

UF College of Dentistry Green Team

Green Tips of the Month



March 2009
A Greener Yard

Warmer weather means more yard work! However, getting a nice green lawn isn't always good for the planet. Here are some tips to make your yard maintenance more sustainable:

- Instead of bagging your grass clippings, "grasscycle" them. Grass clippings left on the lawn quickly break down, giving valuable nutrients to the soil (making your lawn greener and healthier). It's easy - simply remove the grass catcher on your lawn mower, and make sure that clippings are spread fairly evenly.
- Lawns and landscaping are huge water hogs! To reduce your yard's gulp, water only in the early morning, and for a short time – grass that is watered too long will become oversaturated and die. To take advantage of those afternoon showers once summer comes, consider setting up rain barrels underneath your gutter outflows – the water can then be used for watering plants or your garden. The UF IFAS Extension office provides [guides on making rain barrels](#), and home improvement stores carry them.

UF Office of Sustainability Events in March

- 3/23, 7-9 p.m.: [Community Food System Presentation and Workshop by Tom Stearns](#)
- Sustainable Solutions Award Nominations go until April 1st! These awards recognize individuals, departments and organizations that have made significant contributions toward advancing sustainability at UF. For more information, visit <http://www.sustainability.ufl.edu/what-can-you-do/SustainableSolutionsAwards-2009.html>.