Saving Energy in the Landscape

Today on Gardening in a Minute: saving energy in the landscape.

Summers in Florida are inevitably hot, but it may surprise you to learn that your landscape can affect the temperature of your home. With careful planning and design, you too can “go green” and create an energy-saving landscape.

Pay attention to which walls and windows in your house get the most light. Shading the house with trees can lower indoor temperatures dramatically, reducing the amount of money you have to spend to keep your house cool in the summer.

In general, small or medium-sized trees work best for shading the walls of your house. Trees that are taller than about thirty feet when mature should be planted farther from the house to prevent limbs from overhanging your roof, a potential safety hazard during hurricanes and other storms.

For more information about saving energy in the landscape and many other gardening topics, 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.