

Warm Weather Watering and Landscaping Tips

The month of May typically brings warmer weather, meaning there can be a greater need to water your plants. You can't change Mother Nature, but you can give her some help with Florida-friendly landscaping. Selecting drought-tolerant plants saves water. Grouping plants by water needs helps you irrigate more efficiently.



Florida-friendly landscaping emphasizes several principles aimed not only at conserving water, but also protecting the environment. These include putting the right plants in the right place, watering only when plants need it, maintaining 2-3 inches of mulch, recycling grass clippings and leaves,

fertilizing only as needed, providing for wildlife, managing yard pests responsibly, and reducing stormwater runoff.

And if saving water and helping the environment isn't enough incentive, consider this: Florida-

friendly lawns and landscaping almost always require less maintenance.

While you're putting in new plants, it's a good time to install a low-volume drip irrigation system in your landscaping beds. Kits, sold in most home improvement stores, consist of flexible polyethylene hoses with emitters of varying sizes. The hose can be connected directly to an outdoor faucet. You can water flowers and other plants with these systems without having to follow water restrictions, so long as the use is not wasteful.



And don't forget to consider using a rain barrel to collect water for your plants. You can make your own, or buy one ready-made from a garden store.

For more information on Florida-friendly landscaping and warm weather watering, contact the Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension Service at 744-5519, or log on to hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu.

Hillsborough County Celebrates Older Americans Month

May is *Older Americans Month*, and Hillsborough County's Aging Services Department is planning a variety of activities to celebrate the life and achievements of senior citizens:

Seniors Day in the Park

May 5, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
MacFarlane Park,
1700 N. MacDill Ave.

Annual Elderly Affairs Day Celebration

May 10, 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
J.L. Young Apartment
8220 N. Florida Ave.

Seniors Prom

May 12, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Brandon Recreation Center, 8510 E. Sadie St.

32nd Annual Seniors Recognition Ceremony

May 18, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel, 4500 W. Cypress St.

Seniors Painting Festival

May 25, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
MOSI, 4801 E. Fowler Ave.

National Senior Health & Fitness Day

May 31, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Brandon, Wimauma, Riverside,
and Westshore Senior Centers

Fun Facts About Water

- There is the same amount of water on Earth as there was when our planet was formed.

- The average American family turns on the tap between 70 - 100 times daily.



- A leak of one drop per second wastes 2,400 gallons of water a year.

- A typical garden hose can deliver 50 gallons of water in just five minutes



- It takes 39,000 gallons of water to produce the average domestic auto, including tires.

- About 25 - 50 gallons are needed for a tub bath.

- The largest use of potable water in the United States goes for irrigation.

Just a Friendly Watering Reminder....

The weather is warming up and while you may be tempted to water your lawn, keep in mind there are restrictions. With the exception of reclaimed water users and residents who have received variances from the Southwest Florida Water Management District, watering of established lawns and landscaping in unincorporated Hillsborough County is allowed two days a week. Watering days for addresses ending in even numbers are Tuesdays and Saturdays. For addresses ending in odd numbers, locations with no address and community areas like subdivision entrances, the watering days are Wednesdays and Sundays. Watering is allowed before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

Plant materials other than grass may be hand-watered at any time. Low-volume irrigation systems may also be used in plant beds at any time. There are special rules for residents who put in new sod and for professional companies that apply pesticides or fertilizers to lawns.



For more
information on
watering
restrictions,
call 275-7094

The restrictions apply to all residents - not just Water Resource Services customers - and most water sources, including private wells. Breaking the rules can result in penalties ranging from a \$102 fine for the first offense, to a mandatory court appearance and fines up to \$500 for the third offense.

NEWS BRIEFS...

Hillsborough County Will Hold Community Job Fair

Are you looking for a job or maybe to brush up on your interviewing skills? Hillsborough County can help with the Career Connections Job Fair scheduled Wednesday, May 17, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the University Area Community Center Complex, 14013 N. 22nd St. in Tampa.

Career Connections will assist low-income residents in becoming self-sufficient by obtaining or enhancing employment opportunities. More than 50 employers are expected to attend. The first 300 job-seekers will receive an incentive gift bag.



You Can Always
Count On Your
Hillsborough County
Information Line
For Courteous and
Professional
Assistance
Regarding County
Services



Hillsborough County Communicator

Published every month by the Communications Department to inform residents about the programs, services and activities of their County government.

For more information, call the Hillsborough Information Line at 272-5900, or visit the county's website at: www.hillsboroughcounty.org

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COMMUNICATOR

Keeping You Informed About County Government
May 2006
HAVE A PLAN



KNOW YOUR PLAN

An active hurricane season is expected, so it's important all residents do their part to prepare, and Hillsborough County can help. Hillsborough County is preparing hurricane information kits that will soon be available at local libraries, neighborhood service centers and senior service centers. It includes a suggested shopping list, handy magnet for your refrigerator and waterproof plastic bag to keep your important documents. Plus, don't forget to tune into HTV22, the county government's cable television station on cable channel 22, for hurricane information. And, mark your calendars now for the following events:

- “Tenga Un Plan y Protéjase”
Thursday, May 18, 2006
2nd Annual Spanish Hurricane
Conference at Jefferson High School
- HTV22's Live “Storm Ready in
Hillsborough”
Sunday, May 21, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.
A panel of experts answer questions
from residents.

For more information call 272-5900 or visit
www.hillsboroughcounty.org.

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