



HEALTHY PONDS AND YOU!

A healthy pond starts with you!
Follow these recommendations to
create a healthy pond.

- **Know your permit.** See how your ponds were designed by finding your Environmental Resource Permit on file at the Water Management District.

- **Reduce negative inputs.** Limit fertilizer and keep grass clippings/landscape debris, pet waste, and irrigation water out of your pond.
- **Support your pond's natural food web.** Allow native plants to thrive.
- **Create a vegetated buffer zone.** Separate your yard from the water's edge with native and Florida-Friendly plants.
- **Manage invasive species.** Use an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to manage invasive species.
- **Reduce herbicide use.** Limit chemical applications applied for aesthetic reasons.



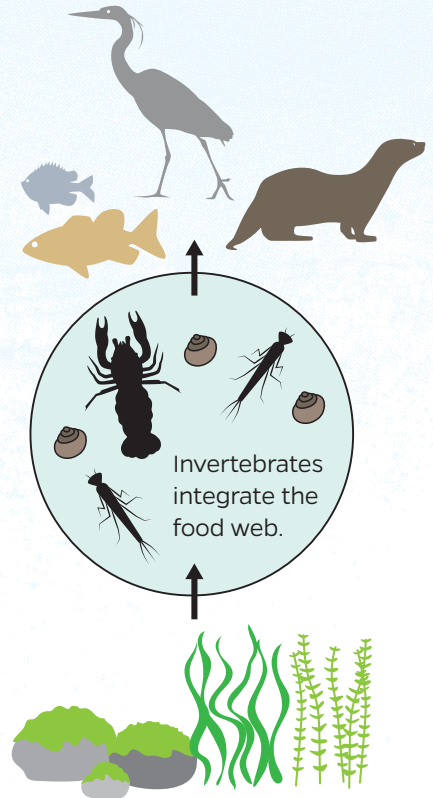


Abbey Tyrna
Water Resources Agent
UF/IFAS Extension
& Sustainability
6700 Clark Road
Sarasota, FL 34241
email: atyrna@ufl.edu

Mollie K. Holland
Coordinator
Neighborhood Environmental
Stewardship Team (NEST)
1001 Sarasota Center Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34240
email: mkholland@scgov.net

BENEFITS OF LIMITING HERBICIDES IN YOUR HEALTHY POND

Herbicides target the items at the bottom of the food chain (algae and plants), but invertebrates in the middle are often more sensitive to these chemicals. **Herbicides eliminate or weaken the invertebrate community destroying the natural pond food chain.** Invertebrates feed on algae, plants, and other insect pests. Invertebrates also make food for fish, birds, and other predators. By eliminating non-essential applications of herbicides you can build up your pond's food web, which in turn stabilizes the ecosystem and creates a healthier pond.



(Adapted from L. Reisinger, 2020)