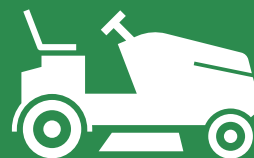


HERNANDO COUNTY RESIDENTS' LAWCARE PRACTICES



In a recent study conducted by the University of Florida's Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), Hernando County residents were asked about their fertilizer practices, in addition to their perceptions of the county's updated fertilizer ordinance.

LANDSCAPE CONDITION

Approximately half of Hernando County respondents reside on one-fourth to one-half acre of land. Hernando County policy allows for watering once a week, 24% of respondents reported watering weekly, 3% bi-weekly, 2% month, and 1% bi-monthly, while 27% reported not irrigating at all.



30% of residents irrigate their landscapes once a week or less.

Respondents were asked to estimate the portions of their landscape that consist of turfgrass, annual/perennial plants and naturalized/forest areas. An average across all respondents resulted in 52% turfgrass, 26% annual/perennial plants and 22% naturalized/forest areas.



ON AVERAGE, HERNANDO COUNTY RESIDENTS' LANDSCAPES ARE MADE UP OF 52% TURFGRASS.

Most respondents (57%) had not laid a new lawn within the last two years. When asked to identify grass types within their landscapes, St. Augustinegrass and Bahiagrass had the highest frequencies.

LAWNCARE PRACTICES

When asked which lawncare practices are most important in keeping their lawns green and healthy, respondents identified mowing regularly, irrigating properly and fertilizing properly as the highest-ranking practices.

TOP RANKING LAWCARE PRACTICES

1

MOWING REGULARLY

2

IRRIGATING PROPERLY

3

FERTILIZING PROPERLY

Most respondents report mowing their lawns two to four times per month (72%). Respondents' lawns are typically mowed to a height of 2-3 inches, and approximately half (51%) report leaving lawn grass clippings on the lawn following mowing. As for other respondents, 27% add clippings to a compost pile and 19% remove them as yard waste.



Roughly half of respondents reported leaving grass clippings on their lawn after mowing.



Data were collected between December 20, 2023, and February 29, 2024, by UF/IFAS Extension - Hernando County. This survey was conducted within Hernando County, Florida, and had 383 valid completed surveys used during analysis. Participants were required to be a Hernando County resident and over the age of 18.