

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Florida Lawns

FOR THE

#GATORGOOD

Nicole Pinson

UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County

Urban Horticulture Agent

Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator

UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County

Services

- Residential and commercial horticulture/gardening
- Youth Development/4-H
- Financial literacy
- Parenting, childcare licensing
- Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP)
- Small farms, nursery production, forestry
- Citrus, commercial fruits and vegetables

Horticulture

Residential Horticulture Services

- Help Desk
(813) 744-5519 X 4
hillsmg@ad.ufl.edu
- Soil testing \$3.00 per sample
- Diagnostics plant nutrition, pathology
insect ID, plant ID, free publications
- Library Plant Clinics

<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/hillsborough/upcoming-events/>

Lawn Basics

Characteristics –

Advantages & Disadvantages

- Warm-season turfgrass
- pH range
- Texture
- Wear, drought and salt-tolerance
- Maintenance
- Disease, shade

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

“Cultural Practices”

Mowing

- Never remove > 1/3 blade
- Mowing height
- Leave clippings
- Source of N
- Sanitation

EDIS ENH10



Best Practices

- Soil test for fertility
 - Phosphorous
 - ½ - 1 pound N per 1,000 sq. ft. per application
 - No more than 0.7 pounds soluble N per application
 - Recommendations for # of apps/yr.
- Central Florida – early April
- Early October
- No fert – winter
- ¼” & rain events

EDIS ENH979

UF/IFAS Extension
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Mailing Address (please print)
Name _____ Date _____
Address _____
_____, FL Zip _____ Phone _____
Email* _____
*Please include an e-mail address to receive your notification.
Signature: _____
Signature not required for UF Extension approval of educational design.

UF/IFAS Analytical Services Laboratories
Extension Soil Testing Laboratory
2390 Sherry Road PO Box 110740 Volusia Building 631
Gainesville, FL 32611-0740
E-mail: extlab@ifas.ufl.edu Website: <http://soiltestlab.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.

Revised August 2019 10/19

Note:

- Consult an expert to determine if plant growth problems require soil testing.
- These samples will not be tested for nematodes, disease organisms, or chemicals other than those listed on this form.
- Commercial producers should use the Producers Soil Test Form SL12 (<http://edis.ufl.edu/SL12>).

Step 1. Collect samples from your landscape or garden. See the instructions at the bottom of this page.

Step 2. Choose EITHER Test A or B, but not both, for all samples.

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

- Soil pH
- Lime Requirement

Test A is appropriate if you do the following:

1. Use only complete fertilizers such as the 4-8-0.
2. Follow the generic fertilizer recommendations found in UF/IFAS landscape and vegetable garden publications.
3. Need only the soil pH test.

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

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

Test B 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 Ca are of little value.

Fill in all requested information, using one line per sample. Use additional forms for more than 5 samples. Remember: Choose either test A or B for each sample.

Lab Use Only	Sample ID	County	Crop Code(s) (See back of form)	Estimated Acreage	Cost of Test A (Circle appropriate amount.)	OR	Cost of Test B (Circle appropriate amount.)
					\$3	OR	\$10
					\$3	OR	\$10
					\$3	OR	\$10
					\$3	OR	\$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 1/2 yard). 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 fence soil sampling.

Figure 2. If you don't have a soil probe, use a hand trowel, shovel, or other garden tool. Trim out 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.

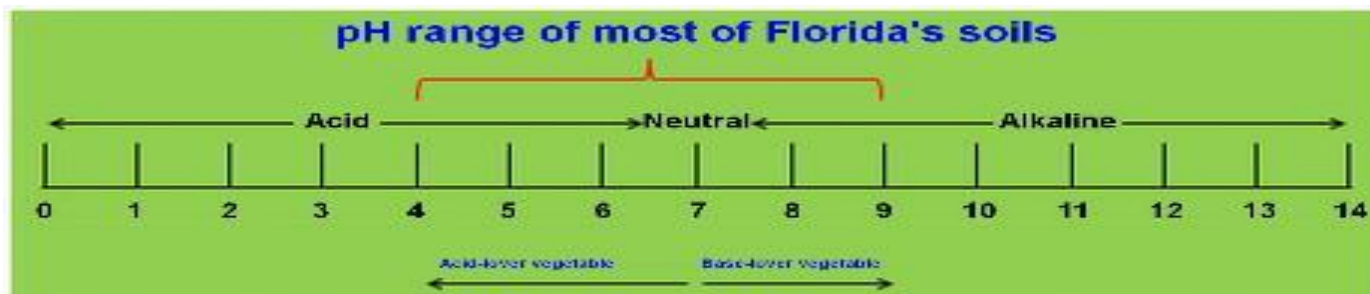
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Best Practices

Fertilization

- pH > 7.0 or water
 - Yellow leaf blades Fe or Mg
 - Granular or foliar applications
 - Soluble or chelated manganese
 - Iron – foliar spray or granular chelate

HS1208



Best Practices

Irrigation

- Warm-season turfgrass
- How much to apply?
 - ½ inch – ¾ inch
 - 4 – 6 inches soil
- How long to apply?
- Check each zone seasonally

Discussion question:

How does grass tell you when to water?

