



UF/IFAS OKEECHOBEE COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE

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Angela Sachson – Florida Yards & Neighborhoods

For immediate release

FLORIDA YARDS PROGRAM SURVEYS OKEECHOBEE RESIDENTS

The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods program seeks to reduce water pollution. Through the local Extension Service, homeowners are encouraged to follow Florida Friendly principles that can help keep our ground water clean.

With more and more emphasis on conserving water, protecting the water from pollutants and nutrients, and with the continuing stress placed upon our water supply, we all are concerned about our responsibility toward the aquifer below us and the lake to our south.

Last April, Okeechobee residents were surveyed to learn about how they were managing their yards and landscapes. About a thousand homes in the southwestern part of the City were contacted, and more than a hundred were surveys were returned – about a 12 percent response rate.

Based on the answers, workshops related to Florida Friendly gardening practices were held. Subjects included turf taming, composting, fertilization, rain barrels, safe pest management, water conservation and gardening for wildlife.

The program is now preparing a follow-up survey to find out if landscape practices have changed and, if so, which ones and in what direction? Angela Sachson, FYN representative asks that if you receive this survey, please take a few minutes to complete and return it. A postage-paid envelope will be provided for you to use.

If you do not receive a survey and would like to offer your opinions about the program, please contact our office or visit <http://okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu/Okeechobee.FYN.htm> to obtain a copy. For additional information contact Angela Sachson at 763-6469 or at asachson@ufl.edu.

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