



CONRADINA CHAPTER

Florida Native Landscape™ Certification Program

Introduction

The Conradina Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society (hereinafter “Conradina”) has established a Florida Native Landscape™ (FNL) Certification Program, recognizing individuals, businesses, and governing bodies for their commitment to act conscientiously and within the law when making landscaping decisions that affect the health of our lands, waterways, and wildlife. Certification is available to every Brevard County property owner. The comprehensive application process, encompassing Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Principles as well as other legal and ethical considerations, is designed to help educate and to ensure consistency with certification approval criteria. While somewhat rigorous, it is our intention that certification represents a truly meaningful accomplishment.

Florida-Friendly Landscape™ Principles

As referenced in the [2012 Florida Statute 373.185](#), “Florida-friendly landscaping means quality landscapes that conserve water, protect the environment, are adaptable to local conditions, and are drought tolerant. The principles of such landscaping include planting the right plant in the right place, efficient watering, appropriate fertilization, mulching, attraction of wildlife, responsible management of yard pests, recycling yard waste, reduction of storm water runoff, and waterfront protection. Additional components include practices such as landscape planning and design, soil analysis, the appropriate use of solid waste compost, minimizing the use of irrigation, and proper maintenance.”

General

Certification Period

- Certifications and yard signs will remain in effect for two years.
- **Certificate of Recognition:** this optional and complimentary certificate may be awarded to governing bodies (including homeowners associations) to commend them for their ongoing support of FNL.

Requirements

- Florida Native Plant Society membership is encouraged.
- Your property must be located in Brevard County.
- You must not have any Category I or Category II invasive exotic pest plants on your property.
- You must submit a completed application and payment, initialed and/or signed in the appropriate spaces.
- You must meet all of the requirements set forth in this application for an FNL Certification.

Instructions

1. When your application is completed; hand deliver the application package to a member of the Conradina Board of Directors, or file digitally, or mail to: **Conradina Chapter, FNPS, P.O. Box 1543, Melbourne, FL 32902-1543**
2. Please allow 6 weeks for processing of your application and completion of a yard inspection.
3. For questions regarding this application, contact a member of the Conradina Board of Directors.

Payment Options

Please check all that apply. Checks should be made payable to **Conradina Chapter, FNPS**.

A.	CERTIFICATE only	\$15	
B.	YARD SIGN only	\$25	
C.	SIGN & CERTIFICATE	\$30	

***NOTE** - There are numerous FNPS membership levels available. Please look [here](#) for pricing.

Applicant Information

- Name exactly as you'd like it to appear on certificate: _____
- Mailing Address: _____
- Property Address: _____
- Phone: _____
- Email: _____
- Name of subdivision, if applicable: _____
- Deed-restricted? _____
Mailing address for your HOA if you'd like them to receive a complimentary recognition certificate
- County: _____

- Are you currently an FNPS member? _____ Chapter _____
- Please write a brief summary of your reasons for wanting your yard certified: _____

- Please write a brief summary of the biggest obstacles you've faced in your yard: _____

- Please tell us what you are most proud of in your yard: _____

Certification of Alignment

with Conradina, Florida-Friendly Principles™, and All Applicable Laws

Right Plant/Right Place

Please educate yourself on the benefits and legalities of choosing the right plant for the right place. Conradina supports the planting of Florida native plants which, when planted in the right location, rarely, if ever, require supplemental watering once established, making them perfect landscape choices for our Florida climate. Additionally, choosing the right Florida native plant for the right place greatly reduces or even eliminates totally the need for fertilization. _____ *(initial)*

Efficient Watering

Please educate yourself on the ethics and legalities surrounding water usage in your yard. Restrictions applying to private wells and pumps, ground and surface water, and water from public and private utilities may be found at [St. Johns River Water Management](#). [Florida Statute 373](#) dictates aspects of automatic lawn irrigation systems such as the requirement of rain gauges and rain sensors with automatic shut-off. Conradina supports only watering when absolutely necessary, and then only hand-watering or use of micro/drip/trickle irrigation, which is the slow, precise application of water and nutrients directly to the plants' roots. I have researched and am in compliance with all laws surrounding the watering of my property, as well as the mandatory equipment and settings. _____ *(initial)*

Appropriate Fertilization

Please educate yourself on the dangers of and legalities surrounding commercial fertilizer use, as regulations vary widely within the county. The [Marine Resources Council](#) describes how commercial fertilizers directly and severely impact the health of our local waterways and native wildlife species. Any spilled fertilizers should be immediately cleaned up and disposed of properly. If soil amendments are necessary, Conradina supports the use of vermicomposting and traditional composting from organic produce scraps as an alternative to commercial fertilizers. Your local native plant nursery may have other safe, organic alternatives when needed. _____ *(initial)*

Mulching

Please educate yourself on the plight of [Florida native cypress trees](#) mined for mulch. Conradina opposes the use of cypress and other rapidly declining native species for this purpose. Conradina supports the use of sustainably-produced or by-product, plant-based mulches like pine bark, pine needles, melaleuca, eucalyptus, leaf litter, and yard clippings. Ideally, mulches should be installed 2-3 inches thick, and at a distance of 2-3 inches from the base of the plants. _____ *(initial)*

Attraction of Wildlife

wildlife require four things: food, water, shelter, and places to raise their young. According to the [National Wildlife Federation](#), “Habitat loss—due to destruction, fragmentation or degradation of habitat—is the primary threat to the survival of wildlife in the United States. When an ecosystem has been dramatically changed by human activities—such as agriculture, oil and gas exploration, commercial development or water diversion—it may no longer be able to provide the food, water, cover, and places to raise young.” Native Florida wildlife is attracted to its natural habitat. Conradina supports the installation of Florida native plants, with minimal use of sod, to create habitat for wildlife. _____ (initial)