**EDIS ENH9,
ENH884, ENH1134**

Best Practices

Irrigation

EDIS ENH979



Best Practices

- Beautify your landscape & neighborhood
- Reduce fertilizer inputs
- Reduce soil erosion
- Appropriate water use
- Reduce pollution & runoff
- Glare & noise
- Time and money

EDIS ENH979

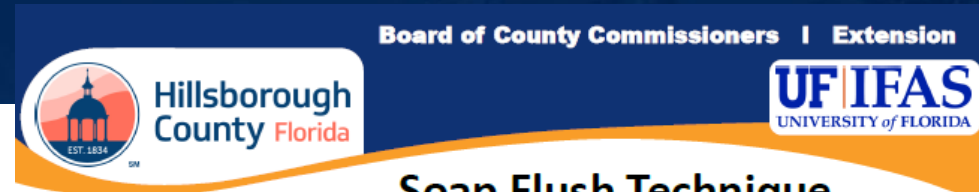
Discussion question:

**Why follow
best practices?**

Pests

- Armyworms
- Mole crickets
- Other pests
- Soap flush
- Nematodes
- Contact Extension

https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_pest_insects



Soap Flush Technique

By Nicole Pinson, Urban Horticulture Agent, Master Gardener Coordinator, UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County

Scouting the Lawn for Insects Worksheet

Materials:

- Liquid dishwashing soap (don't use a degreaser)
- Watering can
- Container or zip-top bag to collect insects for ID

Procedure:

1. Look for an area that shows a progression of symptoms, such as an area with signs of damage and no damage.
2. Use a watering can to mix 2 Tablespoons of liquid dishwashing soap with 2 gallons of water.
3. Apply the soap mixture to a 2 foot X 2 foot area of grass.
4. Wait 2—3 minutes. Insects will begin to appear as they move to the soil surface.
5. Flush late in the afternoon or early morning for best results.
6. Check for different stages of an insect's life cycle, such as adults and caterpillars.
7. Collect samples and bring to the Extension office for assistance, identification and control recommendations.
8. Repeat the process in several areas of the yard to get a good sample of insects present.

Resources:

Buss, E. and A. Dale. (2017). *Insect Management on Turfgrass*. IFAS Publication Number ENY-300. Gainesville: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Retrieved from

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/IG/IG00100.pdf>



Pests

EDIS ENY-006

- Nematodes
 - Yellow, thin, brown, wilt
 - Short, stubby roots
 - Sandy soils, high-maintenance
 - Assay form \$25.00 per sample
 - Commercial applicators

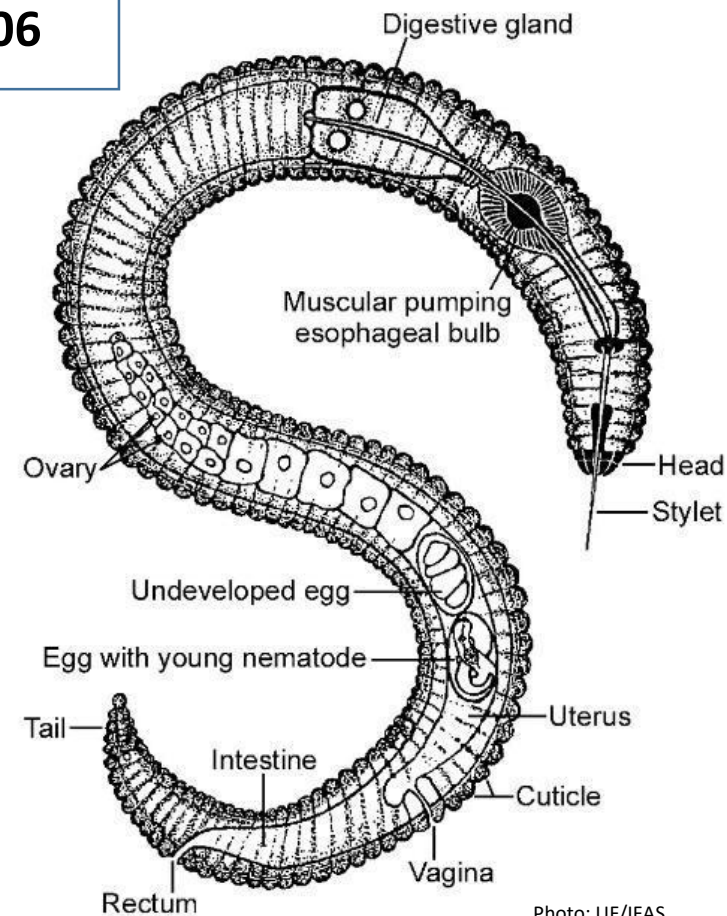


Photo: UF/IFAS

Hiring a Landscape Professional

EDIS ENY-219

Consider

- Certifications/FDACS ID card
- Monthly and/or annual schedule
- Ask them to show you – bring a sample
- Receipts for services – in writing
- Liability insurance
- Obtain several quotes/BBB
- Contact Extension

Resources

UF/IFAS Extension
Your Florida Lawn
website

<http://hort.ufl.edu/yourfloridalawn/>

Resources

Landscape Maintenance

GI-BMP Certified

https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/professionals/certification_lists/cert_count_y_name.shtml

FDACS – Licensed Pesticide Applicator Search

<http://ceupublicsearch.freshfromflorida.com/PersonSearch.asp>

FNGLA Certified Professional

info@fngla.org

Questions?

Thank you!

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