



Water Conservation

Results from WISER Lawns & Landscapes Programs



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FOCUS

Sumter County, Florida, is home to a significant percentage of The Villages, which is identified as one of the largest retirement communities in the country and growing exponentially. Most of the residents are from other states or countries and are unaware of Florida’s fragile ecosystem and water resources, including those found in Sumter County. New Residents may not have had irrigation before, managed warm season turf, and used landscape plants often not found in other states . WISER Lawn and Landscape Programs for New Residents cover the nine principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ found at <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/about-ffl/9-principles/>.

OBJECTIVE

Twenty-five percent of participants attending one of two monthly offered two-hour WISER Lawns and Landscapes for New Residents workshops will be able to demonstrate change of water savings, pesticide and/or fertilizer best management practices as determined by a Qualtrics survey.



Participants (32%) agreed to use a slow-release fertilizer. Image Credit: UF/IFAS Extension.

WISER RESULTS

Participants who changed water practices resulted in water savings that demonstrated an estimated water savings of 3,049,913 gallons of water, a value of \$10,552. **58%**

Participants changed pesticide use by identifying a pest before spraying, and **27%**

Reading a pesticide label before applying the product **46%**

Participants changed fertilizer practices by minimizing fertilizing in the winter, and **33%**

Use a slow or controlled release fertilizer on landscape plants **32%**



Participants (27%) identify pests before spraying. Image credit Lisa Sanderson

- W** Attract Wildlife
- I** IPM – Manage Yard Pests Responsibly
- S** Soils – Test, Fertilize Appropriately & Mulch
- E** Efficient Watering
- R** Right Plant, Right Place

UF/IFAS Extension
Landscaping Program

UF/IFAS Analytical Services Laboratories
Extension Soil Testing Laboratory
2390 Mowry Road/PO Box 110740/Wallace Building 631
Gainesville, FL 32611-0740
Email: wslab@ufl.edu Website: <http://soilfab.ifas.ufl.edu>

Landscape and Vegetable Garden Test Form

Note: This lab only tests samples from Florida.
Direct any questions about this test or the interpretation of the results to your local UF/IFAS Extension agent.

Test A: The pH and Lime Requirement Test provides the following information:

- Soil pH
- Lime Requirement

Test B: The Standard Soil Fertility Test provides the following:

- Soil pH
- Lime Requirement
- P, K, Ca, Mg, S, Cu, Mn, and Zn

Test C: Soil Fertility Test (Soil Fertility Test)

Test C will enable you to tailor your use of single-element fertilizers based on existing soil fertility status. However, if you use a complete fertilizer, such as 10-10-10, the extra tests for extractable P, K, Mg, and Cu are of little value.

Fill in all requested information, using one line per sample. Use additional forms for more than 5 samples.

Lab Use Only	Sample ID	County	Crop Code(s) (See back of form)	Estimated Acreage	Cost of Test A (Circle appropriate amount)	Cost of Test B (Circle appropriate amount)	Cost of Test C (Circle appropriate amount)
					\$0	\$20	\$10
					\$0	\$20	\$10
					\$0	\$20	\$10
					\$0	\$20	\$10
					\$0	\$20	\$10

Check () Money Order () Cash () Total
Please enclose payment and this sheet in the same package as sample(s).
Please make checks and money orders payable to UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA.
Samples will not be processed without payment. Do not send cash through the mail.

How to Sample Your Lawn or Garden

Obtain a small amount of soil from 10 to 15 different spots in the area you wish to test (a minimum of 4 spots). When you sample a lawn, take the soil from the upper 2-4 inches. When sampling a vegetable garden or landscape plants, take soil from the upper 6 inches. If soil is wet, spread soil on clean paper or other suitable material to air dry.

Figure 1: Use a soil probe for better soil sampling.

Figure 2: If you don't have a soil probe, use a hand trowel, shovel, or other garden tool. Test soil of uniform thickness to the recommended depth.

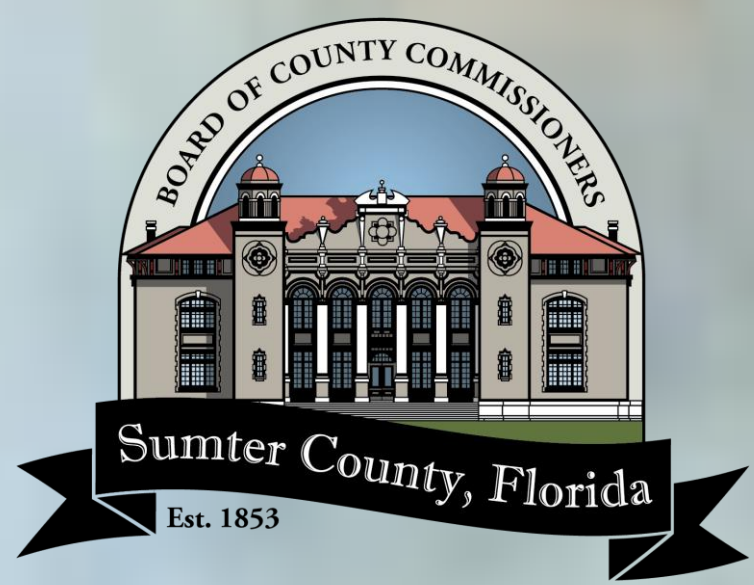
Figure 3: Place 10-15 soil cores into a plastic bucket, mix, dry, and transfer to a bag.

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WISER Lawns and Landscapes Program recommends soil testing for pH and soil fertility .

WISER CONCLUSIONS

Over 25% of residents who attended WISER Lawns & Landscapes Programs for New Residents have implemented irrigation, pesticide and fertilization best management practices. These changes in behavior have led to significant conservation and protection of water.



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