortages and declining water quality in many counties in Florida. Maintenance of traditional landscape plantings can require a large amount of water, fertilizer, and pesticides, which can be a serious environmental threat to Florida's water bodies.

As part of a broad effort to improve water quality, the following landscape guidelines were developed for USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 9B in South Central Florida to guide the design and installation of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) in residential neighborhoods (Figure 1). By adopting Florida-Friendly principles for residential yards, homeowners can create environmentally sound landscapes that conserve and protect both water and energy. Homeowners with FFL yards enjoy attractive landscapes and wildlife (Figure 2), save time and money, and protect the quality of Florida's water by reducing pollution in water bodies.

FIGURE 1. Florida–Friendly landscape

FIGURE 2. River birch (*Betula nigra*) in Vera Lea Rinker Native Plant Garden, Stetson University, Deland, Florida

How to Use this Document

Step 1 – Review the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles and general design principles.

Step 2 – Note the activity zones for residential yards and the design intent for each zone.

Step 3 – Analyze your yard to determine site conditions in each activity zone.

Step 4 – Determine which plant groups are appropriate for your site conditions.

[1] This document is ENH1177, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date March 2011. Visit the EDIS website at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu.

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Step 5 – Refer to the example master plan layouts for organization suggestions.

Step 6 – Check the plant tables for your site condition and choose a mix of plants with a variety of textures, colors, sizes, and shapes.

Step 7 – Note the recommended irrigation schedule.

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Principles

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

The intent of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) is to use resource-efficient plants and sustainable maintenance practices and materials to conserve water and reduce negative impacts on water bodies and wildlife habitats. The primary design concept is "right plant, right place," which means choosing resource-efficient plants (those that use less water, pesticides, and fertilizer) that will grow and remain healthy with minimal care under the site conditions (Figure 3). Choosing the right plant requires an analysis of the site, including soil, sun/shade patterns, moisture, and existing vegetation. The health of the existing vegetation provides clues to specific site conditions. Look for healthy plants and use plants with the same growing requirements.

Florida-Friendly Design Principles

- Choose the **right plant for the right place** to minimize resource use.
- **Reduce turf** to a small but functional area and replace large turf areas with low, spreading groundcover or drought-tolerant plants.
- **Plant trees** for shade on the east, west, and south sides of the house.
- **Shade the air conditioning unit** with trees rather than shrubs.
- **Direct water flow** in the yard and use plants to catch and filter rainwater before it flows into water bodies or the stormwater system.
- Use plants to **attract wildlife** throughout the yard.
- **Specialty gardens**, such as butterfly gardens, can be created by grouping plants to provide food and shelter.
- Incorporate **mulched areas**, gravel areas, pathways, and patios in the yard to provide access and spatial organization.

FIGURE 3. Lantana (*Lantana depressa*) in Vera Lea Rinker Native Plant Garden, Stetson University, Deland, Florida

General Landscape Design Principles

- **Organization:** Create outdoor "rooms" by using pathways, hardscapes, and plants to divide and organize spaces.
- **Proportion:** Keep the size of the plants proportional to the house and spaces in the yard.
- **Repetition:** Repeat plant materials for a unified and cohesive look, with just enough variety for interest.
- **Variety:** Make the yard interesting by varying plant sizes (especially heights), color, texture, and shape.
- **Composition:** Group and arrange plants in overlapping masses based on size, form, color, and growing requirements.
- **Emphasis:** Use dramatically different plants as focal points to attract attention.

Design Intent for Activity Zones

PRIVATE ZONE – BACK YARD

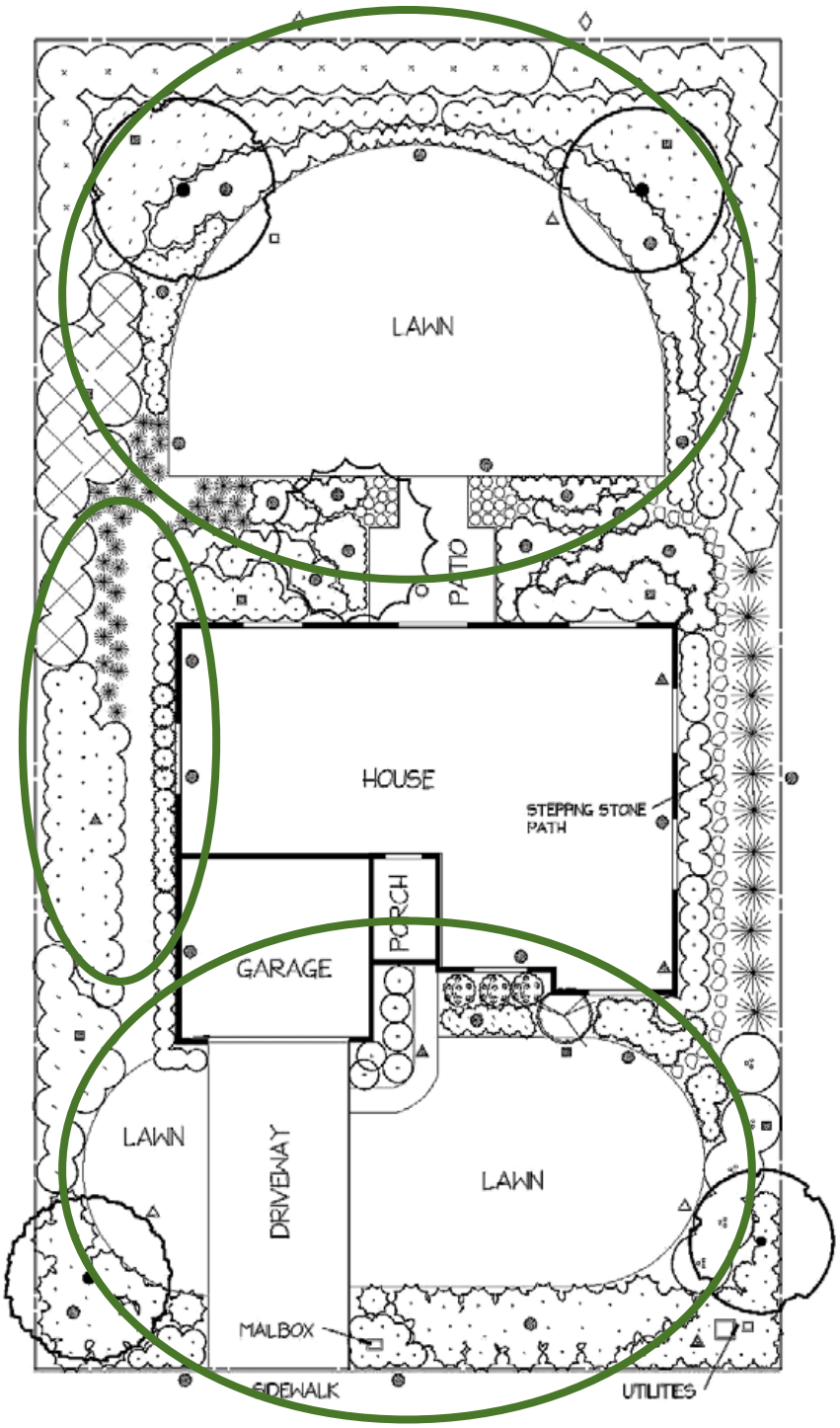
- Create comfortable microclimates for the user (sun/shade areas).
- Create activity areas for children's play and dogs.
- Create entertainment and dining areas.
- Include pathways for circulation.
- Screen for privacy from exterior views.
- Design for specialty gardens (butterfly, rain, vegetable).
- Provide access to utility meters and vents.
- Use more low-maintenance, hardy plants.

UTILITY/WORK ZONE – SIDE YARDS

- Screen utilities (AC unit, pool pumps, etc.).
- Screen for privacy from exterior views.
- Provide a yard work area (compost bin, work bench).
- Include pathways for circulation.

PUBLIC ZONE – FRONT YARD

- Design for curb appeal and property value.
- Design for high visibility—use a variety of color, form, and texture in plants.
- Highlight front yard with good-quality specimen plants.
- Direct view to front entry with focal plants.
- Blend with neighborhood (don't overdesign for area).
- Consider safety for visitors and delivery people.
- Choose plants with tidy growth habits for walkways.



Inventory and Analysis of Site Conditions

Inventory – Note the following on the base map:

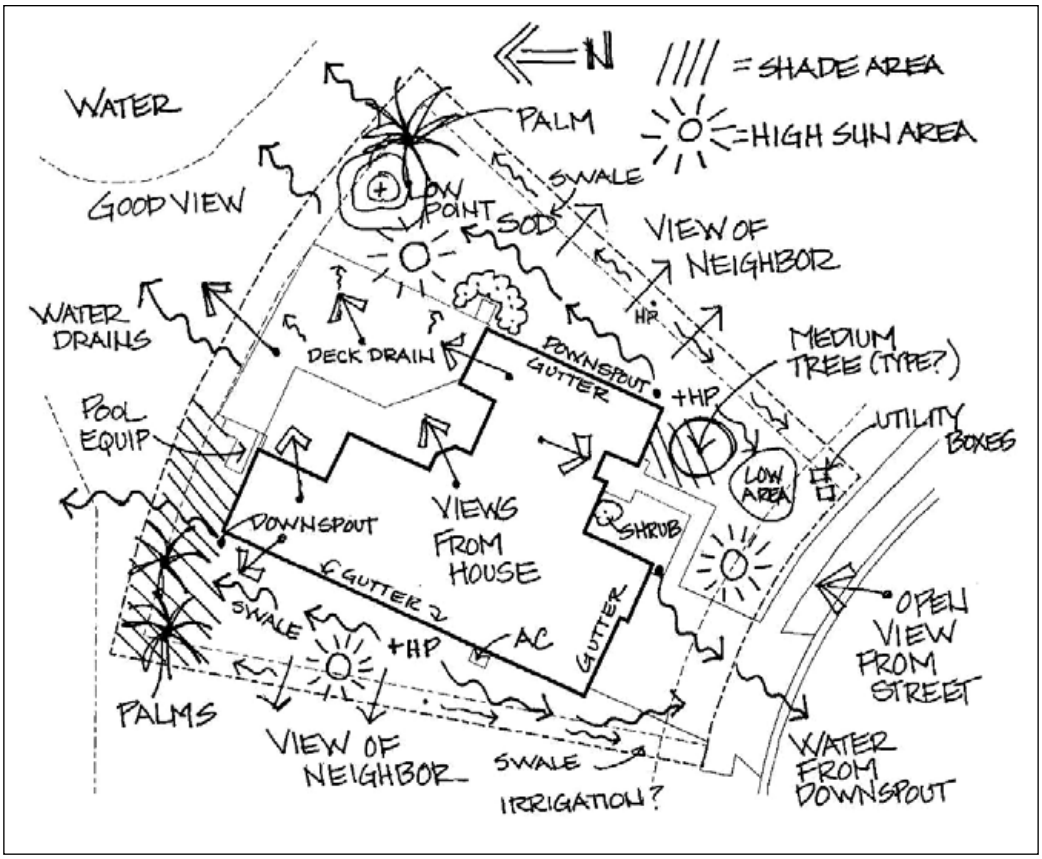
- Utility location and building easements
- Areas of sun, shade, and part shade
- Views from the house, street, and the neighbors
- Direction of water flow
- Low areas and high points
- Soil characteristics (type)
- Vegetation to keep
- Exotic, invasive vegetation to remove
- Location of gutter/downspouts
- Location of irrigation heads
- House type (architecture)
- Color and materials of house and hardscape
- Window and door locations and window height
- Depth of building overhangs
- Circulation routes
- Maintenance problems (inaccessible areas, bare spots, erosion, etc.)

Site inventory and analysis is the process of recording all site conditions on a plan view base sheet and analyzing the conditions to guide design decisions and determine actions to be taken.

Analysis – Determine actions to be taken to resolve problems:

- Plant shrubs to screen (hide) or open (frame) a view or utilities.
- Collect stormwater with gutters and rain barrels and/or redirect and harvest water.*
- Plant trees for shade or clear them for sun.
- Relocate or create circulation routes to provide adequate access.
- Remove old, overgrown vegetation, or relocate if possible.
- Test soil and amend with compost if necessary.*
- Remove exotic, invasive vegetation.*

*Contact the local UF/IFAS extension office for more information.



Plant Groups for Site Conditions

Plant Groups

Plants groups are based on the most appropriate plants for specific site locations and conditions. For example, groups A1 to A3 include plants that are appropriate for the front entry and other areas of the front yard. Groups B1 and B2 include plants that are better suited under windows or along walls. Group C plants are appropriate along property lines and fences. Group D includes plants that work well under trees. Group E includes plants for a variety of specialty gardens.

Each plant group was created by matching the physical characteristics and functional attributes of the plants to specific site conditions and user needs in each activity zone. Consideration was given to the typical type of activities (play, entertaining, walking), building and hardscape conditions (walkways, utilities, windows), and the type of user (family, delivery people) for each zone. Other considerations included maintenance practices, accessibility, privacy, and safety issues.

Plant choices for each group were based on drought tolerance, regional suitability, low maintenance (pruning), native status, local availability, attractiveness, and cost. Plants were also chosen to facilitate use and create habitats. This publication includes descriptions of the characteristics of the plants in each group, examples of planting plans, design suggestions, and plant lists for each group.

Plant Characteristics: Lists the physical and aesthetic characteristics of plants appropriate for each site condition.

Example Planting Plans: The planting plan examples give suggested layouts and arrangements for plant materials and bed lines for Zone 9B. Optional master plans show different design and layout possibilities.

Design Tips: Include photos of typical site conditions (Figures 4 and 5 are examples of typical problems) with suggested design solutions.

Plant Tables: Include the plant name, size, sun and shade requirements, and native status. Native plants are indicated by an asterisk (*) by the plant name.

