



STATE ISSUE: LANDSCAPE ORDINANCES

POSITION: FNGLA supports landscape ordinances which reflect principles of horticultural science and promote reasonable & cost-effective minimum standards for the development, installation and maintenance of landscape areas without inhibiting the landscape profession’s creativity and the property owners’ choices.

BACKGROUND: Proper landscape design, installation and maintenance can conserve water, provide wildlife habitat, prevent soil erosion, restore wetlands, enhance property values, conserve energy, protect Florida’s natural resources and reflect an overall quality of life. The basic foundation of a local or county landscape ordinance must incorporate the overarching principle of horticultural science: “put the right plant in the right place.” In other words, landscape ordinances must feature flowers, plants, trees and shrubs that are suited for the soil, topography and climate found at the landscape site. By “putting the right plant in the right place,” FNGLA fully supports the wide use of native and non-native plants as there are plenty of sensible opportunities for both.

Consistent with the principles of horticultural science, FNGLA opposes any provisions mandating minimum-use percentages of native plants. By definition, such restricts or limits the use of non-native plants purposely bred to be water-efficient, drought-tolerant, pest-resistant, and easy to maintain. For the same reasons, FNGLA opposes any provisions mandating minimum-use percentages of non-native plants because such restricts or limits the use of native plants that may otherwise be appropriate for landscape sites. Native and/or non-native plant mandates disregard horticultural science, dampen the development of new, beneficial plant varieties, arbitrarily inhibit the creativity of landscape professionals, and inappropriately limit property owners’ choices.

To be effective, landscape ordinances must incorporate scientifically-based, reasonable and cost-effective provisions in areas such as site planning and design, land-clearing and preservation of native vegetation, efficient irrigation, and the management of fertilizers, pesticides and yard wastes. FNGLA believes that when soliciting bids for contracts, local and state government agencies should provide competitive advantages to landscape firms that employ personnel who have earned and maintain industry professional certifications.