Responsible Management of Yard

Please educate yourself on the dangers of and legalities surrounding the use of commercial pesticides (insecticides and herbicides) and on managing pest plants and pest animals. Commercial chemical insecticides are nondiscriminatory and can kill beneficial insects as well as interfere with the normal food chain. Commercial chemical herbicides may also be nondiscriminatory, killing both weeds (weeds are any plants, native or exotic, growing where they are not desired) and desirables. Runoff of insecticides and herbicide impacts our ground water, local waterways, aquatic life, and animal and human health. Conradina supports the elimination of most pests by manual means and other non-chemical methods. _____ (initial)

[Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council \(FLEPPC\)](#)

Conradina opposes cultivation of Category I and Category II invasive exotic pest plants as outlined by FLEPPC. Category I plants are species that are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives. Category II plants are species that have increased in abundance but have not yet altered native plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species. Conradina supports the proper and legal removal and disposal of all Category I and II invasive exotic pest plant species outlined by FLEPPC. _____ (initial)

Recycling Yard Waste

Conradina supports recycling yard waste instead of putting all yard waste out for curbside pickup. Where appropriate, safe, and legal, yard waste should be composted, mulched, or repurposed. _____ (initial)

Reduction of Storm Water Run-Off

Please educate yourself on the damage caused by storm water run-off and ways in which soil permeability and vegetation affect storm water run-off by visiting [Florida Department of Environmental Protection](#), [St. John’s River Water Management District](#), [Marine Resources Council](#), and [Florida Water Star](#)SM. Much of Brevard County’s storm water runoff is discharged untreated, and ultimately makes its way to the Indian River Lagoon.

Slowing the flow is key. “Soils rich in organic matter and microbes can slow the water, which allows microbes to trap and break down some pollutants. Vegetation also slows water, so the soil is given more time to trap pollutants. Additionally, vegetation helps trap large pieces of trash and sediment. Careful selection of shoreline vegetation *in particular* can reduce erosion and trap pollutants in storm water runoff before they reach water bodies.”

“When designed with water efficiency in mind, sustainable landscapes demand less supplemental irrigation, maintenance, and nutrient applications and, in turn, have less storm water runoff — all of which is important for protecting the quantity and quality of Florida’s water resources.”

Conradina supports the installation of the right Florida native plants in the right places to help slow the flow, improve the quality, and decrease the quantity of storm water runoff. _____ *(initial)*

Waterfront Protection

Please educate yourself on the best practices for protecting Florida’s waterfront from [run-off](#), [invasive aquatic plants](#), and erosion, and for attracting native wildlife. The [Florida Yards and Neighbors Handbook](#) presents an excellent discussion of all of these topics. Waterfront includes canals, ponds, lakes, rivers, as well as the lagoon system.

“We share water, land, trees, plants, and wildlife with an ever-increasing population. To keep the *real* Florida healthy and available for everyone, we all need to take part in its conservation by informing ourselves about invasive aquatic plants, including why and how they are managed. Most Florida public lakes and rivers are shallow and capable of supporting *submersed* as well as floating plants across most or all of their surfaces. Couple this topography with a nearly year-round growing season, add the phenomenal growth of invasive plants, and it becomes clear that plants must be managed to conserve the uses and functions of Florida public waters.” Conradina supports the proper and legal management of invasive aquatic plants. _____ *(initial)*

If my landscape does not connect to any type of water body, I will write N/A here: _____

If I live on property adjacent to a body of water, I maintain a landscape buffer zone of at least _____ feet, and I use the following additional methods to help protect the waterfront: _____
_____. _____ *(initial)*

Native Plants

Please write the common and scientific names of all native plants used in your yard, assigning one number to each. Continue on the reverse side of this paper if more space is needed.

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Common Name	Scientific Name
1			21		
2			22		
3			23		
4			24		
5			25		
6			26		
7			27		
8			28		
9			29		
10			30		
11			31		
12			32		
13			33		
14			34		
15			35		
16			36		
17			37		
18			38		
19			39		
20			40		

Survey Instructions and Native Plant Calculation

75 % of the green space of your yard must be covered by Native Plants and/or mulched areas. Not counted in calculating your green space are impervious areas such as your house, sidewalks, driveways, swimming pool/deck, and public right of ways.

Measure the total green space area of your yard and the area covered by Native Plants.

Calculation of percentage of Native Landscape

Percentage of Native Plant Coverage equals:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Sq. Ft. of Native Plant Area} \\ \text{divided by} \\ \text{Sq. Ft. of Total Green Space} \\ \text{times} \\ \text{One Hundred} \end{array}$$

I certify that all information in this application is true, complete, accurate, and in alignment with Conradina, Florida-Friendly Principles™, and all applicable laws.

Signature

Resources

Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS)

- [FNPS- State Level](#)
- [Conradina Chapter](#)
- [Sea Rocket Chapter](#)

Native Plant Nurseries

- [Florida Association of Native Nurseries \(FANN\)](#)
 - [Maple Street Natives](#)
 - [NatureWise](#)

County Extension Offices

- [All counties](#)
- [Brevard County](#)

Regulatory Agencies

- [Florida Department of Environmental Protection](#)
- [Florida Statutes](#)
- [Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program](#)
- [St. John's River Water Management District](#)

Other Resources

- [Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council \(FLEPPC\)](#)
- [Surfrider Foundation](#)

Online Publications

- [Guide for Real Florida Gardeners](#)
- [Sabal minor](#)
- [The Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Handbook](#)