Site Conditions

Group A1: Front Entries and Patios
Group A2: Along Sidewalks and Walkways
Group A3: Around Mailboxes and Utilities
Group B1: Under Windows
Group B2: Along Walls
Group C1: Along Property Lines
Group C2: Along Fences
Group D: Under Trees

FIGURE 4. Entry lacks interest.

FIGURE 5. Shrubs along wall are overtrimmed.

Group E: Specialty Gardens – Butterfly Garden, Water Edge, and Rain Garden

Design Characteristics for Plant Groups

Group A1: Front Entry/Patio

- Low-growing and compact plants typically retain their form without sprawling or growing over horizontal surfaces. The clean growth habit allows trimming to be kept to a minimum, and walkways are safer for visitors and delivery people.
- Colorful plants are good choices for focal points because they capture the viewer's attention and draw the eye to the entry or patio.
- Specimen plants with bold forms are also used at front entrances to create focal points from the street.
- Medium to coarse texture and complex flowers and foliage patterns make planted areas interesting for close-up viewing in the patio.
- Medium to small trees around the patio provide an overhead plane that gives the feeling of enclosure and protects from the sun.

Group A2: Along Sidewalks and Walkways

- Low-growing, nonsprawling plants with clumping growth habits keep views open and pathways clean and clear of tripping hazards (Figure 6).
- Arching, weeping, and mounding forms that brush the pathway soften the hard edge.

FIGURE 6. Neat clumping plants keep walkway clear.

Group A3: Around Mailboxes and Utilities

- Low or medium shrubs around AC units block airflow to and from the unit; use tree canopies to shade unit instead.
- Plants with clean growth habits tend to retain their original form and require less pruning to prevent interference with access to mailboxes and utilities.
- Plants that do not attract biting or stinging insects and don't have thorns or sharp points help prevent insect bites and injury to mail carriers and meter readers (Figure 7).

FIGURE 7. Soft plants supported by a trellis control plants around the mailbox.

Groups B1 and B2: Under Windows and Along Walls

- Medium shrubs cover the lower wall and reduce the visual mass of the wall.
- Shrubs with soft/fine texture and flexible branches are easy to prune and reduce the incidence of injury when accessing the wall for maintenance (Figure 8).
- Plants with medium mature heights fill the wall space beneath the window without covering the window.
- Plants with soft texture, flexible branches, and loose foliage (no thorns or stiff leaves) ensure easy pruning and access to windows for maintenance and storm shutters. Flexible branches also allow for emergency exits if needed.
- Small trees with low canopies screen and shade windows.

FIGURE 8. Small, fine-textured shrubs allow easy access to porch railing for maintenance.

Groups C1 and C2: Along Property Lines and Fences

- Fast-growing, upright shrubs with dense foliage provide maximum screening and greater privacy.
- Evergreen shrubs provide year-round buffers.
- Plants with dense foliage and clean growth habits hide fences and make maintenance easier.
- For complete coverage, match the mature height of the plant to the height of the fence.
- Attractive plants are used on both sides of front yard fences to hide the fence from view.

Group D: Under Trees

- Small plants (with small root balls) minimize plant and tree root interference.
- Groundcovers with vining and spreading habits are good choices to cover large areas under trees.
- Plants with larger foliage hide fallen leaves under deciduous trees (Figure 9).
- Shade conditions will be either filtered or dense and may vary with the time of year.

FIGURE 9. Large shrubs under the cypress hide needles shed in the fall at the Vera Lea Rinker Native Plant Garden, Stetson University, Deland, Florida.

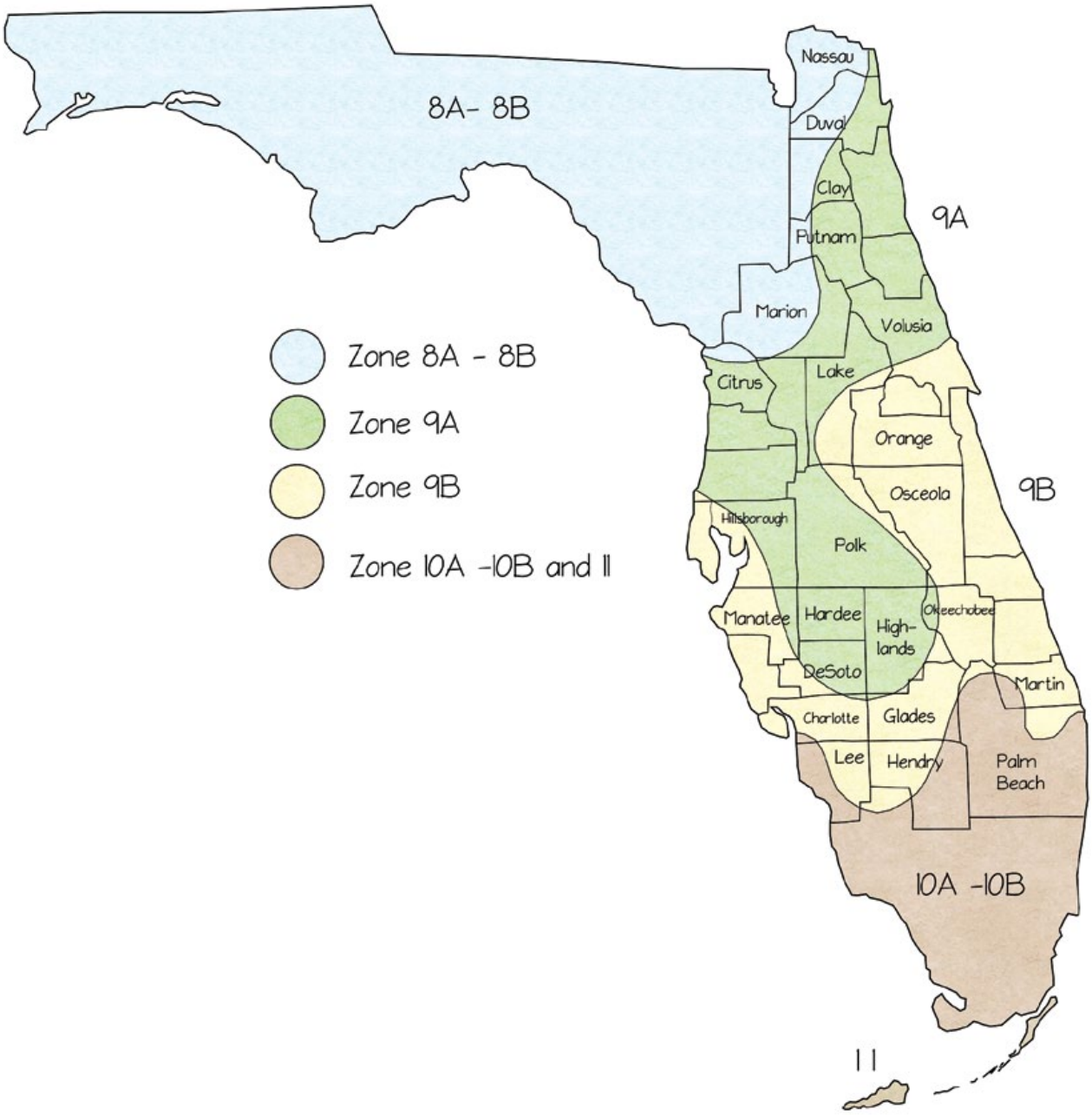
Group E: Specialty Gardens – Butterfly Garden, Water Edge, and Rain Garden

- Rain gardens require plants that tolerate wet and dry conditions.
- Color, food, and shelter are important for butterfly gardens (Figure 10).
- Attractive plants that provide a buffer and help clean the water should be used along the water's edge.

FIGURE 10. Wildflowers attract butterflies at the Vera Lea Rinker Native Plant Garden, Stetson University, Deland, Florida.

USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 9B

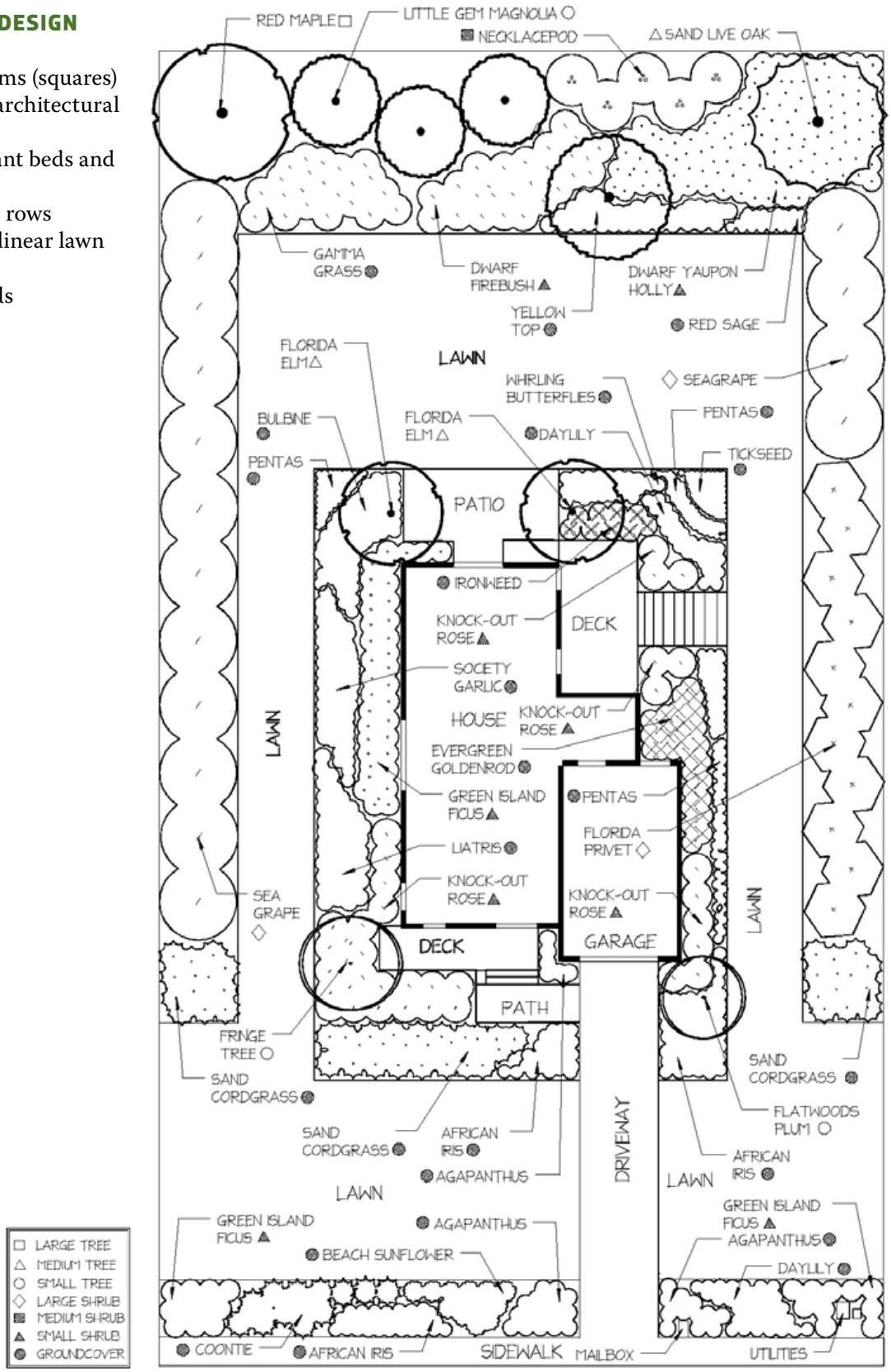
The USDA Plant Hardiness Zones are used to determine which plants will grow in which regions based on cold hardiness. Individual plants are assigned to a zone that indicates the lowest temperature the plant can tolerate in the winter. The plants listed in the plant tables in this publication are for Zone 9B in South Central Florida. The northern limit line for Zone 9B runs through Volusia, Lake, Polk, Highlands, Desoto, Manatee, and Hillsborough Counties. The southern limit line between Zones 9B and 10A runs through Martin, Palm Beach, Glades, Hendry, Lee, and Charlotte Counties.



