

Section in Tallahassee, or the regional WMD in which you are located, as follows:

Northwest Florida WMD	904/539-5999
Southwest Florida WMD	904/796-7211
St. Johns River WMD	904/328-8321
Suwannee River WMD	904/362-1001
South Florida WMD	407/686-8800

Counties and local governments may also have guidelines or policies pertaining to planting and management of stormwater management ponds and created wetlands, as well as public safety and flood control criteria. Your local public works director or drainage engineer should be contacted if there are questions.

Management of aquatic plants with herbicides or by mechanical means in certain sites may require a permit from DNR. A DNR regional biologist or the Cooperative Extension Service in your county can help you determine if a permit is required. Although a licence is not currently required to purchase or apply any aquatic herbicides, IFAS urges everyone who applies herbicides to become a Certified Aquatic Pesticide Applicator. The Cooperative Extension Service will provide information pertaining to certification training.

Discussion

Aquascaping can provide an aesthetic as well as monetary increase in the value of a property (with a relatively small investment). In addition, when Florida native plants are used, a habitat for aquatic animals can be established that will provide hours of pleasure for people in the area. However, if inferior quality plants are used for planting, if the planting is not done properly, or if a regular maintenance schedule is not employed, the end result can be more of a problem than an asset. Always be sure that your aquascaping is done according to current state and local policies. Good luck in your endeavors to enhance Florida's Natural Resources.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION on specific topics such as aquatic plant biology, physiology, ecology, utilization, or management, the reader is encouraged to contact:

Aquatic Plant Information Retrieval System

University of Florida, IFAS

7922 NW 71st Street

Gainesville, Florida 32606 USA

904/392-9613