

# 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. Augustine grass and Bahia grass 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.