Example Planting Plan Layout for Zone 9B – Formal Geometric Design

FORMAL GEOMETRIC DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS

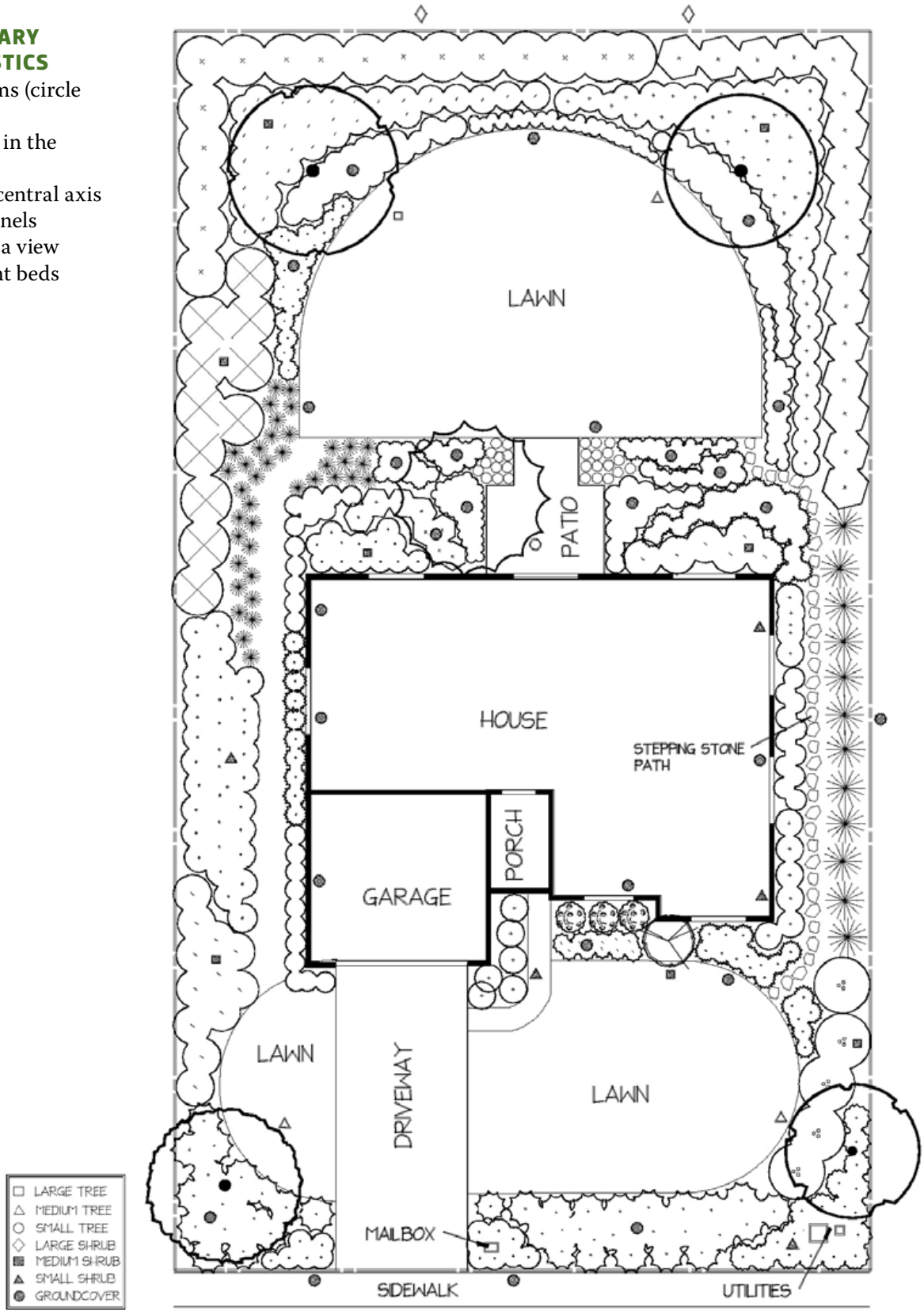
1. Use of geometric forms (squares)
2. Structured, defined architectural look
3. Straight edges on plant beds and 90-degree corners
4. Plants in long, linear rows
5. Use of well-defined, linear lawn panels
6. Long, open viewsheds



Optional Planting Plan Layout – Formal Contemporary Design

FORMAL CONTEMPORARY DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS

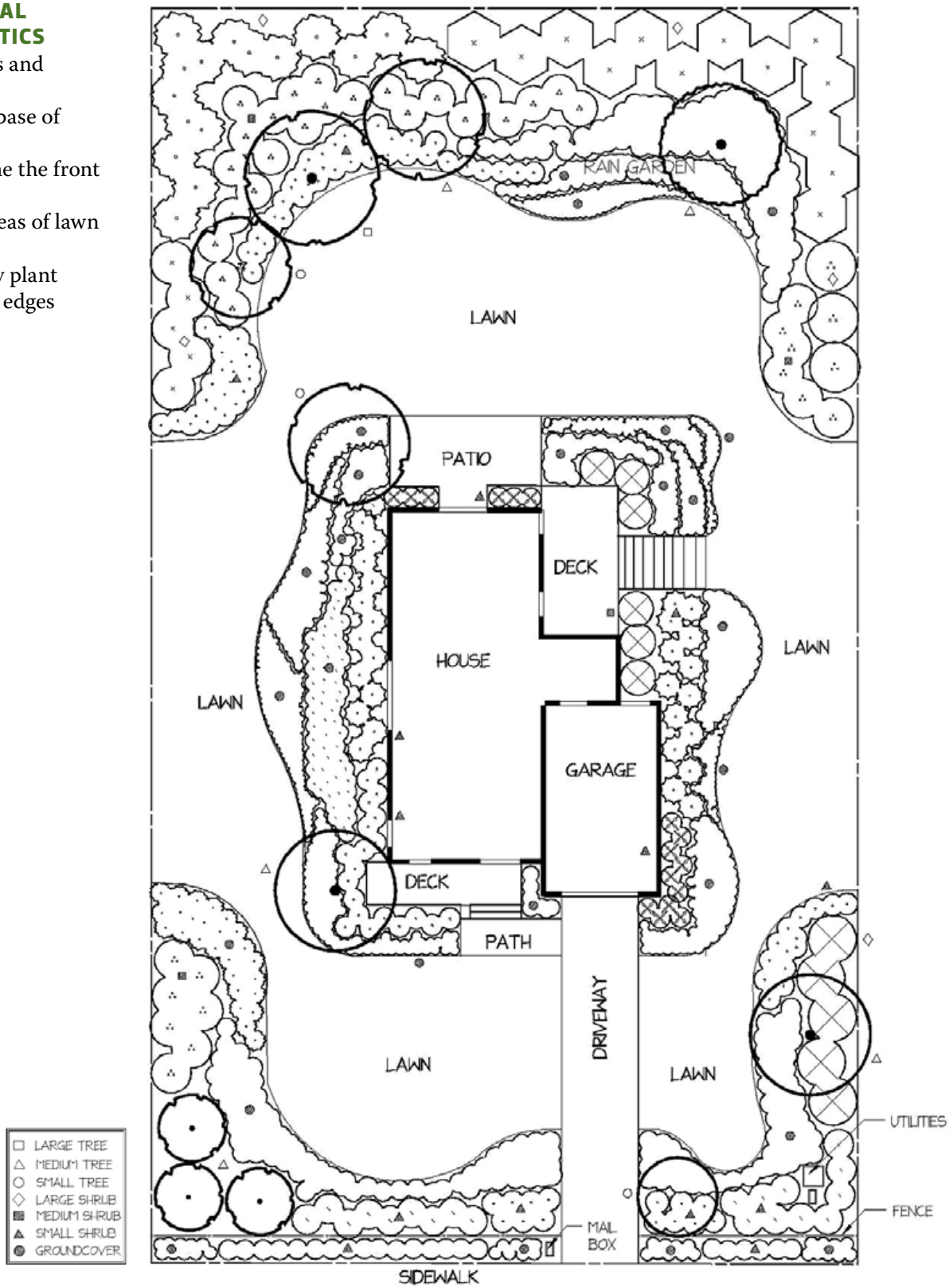
1. Use of geometric forms (circle segments)
2. Symmetrical balance in the layout
3. Organized around a central axis
4. Well-defined lawn panels
5. Use of trees to frame a view
6. Straight edges in plant beds



Optional Planting Plan Layout – Informal Traditional Design

INFORMAL TRADITIONAL DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS

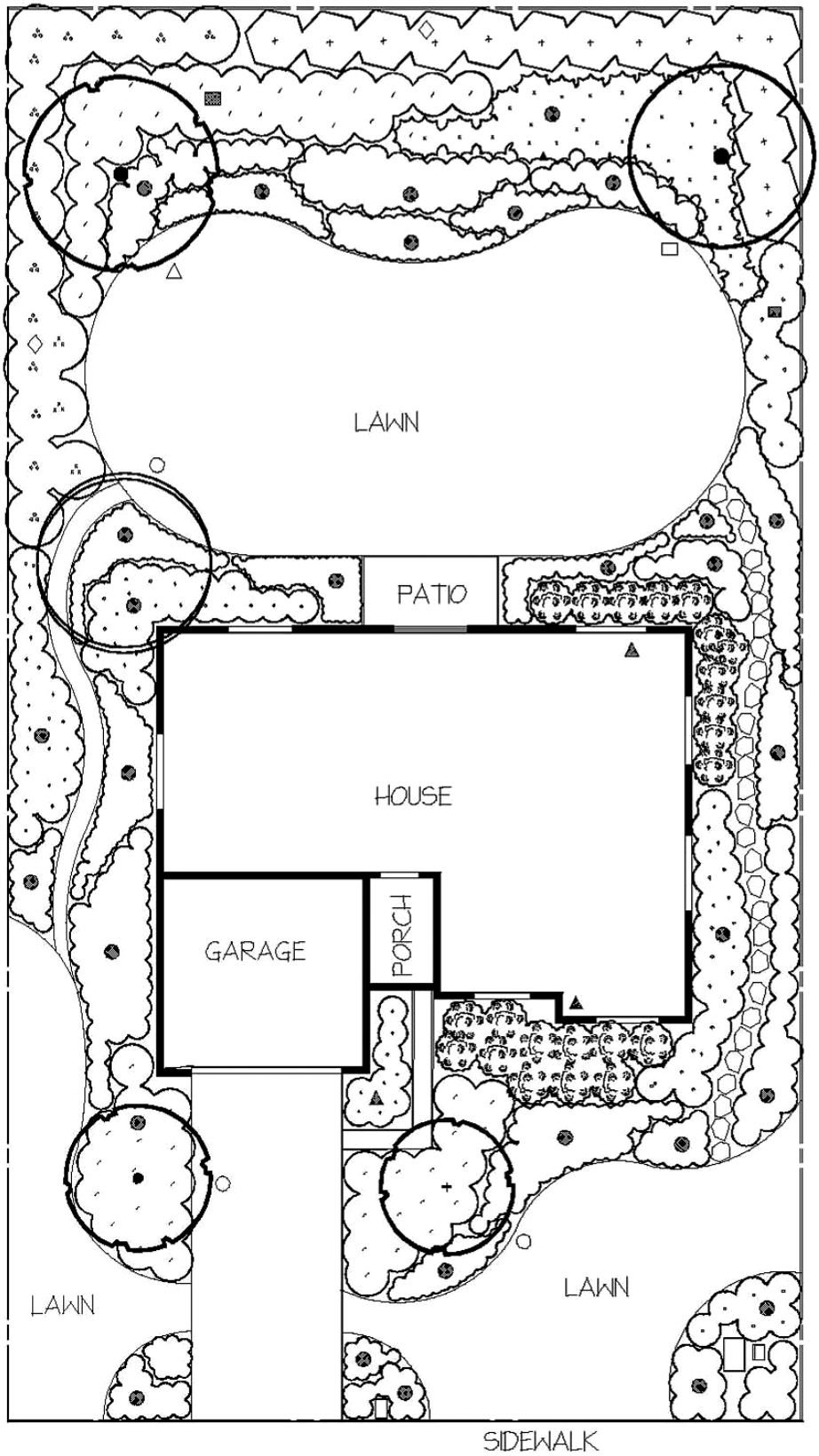
1. Meandering pathways and bedlines
2. Foundation plants at base of house
3. Use of a fence to define the front yard
4. Curving, sweeping areas of lawn
5. Clustered trees
6. Lawn areas defined by plant beds with curvilinear edges



Optional Planting Plan Layout – Informal Naturalistic Design

INFORMAL NATURALISTIC DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS

1. Meandering pathways and bedlines
2. Use of materials in natural forms, such as stepping stones and weathered wood
3. Use of forms that mimic nature
4. Use of organic, free-flowing forms
5. Curving, sweeping areas of lawn
6. Curvilinear edges on plant beds



The plant group/ site condition is listed here on the page.

Using the Design Tip Sheets — Example: Group A1 – Front Entry

Photos of each site condition addressed in the plant groups are included to help the reader recognize the design considerations.

Before Photo: This text describes the condition illustrated in the photo, including maintenance and design considerations.

Desired Characteristics

Look here for the desired aesthetic and structural characteristics of the plants. Comments include growth habit, texture, form, size, and maintenance issues.

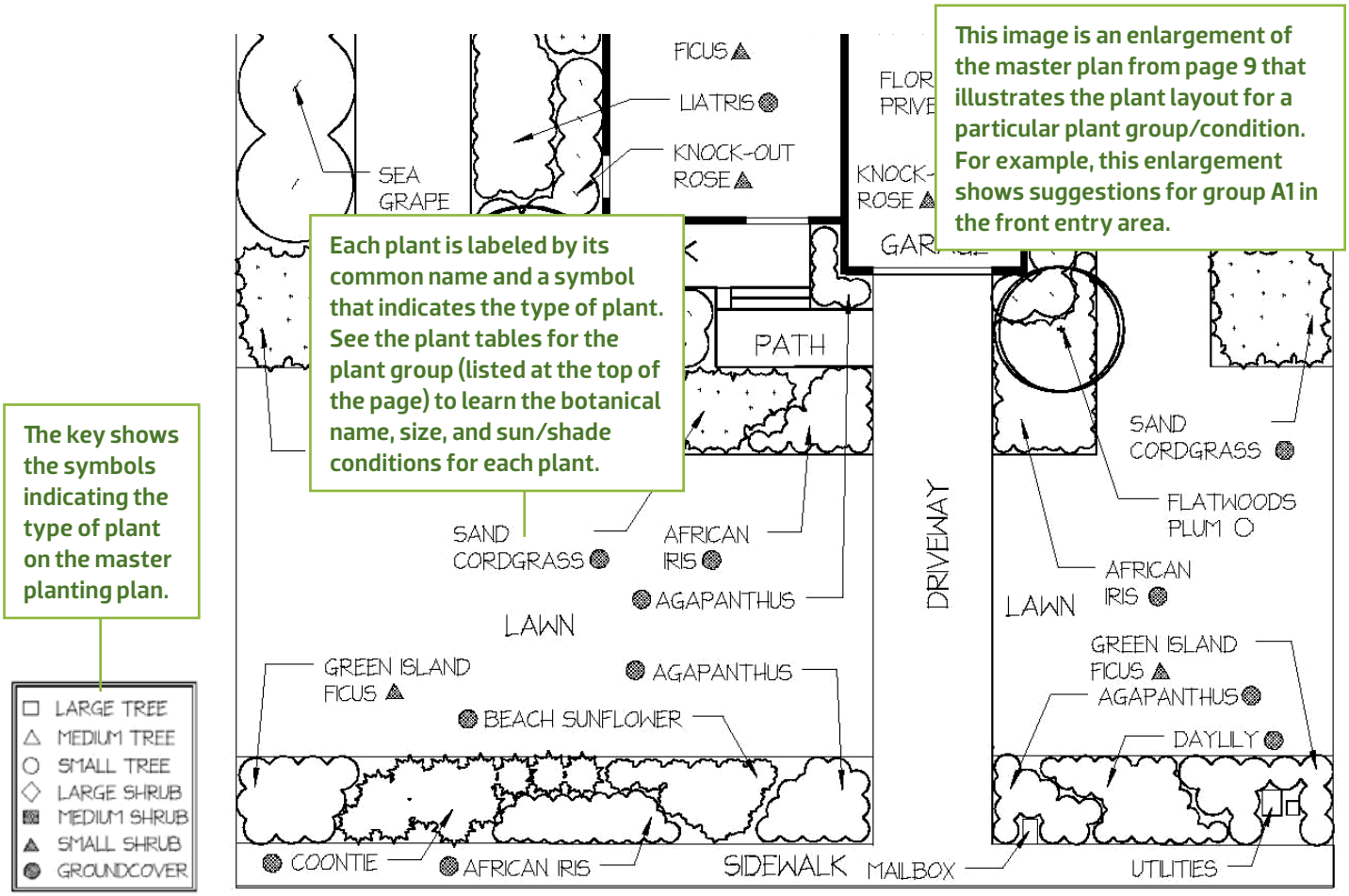
Design Tips

Look here for design tips and ideas on choosing plants and locating them for function, maintenance, aesthetics, and safety.

