Course: Introduction to Florida Native Plant Selection

EVALUATION CRITERIA & POINTS

Submittals must receive a total of 70 points to pass and receive CEUs.

SITE DESCRIPTION (50 points)

- Identifies general location and probable historical plant community(s)
  - Probable plant community can be based on historical vegetation maps or other references, including information from area naturalists
- Describes soils and drainage conditions in detail sufficient to guide plant selection
  - If turf/weeds to be eliminated, includes plan for doing so.
  - Soil test results can be submitted.
- Identifies appropriate candidate plant communities to serve as reference models for plant selection
  - Plant communities listed are described in any of the recommended references
  - Proposed plant communities are a good "match" for site based on location, exposure, soils and drainage conditions
- Describes resources available for establishing and maintaining the landscape and what constraints this might place on plant selection
  - Identifies who will be establishing landscape (e.g., property owner or contractor? Is contractor skilled with native landscapes?)
  - Describes time and other resources available for irrigation, fertilization, pruning/trimming, mowing, mulching
- Identifies any site-specific issues that necessitate adaptation or constrain the use of suggested native plant communities
  - Example: historically pine flatwoods community, rural neighborhood with high fire hazard, landscape plan needs to use less flammable plants

PLANT SELECTION (50 points)

- Specific plants are suggested for each plant category identified on the landscape design
  - Plants are identified by species name and size & quantity to be installed
- Selected plants are appropriate and have a good likelihood of success
  - Species identified are natives that occur in appropriate plant communities as identified in the site description
  - Species will work together well in terms of needs for light, moisture, drainage and nutrients
- Selected plants are available in the sizes indicated
- Participant consulted suggested references
  - List references used, including professionals contacted and the information obtained.
- Plant establishment and maintenance needs are understood
  - Any unusual plant-specific establishment/maintenance issues are identified (e.g, irrigation sensitivity or nutritional needs).