

REDUCING Nitrogen Pollution in Florida Waters

Since 1993 the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) program has partnered with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to reduce pollution in Florida waters. Polluted runoff from rainfall or overwatering is a major source of excess nitrogen and a major contributor to poor water quality.¹ FFL is an integral component of many Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) and helps to reduce nitrogen loading into Florida waters.

WATER QUALITY BENEFITS OF FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™

- **FFL** efforts **prevented** an estimated **128,714 pounds of nitrogen from entering Florida waters** in 2022.²
- **9,400** landscape professionals **adopted** one or more green industry **best management practices** (GI-BMP).³
- **22,000** adult participants in FFL Extension programs **adopted** one or more **best management practices** for residential landscapes.³
- **Participants shared** what they learned through FFL **with 3 other people**, on average.⁴
- **95%** of landscape professionals reported using UF/IFAS green industry **best management practices for fertilizer use**, compared to just **65% before** attending the FFL training.⁴
- **72%** of residential participants said they **adopted** one or more **FFL water conservation practices**.⁴

→ **Every pound of nitrogen that FFL prevents from entering Florida waters saves \$500 or more in nitrogen removal costs, such as stormwater pond construction.**²

→ **Estimated statewide annual savings of \$64.4 million.**



¹Reisinger et al. March 2020. Sources and Transformations of Nitrogen in Urban Landscapes. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/ss681>.

²Florida Department of Environmental Protection. July 2023. 2022 Statewide Annual Report on Total Maximum Daily Loads, Basin Management Action Plans, Minimum Flows or Minimum Water Levels, and Recovery or Prevention Strategies. <https://floridadep.gov/dear/water-quality-restoration/content/statewide-annual-report>.

³2022 IFAS Workload data.

⁴2021 surveys of FFL participants (N=656) and landscape professionals (98).