This image is an enlargement of the master plan from page 9 that illustrates the plant layout for a particular plant group/condition. For example, this enlargement shows suggestions for group A1 in the front entry area.

Each plant is labeled by its common name and a symbol that indicates the type of plant. See the plant tables for the plant group (listed at the top of the page) to learn the botanical name, size, and sun/shade conditions for each plant.

The key shows the symbols indicating the type of plant on the master planting plan.



Design Tip Sheet — Group A1, Front Entry

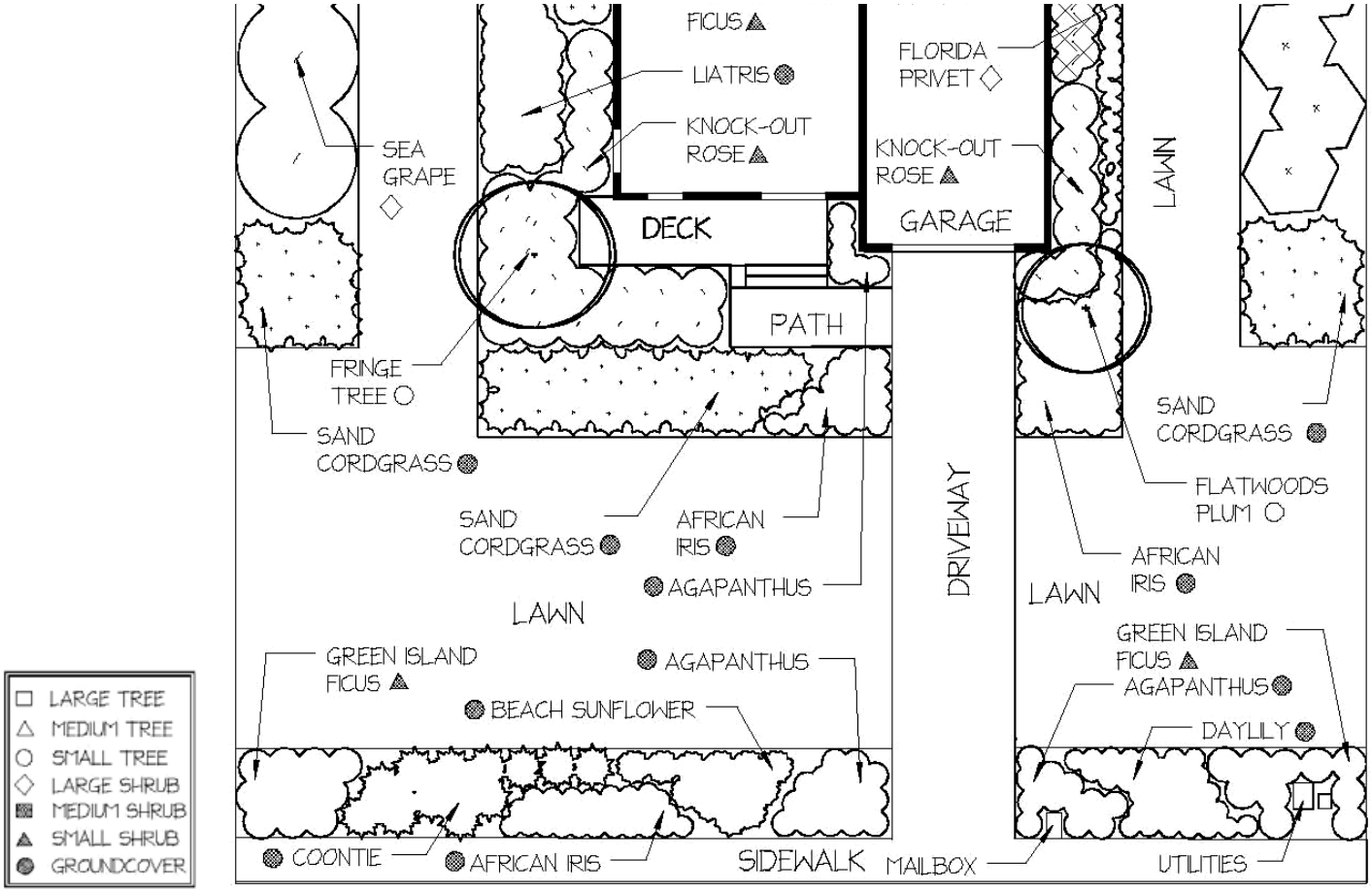
Before Photo: Existing plants on both sides of path are too large for the walkway area and must be trimmed frequently to keep front entry clear for walking.

DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS

- Low growing
- Compact, medium to small
- Clean growth habit
- Colorful
- Medium or coarse texture
- Bold forms, unique shape or texture for focal points

DESIGN TIPS

- Place low/small plants with compact growth habit next to the walkway to reduce trimming.
- Place interesting plants at natural viewpoints.



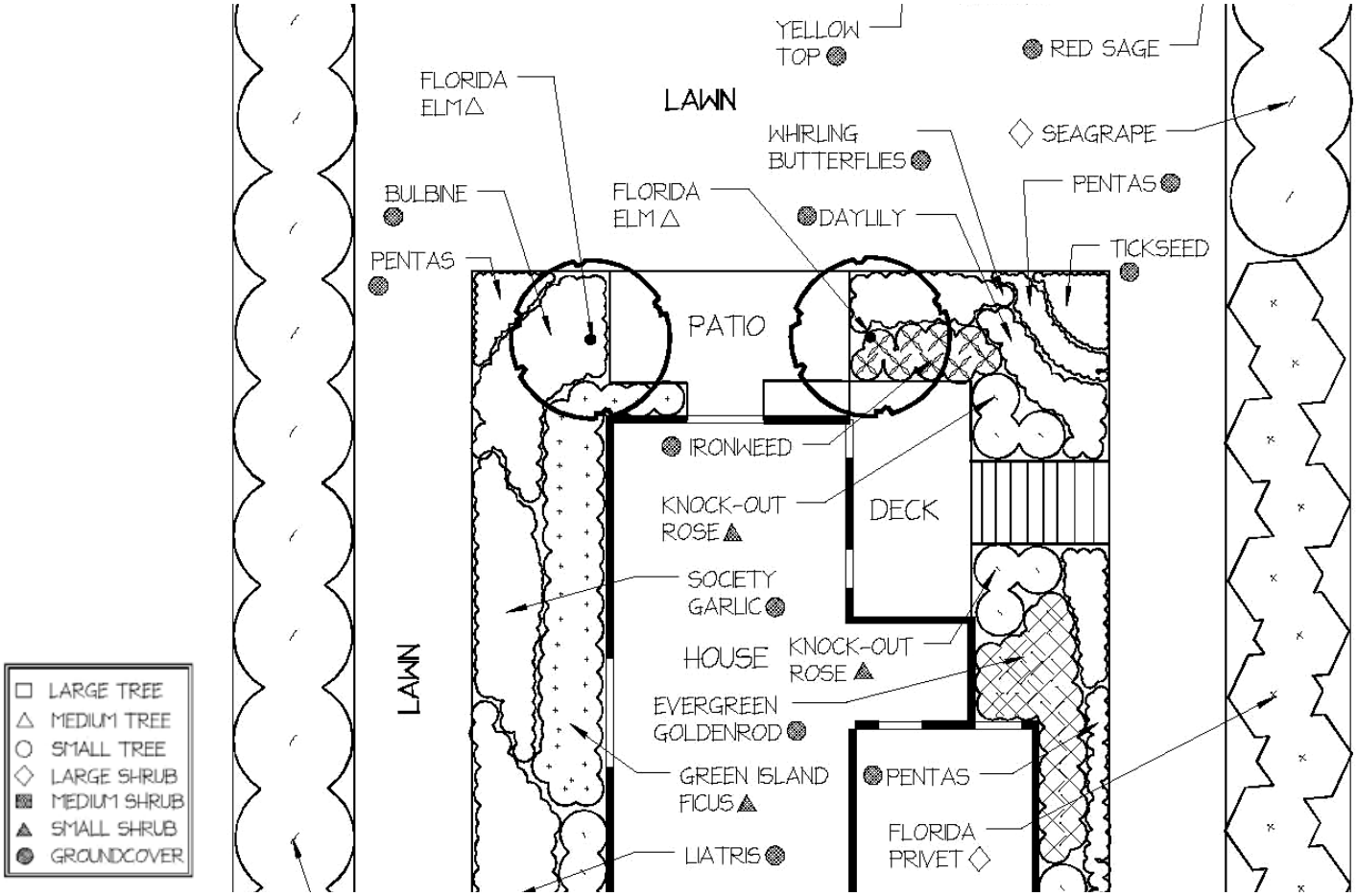
Before Photo: Lack of plants creates an exposed, unattractive patio with no colorful plants for interest and no tree canopy for shade.

DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS

- Low growing, compact
- Clean growth habit
- Colorful
- Medium or coarse texture
- Wide canopy trees
- Bold forms; unique shape, size, or texture

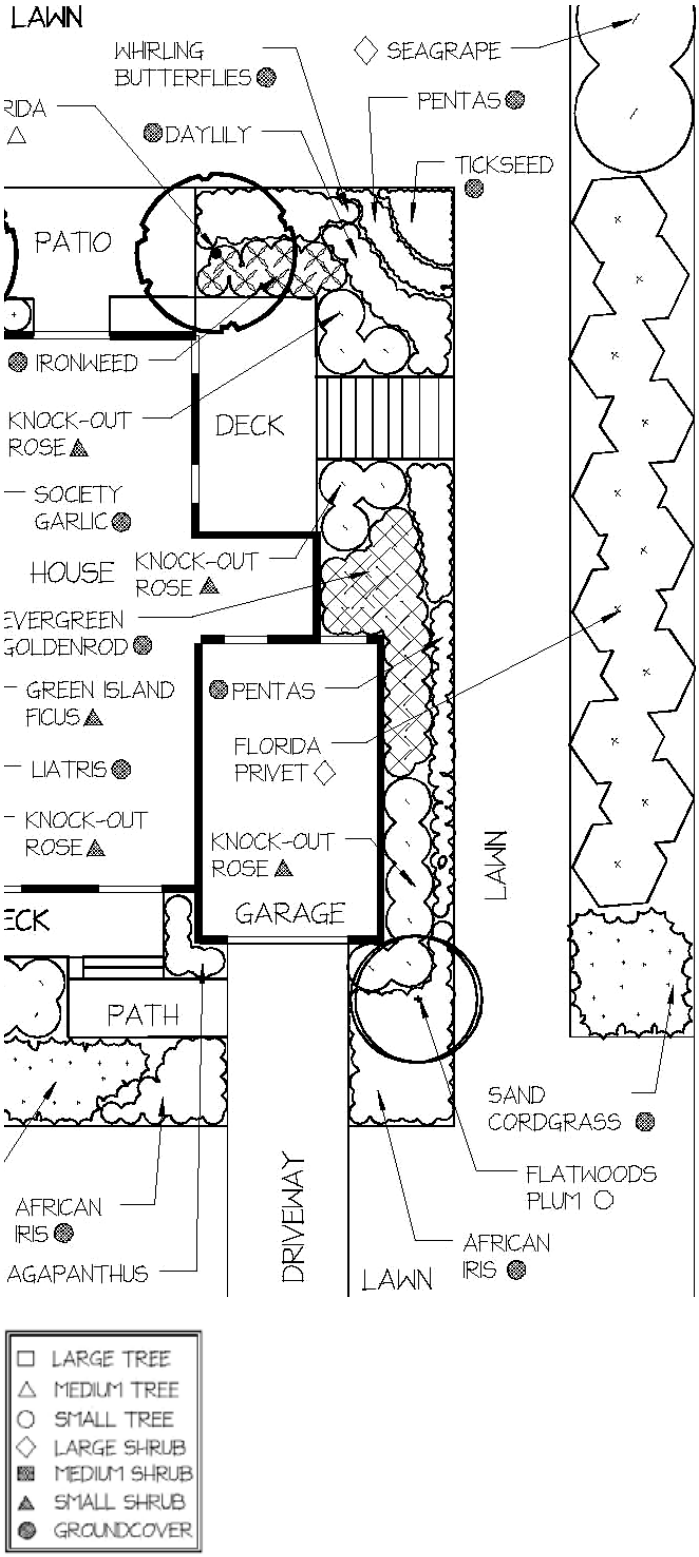
DESIGN TIPS

- Use trees with a wide canopy and locate to block mid-morning and afternoon sun.
- Place interesting plants at natural viewpoints.
- Locate plants with a coarse texture closest to the patio to make the space feel smaller, or use fine texture close to the patio to make the space feel larger.
- Use trees and shrubs that don't shed year-round.



