Protect the Waterfront

Today on Gardening in a Minute: protect the waterfront.

Florida is filled with lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers. Many homeowners have property near water, and enjoy the beautiful scenery and fun water-based activities.

Because chemicals you use in your landscape can wash into the water, waterfront property needs special care.

To protect water bodies, maintain a ten-foot-wide buffer zone of native plants along the water’s edge. Don’t mow, fertilize, or use pesticides in this area. These plants will act as a natural filter for potential pollutants that leave your landscape.

This zone can increase the value of your property. It adds to the natural beauty of the land, reduces erosion, reduces noise from boats and other watercraft, and gives you privacy. It also can provide important habitat for wildlife like birds and help improve water quality.

For more information about Florida-friendly yards, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.