Glossary

acid — A condition which is derived by partial exchange of replaceable hydrogen, an element that is sour, on the pH scale; acid conditions are any pH below 7.0 which is neutral.

alkaline — The condition of water or soil that contains an amount of alkali substances (various soluble salts) to raise the pH above 7.0; when extreme, alkalinity is caustic.

aquifer — A layer of underground rock or sand which stores and carries water.

brackish — Somewhat salty.

conserve — To use only what is needed.

deciduous — Losing foliage in autumn or winter.

ecotones — Regions where one ecosystem blends into another.

epiphYTE — A plant that gets its moisture and nutrients from the air and rain.

groundcovers — Small plants that grow close to the ground.

groundwater — Water below the earth’s surface.

herbaceous — Having the texture, color or appearance of a leaf, with little or no woody tissue.

humus — Decomposed plant or animal matter; the organic portion of soil.

hydric — Characterized by abundant moisture.

inorganic — Composed of matter other than plant or animal.

leach — To pass through by percolation.

marl — A loose, earthy deposit containing a substantial amount of calcium carbonate; used for soils deficient in lime.

mesic — Moist conditions; characterized by a moderate amount of moisture.

microclimate — A small-scale site of special conditions within a larger climate.

oasis — A restricted area of the landscape where specimen or colorful plants are used, although they may require more maintenance and water.

plat — A plan or map of a piece of land.

potable — Water suitable for human consumption.

practical turf area — A place where grass serves a function, such as a child’s or pet’s play area, or an area designed to receive stormwater runoff and pollution.

saline — Containing salt.

saltwater intrusion — When salt water moves into the freshwater zone of an aquifer, making the water unfit for drinking.

specimen planting — A plant located as a stand-alone highlight in a landscape design.

stormwater runoff — Rainwater that runs off surfaces into water bodies.

succession — A series of ecosystem changes where plants compete, succeeding and displacing each other as they respond to, and so modify, their environment.

topography — Natural features of land.

water table — The upper limit of where groundwater permeates the ground.

wetlands — Vegetated areas having high soil moisture year-round.

xeric — Characterized by dry conditions; requiring only a small amount of moisture.
Bibliography


WaterWise: South Florida Landscapes was produced to inform the public about landscaping that supports water conservation and promotes the use of non-invasive plants.

This South Florida edition was produced by the South Florida Water Management District.

Contents also provided from WaterWise: Florida's Landscapes, a publication of Florida's five water management districts and Xeriscape: A Guide to Developing a Water-Wise Landscape, a publication of the Georgia Cooperative Extension Service.

Editor: Mike Bodle Graphic Designer: Cheri Craft Illustrator: Diana Nickels

Technical Editors: Steve Fairtrace, Marjorie Moore, Ray Miller, Dan Thayer, Amy Ferriter, Kris Serbesoff-King, Dan Boyar, Gail Irwin, Susan Bennett, David Black, Bruce Adams and Linda Yarrish.

Location Credits: The Nature Conservancy's Blowing Rocks Preserve, Carl Bates' Indigenous Plants, City of Boca Raton, City of Delray Beach, City of West Palm Beach, the South Florida Water Management District, Town of Hypoluxo, Meadow Beauty Nursery, Mesozoic Landscapes, Inc., Mounts Botanical Garden, Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach's Pan's Garden, Southern Gardens, Inc., Trotsky property, Sosnowski-Ferriter property, Bodle property and Craft property.

Photography Credits: Patrick Lynch, Mike Bodle, Cheri Craft, Dan Boyar, Amy Ferriter, Rob Sosnowski and Alana Edwards.

First printing, May 2003.

Printed on recycled paper