Before Photos: *Top photo:* Plants are too large for the edge of the walkway and require frequent trimming.

Bottom photo: Large shrubs block the stepping-stone pathway.



DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS

- Low growing
- Nonsprawling
- Clumping
- Easy to trim or mow
- Soft texture
- Interesting shapes and colors

DESIGN TIPS

- Reduce trimming and edging by placing plants with clean, compact growth habits closest to walkways.
- Avoid plants that attract biting or stinging insects.
- Use plants with interesting textures, shapes, and colors for close viewing.
- Use plants that will not outgrow the planter area.

Before Photos: *Top photo:* The mailbox is covered with plants, which obstructs access and invites insects.

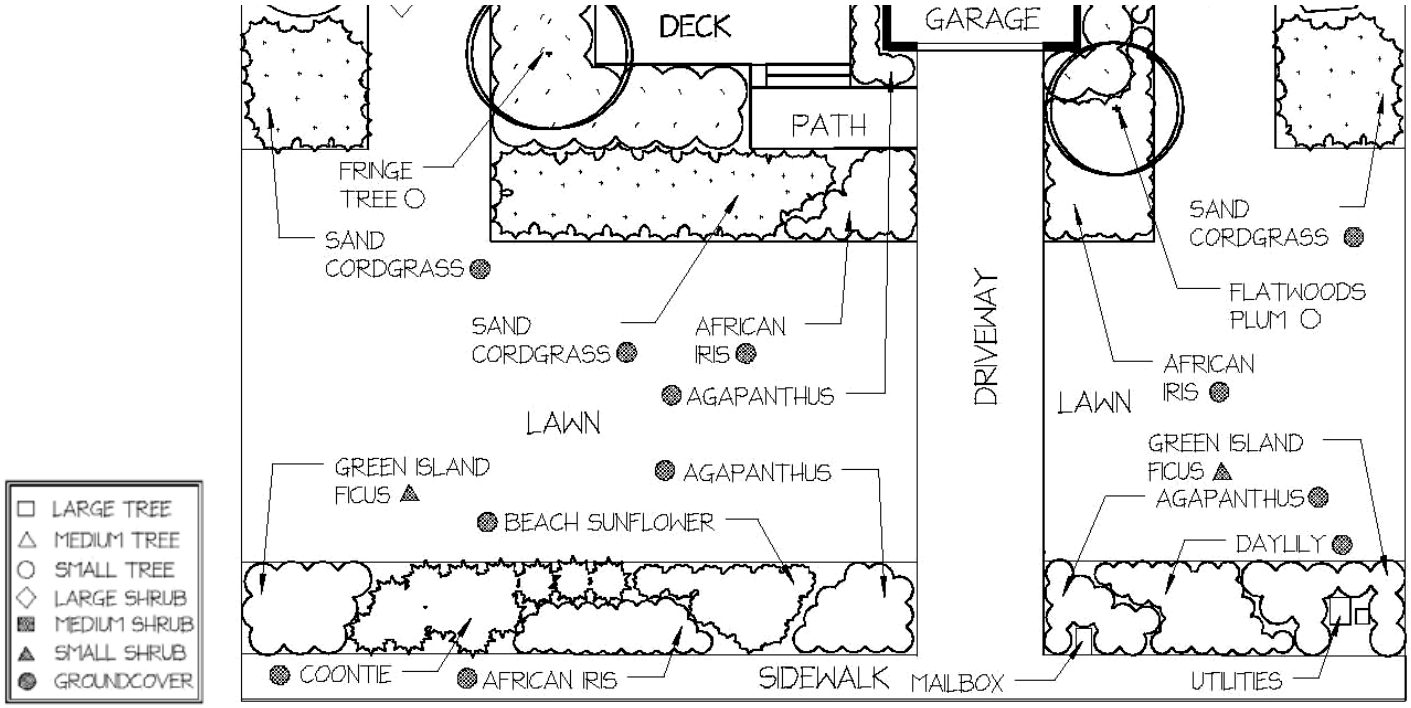
Bottom photo: A lack of plants on one side leaves utilities exposed. Large shrubs on the other side require frequent pruning to leave space on the side of the utility.

DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS

- Low/medium shrubs
- Clean growth habit
- Soft foliage, no thorns
- No flowers that attract bees

DESIGN TIPS

- Keep plants that attract stinging or biting insects at least 2 ft below mailbox.
- Check with the U.S. Postal Service for mailbox requirements regarding plants.
- Consult with the local utility company for planting regulations for above- and below-ground utilities.
- Consider the height of the utility when choosing plants.
- Leave a 2–3 ft open space around utilities for access.
- Leave a small footpath for access in large plant beds.



Design Tip Sheet — Group B1, Under Windows

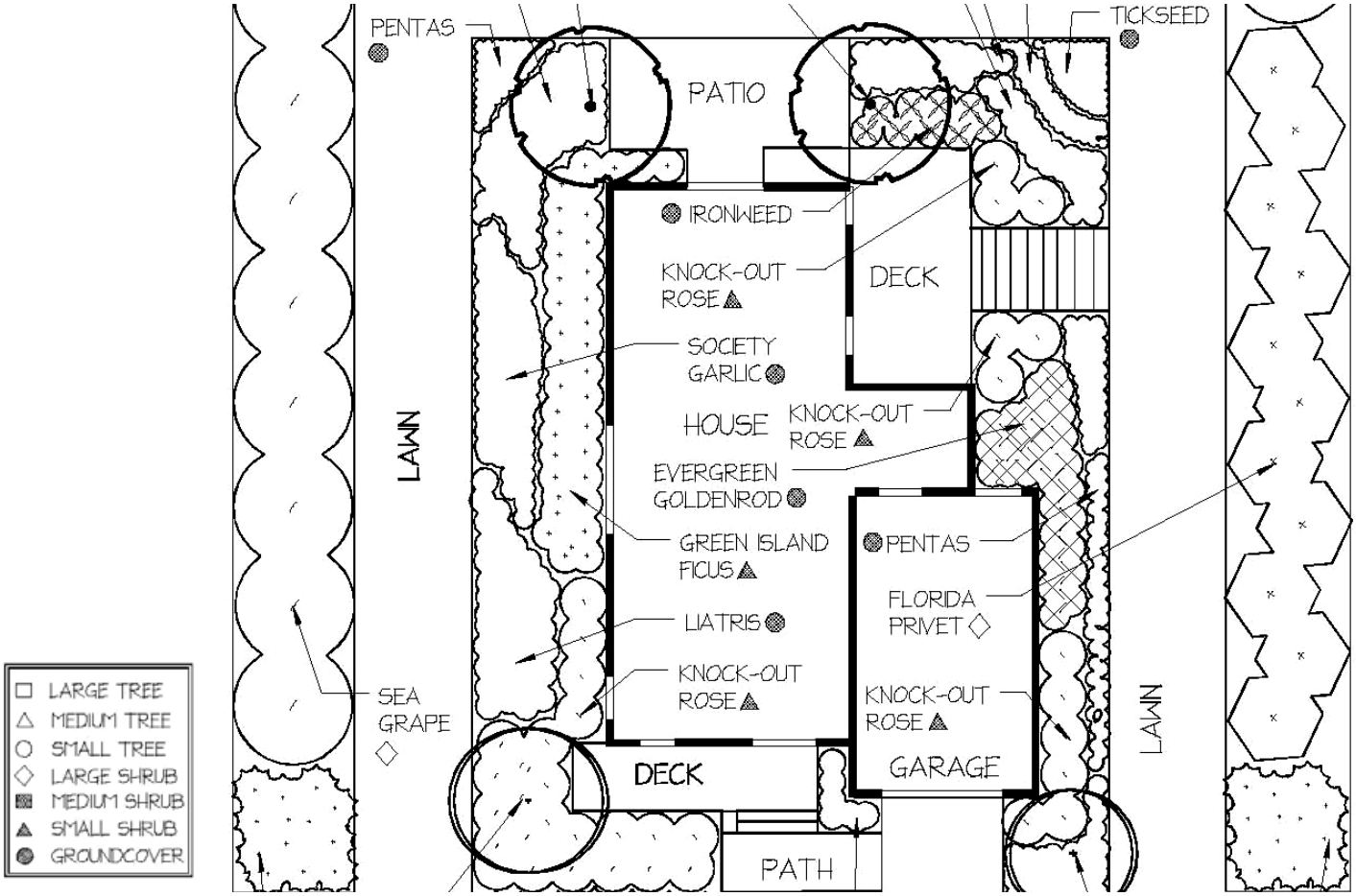
Before Photo: Plant material is too tall for the window, making access difficult for hanging storm shutters and cleaning windows.

DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS

- Low/medium shrubs
- Soft/fine texture
- Loose foliage
- Easy to trim
- Flexible branches
- No thorns or prickly leaves

DESIGN TIPS

- Avoid blocking views by choosing plants of a medium, compact size.
- Choose plants with a loose, open branching pattern to block a view but let in light.
- Choose shrubs with a tidy growth habit; plant for easy access for cleaning and hanging storm shutters.
- Avoid stiff, thorny plants that would prevent exiting from windows and cause injuries during maintenance.



Design Tip Sheet — Group B2, Along Walls

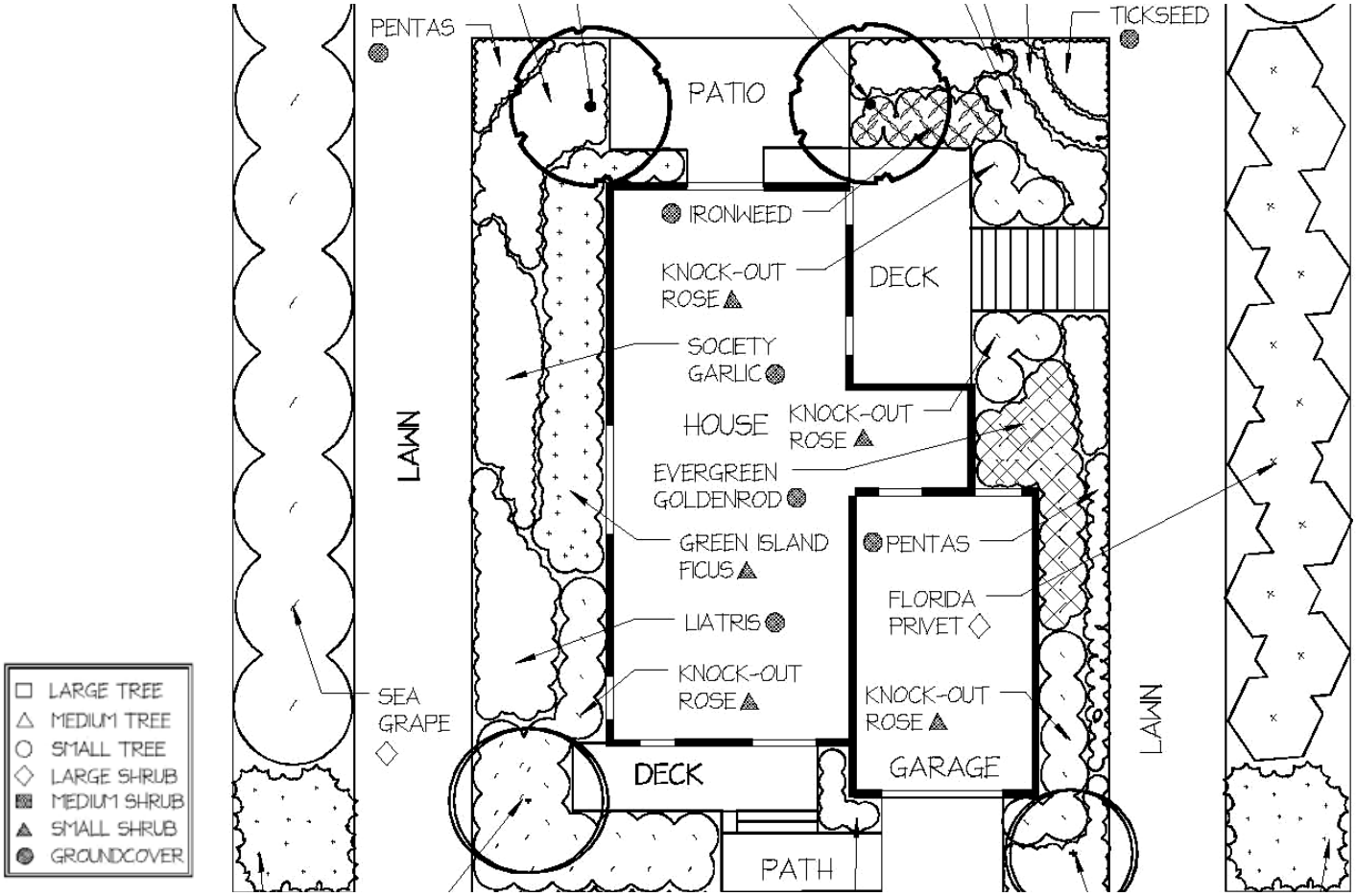
Before Photo: Large shrubs require frequent pruning to fit in the small planter along the wall. Maintenance is difficult with plants against the house. Lack of air space between house and plants encourages growth of mold and mildew.

DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS

- Medium/tall shrubs
- Soft/fine texture
- Loose foliage
- Flexible branches

DESIGN TIPS

- Leave a 2 ft wide strip of gravel between the wall and the plant material for maintenance access and air circulation to reduce mold and mildew growth.
- Choose shrubs with a tidy growth habit to reduce trimming.
- Choose plants that are color compatible with the wall color.
- Choose shrubs that will not outgrow the planter space and the vertical space.



