



Louisiana Yard's & Neighborhoods

Louisiana-friendly landscaping emphasizes nine major principles that can create and maintain beautiful lawns and gardens:

Right Plant, Right Place

Plants selected for your site will require minimal amounts of water, fertilizer and pesticides.

Water Efficiently

Irrigate only when your lawn and landscape need water. Efficient watering is the key to a healthy Louisiana Yard and reducing runoff.

Fertilize Appropriately

Less is often best. Over-utilization of fertilizers can be hazardous to your yard and the environment.

Mulch

Maintaining a 2-3" layer of mulch will help retain soil moisture, prevent erosion, and suppress weeds.

Attract Wildlife

Plants in your yard that provide food, water and shelter can conserve Louisiana's diverse wildlife.

Control Yard Pests Responsibly

Unwise use of pesticides can harm people, pets, beneficial organisms, and the environment.

Recycle

In a Louisiana yards, grass clippings, leaves, and yard trimmings are recycled on site to provide added nutrients to the soil and to reduce waste disposal.

Reduce Stormwater Runoff

Water running off from your yard can carry soil, debris, fertilizer and pesticides that can harm water quality. Reduction of this runoff will help prevent nonpoint source pollution.

Protect the Waterfront

Waterfront property, whether on a bay, river, stream, pond, bayou, or beach, is very fragile and should be protected as a natural treasure.

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Louisiana

Friendly

Landscaping



Creating and maintaining attractive landscapes to enhance our community and to protect Louisiana's natural environment



Louisiana Friendly Landscaping is a public education and outreach brochure, that was made possible through the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Nonpoint Source Pollution Program.





Protect Louisiana's Natural Resources

.....for generations to come.



The natural beauty and abundant natural resources in Louisiana has and continues to attract many residents and visitors. Louisiana has some of the most productive fisheries in the nation and numerous amounts of diverse wildlife. It offers many recreational opportunities and rich heritage.

Louisiana is known as "the place where the land meets the water". Its landscape is strongly influenced by water and occupied by plants and animals that have adapted to wet conditions. Together they create a productive ecosystem, which has provided us the natural beauty and natural resources we became attracted to.

However, Louisiana's expanding population growth brings demanding challenges. Much of the natural environment that attracted us in the first place is damaged and diminishing at an unprecedented rate. As our communities continue to grow, the potential for negative impacts on water quality are increasing.

In the past, we have not been as careful as we should have been in order to protect the natural beauty of Louisiana for the future.



Our Yards and Community Landscapes

The first line of defense.

The good news is that we are learning from our past mistakes. Today landscapers, engineers, and biologists are recognizing the important functions of the natural landscape in Louisiana and are taking steps to work together in order to implement new strategies for conserving, restoring, and/or creating them.

Residential lawns and community landscapes become the first line of defense for protecting water quality. Whether you take care of your own lawn or contract a professional service, you can play an important role in minimizing the harmful effects of urbanization on our natural resources.



How our landscapes and maintenance practices fit into the picture...

During Louisiana's rainstorms, water rushes over the land carrying debris and dissolved nutrients to local waterways. The water and its contents is called *stormwater runoff*.

The fertilizers and chemicals we use on our landscapes get washed away by rain, or excessive irrigation, into storm drains that flow directly into the local waterways. Oil and residue on roads, driveways and parking areas also end up in waterways. The stormwater from these areas in our landscape, drain into local ponds, rivers, lakes, and bayous, causing water quality problems.



Take the First Step!

Plants native to our soils and climate in Louisiana generally require less fertilizer and pesticides, less water, and provide the best overall food sources for wildlife. Native plants may support 10 to 50 times as many species of native wildlife as non-native plants. Very often, exotic plants brought from other places, spread rapidly and take over farms and woodlands, and decimate native plants and animals.

The key is to get "Mother Nature" to work for you, not against you.

- Take steps to...*Learn more about what type of eco-region in Louisiana you live and learn more about the plant and animals that are native there;*
- Take steps to...*Plant your landscape with native plants when and where possible. Remember, the right plant in the right place. Native plants require less input, tolerate local conditions better, and provide greater benefits to water quality and local wildlife;*
- Take steps to...*Protect and/or enhance natural areas in the landscape since they are known to provide important functions and valuable benefits which we enjoy;*
- Take steps to...*Create or simulate those natural features in the landscape that are known to offset our negative environmental impacts, such as excess amounts of stormwater runoff known to increase flooding and degrade water quality;*
- Take steps ...**TO PRACTICE LOUISIANA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING.**

