1. For best coverage, ground cover plants should be installed in a staggered pattern, as seen below. Use care when planting under trees to avoid damaging tree roots; leave at least three feet of unplanted area around the tree base.

2. If area to be planted has weeds and/or grass, carefully apply a weed killer such as glyphosate (Roundup), directly to the unwanted plants. Be sure to follow label directions! Wait for unwanted plants to die (takes two weeks or more), remove them, and grade area for planting. If the planting area is bare soil, proceed to next step.

3. Install plants as illustrated below. A wide hole no deeper than the root ball is best. Be sure that the top of the root ball is no deeper than the existing landscape’s soil surface. Planting “high” (slightly above surrounding soil surface) is best, to allow for mulch.

4. Fill the space around the root ball with the soil from the original hole (no soil amendments are necessary unless a soil test indicates otherwise). Gently firm the soil; do not pack the soil.

5. Water thoroughly while planting to remove air pockets in the planting area.

6. Apply a 3 to 4 inch layer of organic mulch, keeping the mulch 3 inches away from plant stems. Recommended mulches include:
   - Pine Bark
   - Pine Straw
   - Recycled Yard Waste Mulch
   - Eucalyptus Bark
   - Melaleuca Mulch

7. Water thoroughly to establish plants, using the following recommended schedule:

   | Week 1: water daily |
   | Week 2: water every 2 days |
   | Week 3: hand water twice a week |
   | Week 4: water once a week, more when plants wilt from dryness |

   Watering Schedule: new drought-tolerant plants up to 1 gallon in size

Some Local Plant Nurseries in Southern Pinellas County
(subject to change)

- Banyan Scapes Inc.
  932 49th St. So.,
  Gulfport  727-323-5484

- Carroll’s Garden Center
  4950 38th Ave. No.,
  St. Petersburg  727-527-5418

- Country Club Nursery
  9850 Starkey Rd.,
  Largo  727-397-4438

- Dolin’s Garden Center
  801 62nd Ave. No.,
  St. Petersburg  727-525-3434

- Gulf Coast Garden Center
  4355 Haines Rd.,
  St. Petersburg  727-522-3074

- Hazel’s Garden & Nursery
  5063 Dartmouth Ave. No.,
  St. Petersburg  727-321-4599

- Jene’s Tropical Fruit Trees
  6831 Central Ave.,
  St. Petersburg  727-344-1668

- Kathy’s Korner Nursery / Tree Farm
  3118 62nd Ave. No.,
  St. Petersburg  727-525-9640

- Seminole Nurseries
  6230 102nd Ave. No.,
  Pinellas Park  727-545-9619

- Twigs & Leaves
  2131 Central Avenue
  St. Petersburg  727-822-5400

- Wilcox Nursery
  12501 Indian Rocks Rd.,
  Largo  727-595-2073

- Willow Tree Nursery
  4401 49th St. No.,
  St. Petersburg  727-522-2594

“Converting from a traditional turf landscape to a water efficient landscape through proper choice of plants and careful design can reduce outdoor water use by 20 to 50 percent.”

EPA WaterSense, 2009
Why Use Drought-Tolerant Ground Covers?

- Lower maintenance than most lawns
- Reduced air pollution - no mowing!
- Assists with percolation of rain water through the soil
- Better options exist for shaded areas than turfgrass
- Filters fertilizer & other chemicals, minimizing pollution of local waterways
- Minimizes erosion by holding soil
- Attractive flowers and leaves
- Reduces heat reflection

Perennial Peanut
Arachis glabrata. Spacing 1’. Full sun. High salt tolerance. *Trim along walks; takes time to root.

Dwarf Jasmine
Trachelospermum asiaticum. Full sun to shade. Good salt tolerance. Spacing 18”. *Takes time to root.

Beach Sunflower

Matchweed/Frogfruit

Coontie

Blue Pacific Juniper

Liriope
Liriope spp. Spacing 18”. Good salt tolerance. Full sun to shade. *Keep crown clear of debris.

Lantana spp.

Blue Daze

Railroad Vine

Dwarf Oyster Plant

Dwarf Jasmine
Trachelospermum asiaticum. Full sun to shade. Good salt tolerance. Spacing 18”. *Takes time to root.

Matchweed/Frogfruit

Coontie

Why Try Natives?
- Adapted to the local weather conditions, including extremes
- Adapted to the soil conditions of a given area
- Usually have few pest problems
- Decreased maintenance, when used and established correctly
- The best choice for attracting native wildlife

Resources for Florida Native Plants:
- Florida Native Plant Society, local chapter: pinellas.fnpschapters.org
- Florida Association of Native Nurseries: www.afnn.org