Design Tip Sheet — Group C1, Along Property Lines

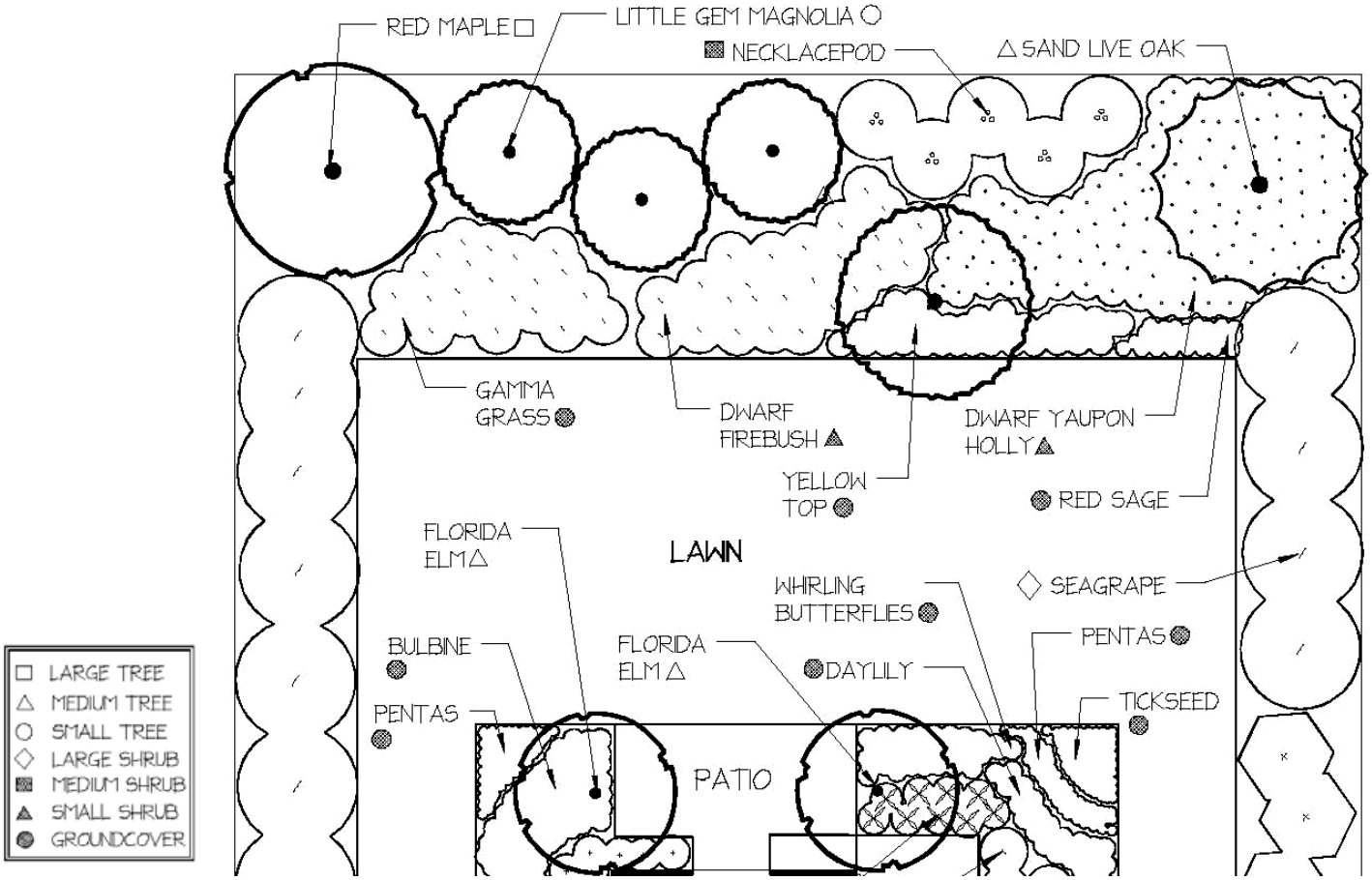
Before Photo: Lack of planting leaves the view to neighbors exposed and provides no screening for privacy. Replace with trees and shrubs to create a buffer.

DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS

- Dense foliage
- Upright form
- Evergreen
- Sturdy
- Fast growing
- Larger tree canopies

DESIGN TIPS

- Choose fast-growing plants with dense growth habits for screening and privacy.
- Select evergreen plants with appropriate height to block unwanted views.
- Vary the height of plants for more interest.
- Use trees to block views of overhead utilities, but don't plant directly beneath the overhead wires.
- Mix shrubs and trees for low and high screening.
- Consider the view from the patio and windows.



Before Photo: *Top Photo:* The chain-link fence can be unsightly and feel unfriendly. Conceal and soften the fence with plant material.

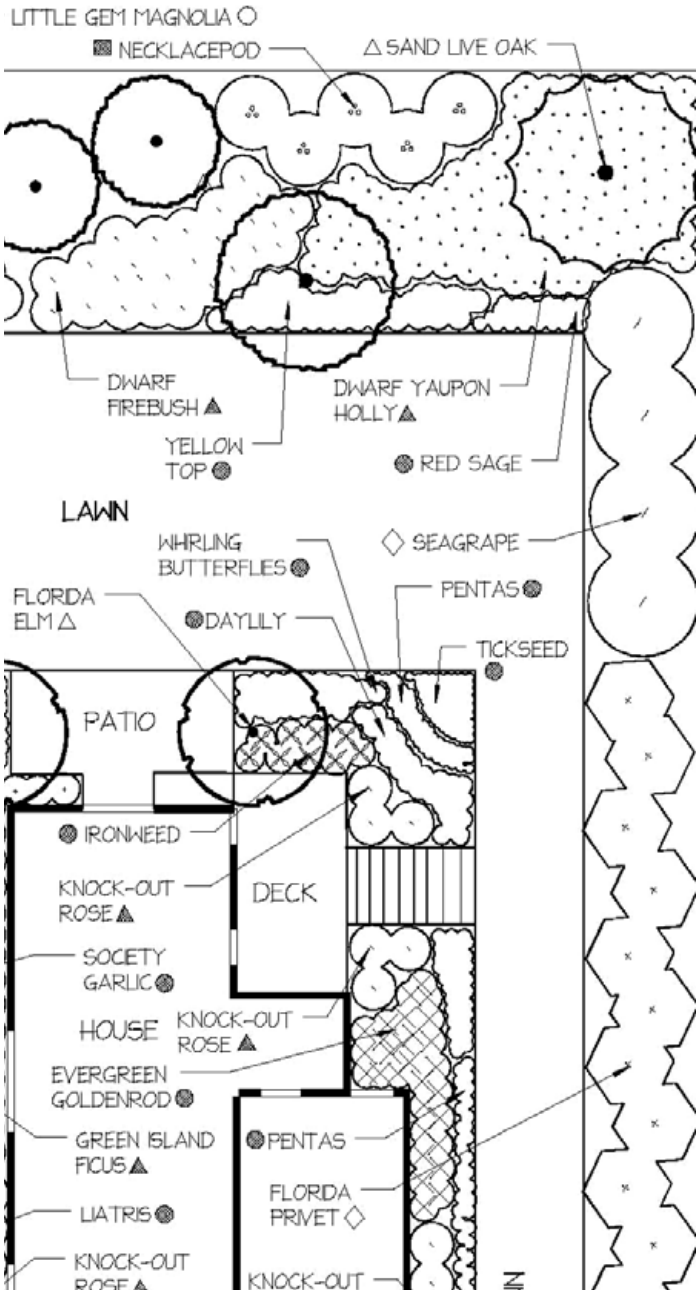
Bottom Photo: The decorative fence is hidden by shrubs that are too large, overtrimmed, and poorly shaped for the desired aesthetics.

DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS

- Tall fence – dense foliage, upright form, and fast-growing foliage
- Short fence – full, arching grasses and soft, clumping plants
- Colorful
- Evergreen

DESIGN TIPS

- For a decorative fence, choose low-growing plants that accentuate decorative elements, such as caps. For utilitarian fences (chain link or stockade), choose taller shrubs that cover the fence.
- In back yards, place plants with coarse textures against fences to make the space appear smaller, or use fine texture to make the space appear larger.



Before Photos: *Top photo:* The sod is in poor condition and will not grow well in the deep shade.

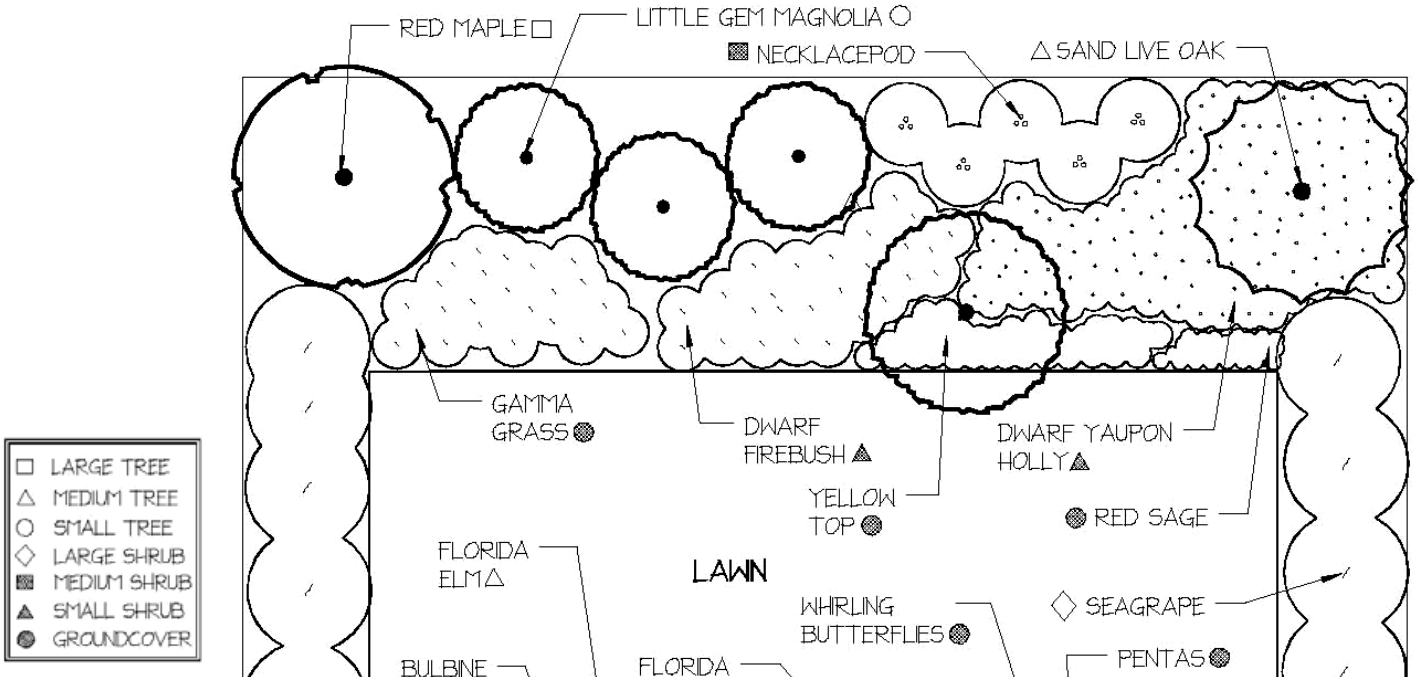
Bottom photo: The plant bed is too small and too close to tree trunks to allow for mowing or trimming without damage

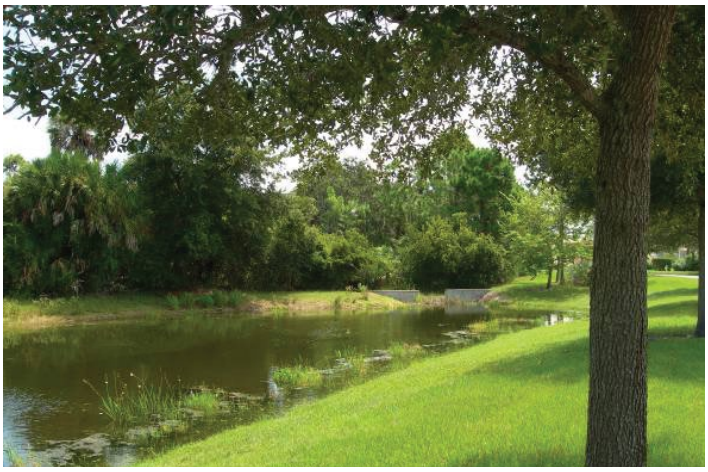
DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS

- Shallow roots
- Clumpers
- Vines with spreading growth habit
- Shade tolerant

DESIGN TIPS

- Use plants that look good with fallen leaves or plants that hide leaves.
- Install small plants (small root balls) to avoid root damage to both plant and tree.
- Consider the density of the shade from the tree canopy (filtered or deep shade)
- Don't place small clumping groundcover in single lines (rings) around tree base; masses are better.
- Use a large planted or mulched area under the tree to balance the canopy mass and protect the trunk from the mower.





Before Photo: *Top photo:* Small side areas by patios and fences are often unused. Make them more appealing and functional with a specialty garden.

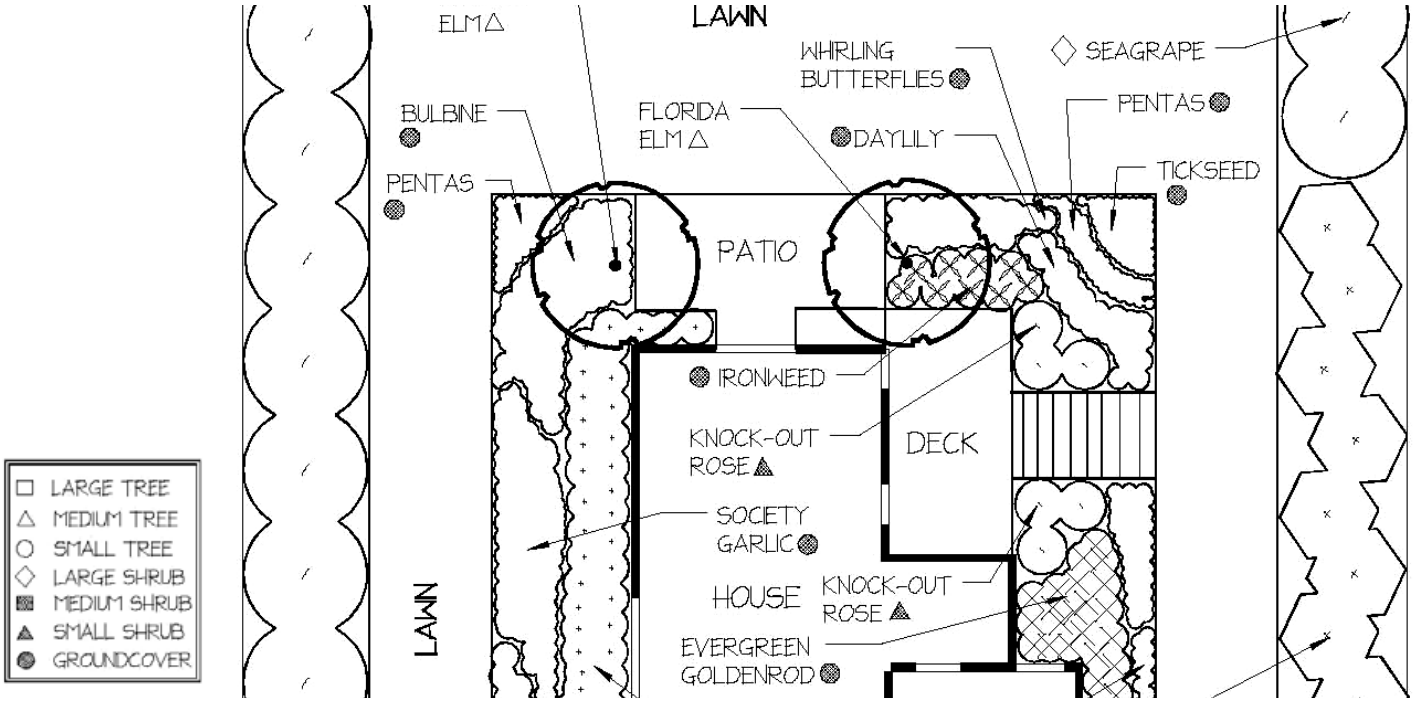
Bottom photo: Sod to the water's edge allows fertilizer, herbicides, and grass clippings to flow into the water.

DESIGN TIPS

Butterfly Garden – Butterfly gardens are best next to patios for viewing. Provide host and nectar plants for caterpillars and butterflies. Best colors are reds and yellows.

Water Edge – Plant a 10 ft wide maintenance buffer of aquatic and shoreline plants that does not require fertilizer, herbicides, or mowing to maintain.

Rain Garden – Choose plants that will survive wet and dry conditions.



Plant Tables

Recommended Plants for Site Conditions

PLANT TABLES

Recommended plants for each of the plant groups/site conditions have been organized in plant groups in a table for easy reference. For example, all the plants that are appropriate for Group A: A1 – Front Entries and Patios, A2 – Sidewalks and Walkways, and A3 – Mailboxes and Utilities, are listed in a separate table labeled Groups A1, A2, A3.

Plants are organized in the table based on their types (trees, shrubs, groundcover, or vines), on their size (small, medium, or large), and on their sun/shade tolerance. Wildflowers and grasses are listed in a separate table.

Each plant is listed with both botanical name and common name to eliminate confusion between common names in different regions (Figure 11). An asterisk (*) beside a name indicates a Florida native plant.

The master plan layout for each zone shows examples with specific plants for each condition; however, any plant listed on the plant table for that condition is appropriate for use in the planting plan. Choose options from the list based on the sun and shade requirements, the height of windows and fences, the views to be blocked, and the color and materials of the house. Also consider the Florida-Friendly and general design principles listed on page 2.

The plant tables in this publication list plants for USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 9B only. Tables in companion publications list plants for Zones 8A and 8B, 9B, 10A, 10B, and 11.

The tables are organized in the following order:

Table 1 - Groups A1, A2, A3: Front Entries/Patios, Sidewalks/Walkways, Mailboxes/Utilities

Table 2 - Groups B1 and B2: Under Windows and Along Walls

Table 3 - Groups C1 and C2: Along Property Lines and Fences

Table 4 - Group D: Under Trees

Table 5 - Group E: Specialty Gardens – Butterfly Gardens, Water Edge, and Rain Gardens

Table 6 - Wildflowers and Grasses

FIGURE 11. Plant labels from Vera Lea Rinker Native Plants Garden, Stetson University, Deland, Florida

TABLE 1. GROUPS A1, A2, A3: FRONT ENTRIES/PATIOS, SIDEWALKS/WALKWAYS, MAILBOXES/UTILITIES		
Characteristics: Low growing and compact, colorful, medium/ coarse texture, bold forms, clean growth habit, unique shape, overhead branching, soft foliage, clumping/mounding		
	SUN	**SHADE**
SHRUBS		
Small	*Allamanda schottii* (Bush Allamanda) *Euryops chrysanthemoides* (African Bush Daisy) *Ficus microcarpa* 'Green Island' (Green Island Ficus) *Hamelia patens* 'Compacta' (Dwarf Firebush) *Ilex vomitoria* 'Nana' (Dwarf Yaupon Holly)* *Pittosporum tobira* 'Wheeler's Dwarf' (Dwarf Pittosporum) *Podocarpus* 'Pringles' (Dwarf Podocarpus) *Rhaphiolepis indica* 'Dwarf' (Dwarf Indian Hawthorn) *Rosa* spp. (Knockout® Rose) *Vaccinium darrowii* (Darwin's Blueberry)* *Viburnum obovatum* 'Densa' (Dwarf Walter's Viburnum)*	*Ficus microcarpa* 'Green Island' (Green Island Ficus) *Ilex vomitoria* 'Nana' (Dwarf Yaupon Holly)* *Philodendron* 'Xanadu' (Xanadu) *Pittosporum tobira* 'Wheeler's Dwarf' (Dwarf Pittosporum) *Podocarpus* 'Pringles' (Dwarf Podocarpus) *Psychotria nervosa* 'Nana' (Dwarf Coffee)* *Rhaphiolepis indica* 'Dwarf' (Dwarf Indian Hawthorn) *Sabal minor* (Dwarf Palmetto)*
Medium	*Argusia gnaphalodes* (Sea Lavender)* *Capparis cynophallophora* (Jamaican Caper)* *Lyonia ferruginea* (Rusty Lyonia)* *Myrcianthes fragrans* 'Compacta' (Dwarf Simpson's Stopper)* *Myrica cerifera* 'Pumila' (Dwarf Wax Myrtle)* *Pittosporum tobira* (Pittosporum) *Senna mexicana* 'Chapmanii' (Bahama Cassia)* *Sophora tomentosa* (Necklace Pod)* *Suriana maritima* (Bay Cedar)*	*Ilex cornuta* 'Burfordii Nana' (Dwarf Burford Holly) *Myrcianthes fragrans* 'Compacta' (Dwarf Simpson's Stopper)* *Philodendron* 'Selloum' (Split-leaf Philodendron) *Philodendron* 'Xanadu' (Xanadu) *Pittosporum tobira* (Pittosporum) *Podocarpus macrophyllus* (Podocarpus) *Rhaphiolepsis indica* (Indian Hawthorn)

TABLE 1. GROUPS A1, A2, A3: FRONT ENTRIES/PATIOS, SIDEWALKS/WALKWAYS, MAILBOXES/UTILITIES		
	SUN	**SHADE**
GROUNDCOVERS		
	Agapanthus spp. (Lily of the Nile) *Aptenia cordifolia* (Baby Sun Rose) *Arachis glabrata* (Perennial Peanut) *Bulbine* spp. (Bulbine) *Dietes vegeta* (*vegeta* = *D. iridioides*) (African Iris) *Ernodea littoralis* (Beach Creeper)* *Evolvulus glomeratus* (Blue Daze) *Gaillardia pulchella* (Blanket Flower)* *Helianthus debilis* (Beach Sunflower)* *Hemerocallis* spp. (Daylily) *Ipomoea imperati* (Beach Morning Glory)* *Iva imbricata* (Beach Elder)* *Licania michauxii* (Gopher Apple)* *Liriope muscari* (Monkey Grass) *Mimosa strigillosa* (Sunshine Mimosa)* *Ophiopogon japonicus* (Mondo Grass) *Phyla nodiflora* (Fogfruit)* *Salvia misella* (Creeping Sage)* *Sesuvium portulacastrum* (Seaside Purslane)* *Tulbaghia vioilacea* (Society Garlic) *Zamia pumila* (*pumila* = *Z. floridana*) (Coontie)*	*Ajuga reptans* (Ajuga) *Crytomium falcatum* (Holly Fern) *Dianella* spp. (Flax Lily) *Dietes vegeta* (*vegeta* = *D. iridioides*) (African Iris) *Liriope muscari* (Monkey Grass) *Mitchella repens* (Partridgeberry)* *Ophiopogon japonicus* (Mondo Grass) *Osmunda cinnamomea* (Cinnamon Fern)* *Woodwardia areolata* (Netted Chain Fern)* *Zamia pumila* (*pumila* = *Z. floridana*) (Coontie)*
*Florida native plant **Also see table of wildflowers and ornamental grasses		
SPECIMEN TREES		
Small	*Chionanthus virginicus* (Fringe Tree)* *Ilex* 'Nelly Stevens' (Nelly Stevens Holly) *Ilex opaca* var. *arenicola* (Scrub Holly)* *Ilex vomitoria* 'Pendula' (Weeping Yaupon Holly)* *Ilex vomitoria* (Yaupon Holly)* *Ilex* × *attenuata* 'Savannah' (Savannah Holly) *Jatropha integerrima* (Jatropha) *Ligustrum japonicum* (Privet) *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem' (Little Gem Magnolia) *Myrica cerifera* (Wax Myrtle)* *Myrcianthes fragrans* (Simpson's Stopper)* *Prunus umbellata* (Flatwoods Plum)* *Pseudophoenix sargentii* (Buccaneer Palm)* *Rhaphiolepis* 'Majestic Beauty' (Majestic Beauty Indian Hawthorn) *Viburnum obovatum* (Walter's Viburnum)*	*Carya floridana* (Scrub Hickory)* *Halesia diptera* (Silverbell)* *Ilex* 'Nelly Stevens' (Nelly Stevens Holly) *Ilex cassine* (Dahoon Holly)* *Ilex opaca* var. *arenicola* (Scrub Holly)* *Ilex vomitoria* (Yaupon Holly)* *Ilex vomitoria* 'Pendula' (Weeping Yaupon Holly)* *Ilex* × *attenuata* 'Savannah' (Savannah Holly) *Ligustrum japonicum* (Privet) *Myrcianthes fragrans* (Simpson's Stopper)* *Rhaphiolepis* 'Majestic Beauty' (Majestic Beauty Indian Hawthorn)

TABLE 1. GROUPS A1, A2, A3: FRONT ENTRIES/PATIOS, SIDEWALKS/WALKWAYS, MAILBOXES/UTILITIES		
	SUN	**SHADE**
SPECIMEN TREES		
Medium	*Chionanthus virginicus* (Fringe Tree)* *Gordonia lasianthus* (Loblolly Bay)* *Ilex cassine* (Dahoon Holly)* *Juniperus virginiana* (Red Cedar)* *Morus rubra* (Mulberry)* *Parkinsonia aculeata* (Jerusalem Thorn) *Quercus geminata* (Sand Live Oak)* *Tabebuia argentea* (Yellow Trumpet Tree) *Ulmus alata* (Winged Elm)* *Ulmus americana* 'Floridana' (Florida Elm)*	*Chionanthus virginicus* (Fringe Tree)* *Gordonia lasianthus* (Loblolly Bay)* *Ilex cassine* (Dahoon Holly)* *Magnolia virginiana* (Sweet Bay)*
Large	*Acer rubrum* (Red Maple)* *Carya floridana* (Scrub Hickory)* *Conocarpus erectus* 'Sericeus' (Silver Buttonwood)* *Magnolia grandiflora* (Southern Magnolia)* *Pinus elliottii* var. *densa* (South Florida Slash Pine)* *Quercus shumardii* (Shumard Oak)* *Quercus virginiana* (Live Oak)* *Ulmus americana* (American Elm)*	
*Florida native plant		

TABLE 2. GROUPS B1 AND B2: UNDER WINDOWS AND ALONG WALLS		
Characteristics: Medium/ tall shrubs, soft/ fine texture, loose foliage, flexible branches, no thorns, easy to trim		
	SUN	**SHADE**
SHRUBS		
Medium	*Ardisia escallonioides* (Marlberry)* *Argusia gnaphalodes* (Sea Lavender)* *Callicarpa americana* (Beautyberry)* *Capparis cynophallophora* (Jamaican Caper)* *Erythrina herbacea* (Coral Bean)* *Eugenia foetida* (Stopper)* *Euryops chrysanthemoides* (African Bush Daisy) *Forestiera segregata* (Florida Privet)* *Hamelia patens* 'Compacta' (Dwarf Firebush) *Ilex vomitoria* 'Nana' (Dwarf Yaupon Holly)* *Lycium carolinianum* (Christmasberry)* *Lyonia ferruginea* (Rusty Lyonia)* *Myrcianthes fragrans* 'Compacta' (Dwarf Simpson's Stopper)* *Myrica cerifera* 'Pumila' (Dwarf Wax Myrtle)* *Podocarpus* 'Pringles' (Dwarf Podocarpus) *Psychotria sulzneri* (Shiny Coffee)* *Rapanea punctata* (Myrisine)* *Rhaphiolepis indica* (Indian Hawthorn) *Rosa* spp. (Knockout® Rose) *Senna mexicana* 'Chapmanii' (Bahama Cassia)* *Sophora tomentosa* (Necklace Pod)* *Suriana maritima* (Bay Cedar)* *Vaccinium darrowii* (Darwin's Blueberry)* *Viburnum obovatum* 'Densa' (Dwarf Walter's Viburnum)*	*Ardisia escallonioides* (Marlberry)* *Callicarpa americana* (Beautyberry)* *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (Buttonbush)* *Erythrina herbacea* (Coral Bean)* *Hamelia patens* 'Compacta' (Dwarf Firebush) *Illicium parviflorum* (Anise)* *Itea virginica* (Sweet Spire)* *Myrcianthes fragrans* 'Compacta' (Dwarf Simpson's Stopper)* *Podocarpus* 'Pringles' (Dwarf Podocarpus) *Rapanea punctata* (Myrisine)* *Rhaphiolepis indica* (Indian Hawthorn)
Tall	*Capparis cynophallophora* (Jamaican Caper)* *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (Buttonbush)* *Coccoloba uvifera* (Seagrape)* *Hamelia patens* (Firebush)* *Illicium parviflorum* (Anise)* *Ligustrum japonicum* (Privet) *Myrcianthes fragrans* (Simpson's Stopper)* *Myrica cerifera* (Wax Myrtle)* *Podocarpus macrophyllus* (Podocarpus) *Vaccinium arboreum* (Sparkleberry)* *Viburnum odoratissimum* (Sweet Viburnum) *Viburnum suspensum* (Sandankwa Viburnum)	*Ardisia escallonioides* (Marlberry)* *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (Buttonbush)* *Hamelia patens* (Firebush)* *Illicium parviflorum* (Anise)* *Ligustrum japonicum* (Privet) *Myrcianthes fragrans* (Simpson's Stopper)* *Podocarpus macrophyllus* (Podocarpus) *Psychotria bahamensis* (Bahama Coffee)* *Viburnum odoratissimum* (Sweet Viburnum) *Viburnum suspensum* (Sandankwa Viburnum)
* Florida native plant		

TABLE 3. GROUPS C1 AND C2: ALONG PROPERTY LINES AND FENCES		
Characteristics: Dense foliage, upright form, evergreen, sturdy, fast growing		
	SUN	**SHADE**
SHRUBS		
Medium	*Allamanda schottii* (Bush Allamanda) *Eugenia foetida* (Stopper)* *Ilex cornuta* 'Burfordii Nana' (Dwarf Burford Holly) *Podocarpus* 'Pringles' (Dwarf Podocarpus)	*Callicarpa americana* (Beautyberry)* *Podocarpus* 'Pringles' (Dwarf Podocarpus) *Psychotria nervosa* (Wild Coffee)* *Rapanea punctata* (Myrsine)*
Tall	*Chrysobalanus icaco* (Cocoplum)* *Coccoloba uvifera* (Seagrape)* *Forestiera segregata* (Florida Privet)* *Ilex vomitoria* (Yaupon Holly)* *Illicium parviflorum* (Anise)* *Ligustrum japonicum* (Privet) *Myrcianthes fragrans* (Simpson's Stopper)* *Myrica cerifera* (Wax Myrtle)* *Podocarpus gracilior* (Fern Leaf Podocarpus) *Podocarpus macrophyllus* (Podocarpus) *Viburnum obovatum* (Walter's Viburnum)* *Viburnum odoratissimum* (Sweet Viburnum) *Viburnum suspensum* (Sandankwa Viburnum)	*Agarista populifolia* (Pipestem)* *Ardisia escallonoides* (Marlberry)* *Illicium parviflorum* (Anise)* *Ligustrum japonicum* (Privet) *Myrcianthes fragrans* (Simpson's Stopper)* *Podocarpus gracilior* (Fern Leaf Podocarpus) *Podocarpus macrophyllus* (Podocarpus) *Viburnum odoratissimum* (Sweet Viburnum) *Viburnum suspensum* (Sandankwa Viburnum)
VINES		
	Bignonia capreolata (Cross Vine)* *Campsis radicans* (Trumpet Vine)* *Lonicera sempervirens* (Coral Honeysuckle)* *Pandorea jasminoides* (Pandorea Vine) *Pentalinon luteum* (Native Allamanda Vine)*	*Bignonia capreolata* (Cross Vine)* *Campsis radicans* (Trumpet Vine)* *Lonicera sempervirens* (Coral Honeysuckle)*
* Florida native plant		

TABLE 4. GROUP D: UNDER TREES		
Characteristics: Shallow roots, vines/spreading		
	SUN	**SHADE**
GROUNDCOVERS		
	Agapanthus spp. (Lily of the Nile) *Aptenia cordifolia* (Baby Sun Rose) *Arachis glabrata* (Perennial Peanut) *Bulbine* spp. (Bulbine) *Dietes vegeta* (*vegeta = D. iridioides*) (African Iris) *Ernodea littoralis* (Beach Creeper)* *Evolvulus glomeratus* (Blue Daze) *Gaillardia pulchella* (Blanket Flower)* *Helianthus debilis* (Dune Sunflower)* *Hemerocallis* spp. (Daylily) *Ipomoea imperati* (Beach Morning Glory)* *Ipomoea pes-caprae* (Railroad Vine)* *Iva imbricata* (Beach Elder)* *Licania michauxii* (Gopher Apple)* *Mimosa strigillosa* (Sunshine Mimosa)* *Phyla nodiflora* (Fogfruit)* *Salvia misella* (Creeping Sage)* *Sesuvium portulacastrum* (Seaside Purslane)* *Tulbaghia violacea* (Society Garlic)	*Ajuga reptans* (Ajuga) *Blechnum serrulatum* (Swamp Fern)* *Crytomium falcatum* (Holly Fern) *Dianella* spp. (Flax Lily) *Liriope muscari* (Monkey Grass) *Mitchella repens* (Partridgeberry)* *Ophiopogon japonicus* (Mondo Grass) *Osmunda cinnamomea* (Cinnamon Fern)* *Trachelospermum asiaticum* (Asiatic Jasmine) *Woodwardia areolata* (Netted Chain Fern)*
VINES		
	Bignonia capreolata (Cross Vine)* *Campsis radicans* (Trumpet Vine)* *Lonicera sempervirens* (Coral Honeysuckle)* *Passiflora incarnata* (Passion Flower)* *Pentalinon luteum* (Yellow Mandevilla)* *Symphyotrichum carolinianum* (Climbing Aster)*	*Bignonia capreolata* (Cross Vine)* *Campsis radicans* (Trumpet Vine)* *Lonicera sempervirens* (Coral Honeysuckle)* *Passiflora incarnata* (Passion Flower)*
*Florida native plant		

TABLE 5. GROUP E: SPECIALTY GARDENS – RAIN GARDENS, WATER EDGE, AND BUTTERFLY GARDENS

Specialty Gardens – Rain Gardens/Downspouts

Characteristics: Wet feet, small size, groundcover, clumping, water movement

	SUN	SHADE
GROUNDCOVERS		
	Arachis glabrata (Perennial Peanut) *Hymenocallis latifolia* (Spider Lily)* *Phyla nodiflora* (Fogfruit)* *Sisyrinchium angustifolium* (Blue-eyed Grass)* *Spartina bakeri* (Sand Cordgrass)* *Spartina patens* (Saltmeadow Cordgrass)* *Tulbaghia violacea* (Society Garlic)	*Hymenocallis latifolia* (Spider Lily)*

*Florida native plant

**Also see table of wildflowers and ornamental grasses

Specialty Gardens – Water Edge

Characteristics: Wet feet, small size, groundcover, clumping, water movement

GROUNDCOVERS		
	Arachis glabrata (Perennial Peanut) *Hymenocallis latifolia* (Spider Lily)* *Phyla nodiflora* (Fogfruit)* *Sisyrinchium angustifolium* (Blue-eyed Grass)* *Spartina bakeri* (Sand Cordgrass)* *Spartina patens* (Saltmeadow Cordgrass)* *Tulbaghia violacea* (Society Garlic)	*Hymenocallis latifolia* (Spider Lily)*

*Florida native plant

**Also see table of wildflowers and ornamental grasses

TABLE 5. GROUP E: SPECIALTY GARDENS – RAIN GARDENS, WATER EDGE, AND BUTTERFLY GARDENS

Specialty Gardens – Butterfly

Characteristics: Bright colors (reds, yellows, and purples), a variety of heights, larval host plants and adult nectar sources

	SUN	SHADE
	Ageratum littorale (Beach Mistflower)* *Ardisia escallonioides* (Marlberry)* *Asclepias perennis* (Swamp Milkweed)* *Asclepias tuberosa* (Milkweed)* *Berlandiera subacaulis* (Green Eyes)* *Capparis cynophallophora* (Jamaican Caper)* *Carphephorus corymbosus* (Deer Tongue)* *Coreopsis leavenworthii* (Tickseed)* *Eugenia foetida* (Stopper)* *Flaveria linearis* (Yellow Top)* *Hamelia patens* 'Compacta' (Dwarf Firebush) *Liatris* spp. (Blazing Star)* *Monarda punctata* (Dotted Horsemint)* *Pentas lanceolata* (Pentas) *Phyla nodiflora* (Fogfruit)* *Psychotria nervosa* (Wild Coffee)* *Rudbeckia hirta* (Black–eyed Susan)* *Salvia coccinea* (Red Sage)* *Senna mexicana* 'Chapmanii' (Bahama Cassia)* *Solidago sempervirens* (Seaside Goldenrod)* *Solidago stricta* (Slender Goldenrod)* *Sophora tomentosa* (Necklace Pod)* *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis* (Porterweed)* *Vaccinium arboreum* (Sparkleberry)* *Vaccinium darrowii* (Darwin's Blueberry)* *Veronia angustifolia* (Ironweed)* *Zamia pumila (pumila = Z. floridana)* (Coontie)*	*Ardisia escallonioides* (Marlberry)* *Psychotria nervosa* (Wild Coffee)* *Vaccinium arboreum* (Sparkleberry)* *Zamia pumila (pumila = Z. floridana)* (Coontie)*
VINES		
	Passiflora incarnata (Passion Flower)*	*Passiflora incarnata* (Passion Flower)* *Passiflora suberosa* (Corkystemmed Passion Flower)*

*Florida native plant

TABLE 6. WILDFLOWERS AND GRASSES		
Characteristics: Bright colors (reds, yellows, and purples), a variety of heights, larval host plants and adult nectar sources		
	SUN	**SHADE**
	Ageratum littorale (Beach Mistflower)* *Asclepias perennis* (Swamp Milkweed)* *Asclepias tuberosa* (Milkweed)* *Berlandiera subacaulis* (Green Eyes)* *Eragrostis elliottii* (Lovegrass)* *Eragrostis spectabilis* (Purple Lovegrass)* *Liatris* spp. (Blazing Star)* *Monarda punctata* (Dotted Horsemint)* *Pentas lanceolata* (Pentas) *Rudbeckia hirta* (Black-eyed Susan)* *Salvia coccinea* (Red Sage)* *Solidago sempervirens* (Seaside Goldenrod)* *Solidago stricta* (Slender Goldenrod)* *Sorghastrum secundum* (Lopsided Indian Grass)* *Spartina bakeri* (Sand Cordgrass)* *Tripsacum dactyloides* (Fakahatchee Grass)* *Tripsacum floridanum* (Florida Gamagrass)* *Uniola paniculata* (Sea Oats)*	
*Florida native plant		

Irrigation Recommendations

First Two Weeks

Saturate root balls and surrounding 1 inch of soil of each new plant. Saturation can be determined by digging a test hole (next to the planted area) that is the same depth and diameter as the plant's root ball. Note the amount of water required to saturate the test hole. This will provide an estimate of the amount of water needed per plant each day. Determine if the plants are overwatered by digging a hole next to the root ball about half of the rootball's depth two to three hours after watering. If water flows between fingers when soil is squeezed, too much water was applied. If the soil is dry, more water is needed. If the soil holds together in clods, enough water has been applied.

Rain Barrels

Rain barrels are a simple and convenient method for collecting rainwater from the roof to be used for irrigation. The amount of captured water depends on the size of the roof, the size of the barrel, and the amount of rainfall. A rain barrel can be used with or without a gutter. In the absence of a gutter system, it may be possible to collect water that flows from the valleys of the roof. Remove the top of the barrel and use a screen cover to keep debris out of the barrel. If a gutter system is in place, it is best to put a downspout extender through the top of the barrel. To determine the size of the barrel, use the general rule of thumb that 1 inch of rain on 1,000 sq ft of roof yields approximately 600 gallons. If possible, elevate the rain barrel on a stand to improve water pressure for the outflow. Tanks should be cleaned out about once a year and the water should be used only to irrigate landscape plants — do not use to irrigate edible plants. Water from a roof could have contaminants from the roofing material, bird droppings, or other animal feces. To learn more about capturing rainwater, see Rain Barrels: A Homeowner's Guide (http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/rain_barrels_guide.pdf).

Next Four to Five Months

For trees and shrubs with less than 2-inch-diameter trunks/canes, continue the above routine daily for two more weeks, every other day for two months, then twice weekly. Trees and shrubs with 2- to 4-inch-diameter trunks/canes will need water daily for a month, every other day for three months, then weekly. Trees and shrubs with trunks/canes over 4 inches in diameter need daily irrigation for six weeks, every other day for five months, and then weekly.

Temporary Irrigation

After four months, plants should be established. Temporary irrigation will be necessary only during periods of drought. Drip irrigation and soaker hoses can be installed by homeowners and used as irrigation sources during dry periods (Figure 12). Hand watering is also a simple irrigation method. During drought, water trees and shrubs two to three times per week.

Note: This information was adapted from EDIS publication ENH857, Irrigating Landscape Plants During Establishment, which can be found at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP113.

FIGURE 12. Temporary, aboveground irrigation system installed after plants are planted.

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