

Ten top reasons to grow natives:

- Central Florida native plants are ideally adapted to central Florida soils;
- Birds, butterflies and other wildlife will be attracted to, and supported by, your garden;
- You'll minimize the need for fertilizers and pesticides;
- Your plants won't require much maintenance, so you'll have time to enjoy them;
- Heat and humidity, freeze and frost, dryness and drought will pose little problem for your plants;
- You'll be preserving Florida's unique natural heritage;
- You'll have the pleasure of seasonal variations in your garden;
- Once established, your plants will seldom need supplemental watering, an important feature in this sometimes thirsty state;
- Your landscaping will be unique and interesting;
- and the number one reason to grow Florida native plants... it's fun and easy!

Please use this list as a guide to what plants may be suitable for your landscape.

Palms

Dwarf palmetto – <i>Sabal minor</i>	W	L
Cabbage palm – <i>Sabal palmetto</i>	S D W	L
Saw palmetto – <i>Serenoa repens</i>	S D W	L

Large Trees

Bald Cypress - <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	W	L
Live Oak – <i>Quercus virginiana</i>	S D W B	L
Longleaf Pine – <i>Pinus palustris</i>	S D	L
Pignut hickory – <i>Carya glabra</i>	D	L
Red maple – <i>Acer rubrum</i>	W	L
Southern Red cedar – <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	S D W B	L
Southern Catalpa – <i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	W	L
Winged elm – <i>Ulmus alata</i>	D W B	L

Small Trees

Dahoon holly – <i>Ilex cassine</i>	W B	L
Flatwoods plum – <i>Prunus umbellata</i>	D	L
Flowering dogwood – <i>Cornus Florida</i>	D	L
Persimmon – <i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	W	L
Redbud – <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	D	L
Sparkleberry – <i>Vaccinium arboreum</i>	D W B	L
Yaupon holly – <i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	S D W B	L

Shrubs

Beautyberry – <i>Callicarpa americana</i>	S D	L
Coralbean – <i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	S D B	L
False indigo – <i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	W B	
Fetterbush – <i>Lyonia lucida</i>	D W	L
Florida Privet – <i>Forestiera segregata</i>	S D W B	L
Oakleaf hydrangea – <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	D W B	L
Walter's viburnum – <i>Viburnum obavatum</i>	D W B	L
Wax myrtle – <i>Myrica cerifera</i>	S D W B	L
Wild coffee – <i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	S D W B	L

Wildflowers

Blanket flower – <i>Gaillardia puchella</i>	S D	B
Blazing star – <i>Liatris spp.</i>	d w	B
Butterfly weed – <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	D	B
Cardinal flower – <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	W B	L
Elliott's aster – <i>Symphotrichum elliotii</i>	W B	
Goldenrod – <i>Solidago spp.</i>	s d w	B
Golden canna – <i>Canna flaccida</i>	W B	
Greeneyes – <i>Berlandiera subacaulis</i>	D	
Narrow-leaved sunflower – <i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	W B	L
Rosinweed – <i>Silphium compositum</i>	D B	
Scarlet hibiscus – <i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>	W B	
Spotted beebalm – <i>Monard punctata</i>	S D B	
Tickseed – <i>Coreopsis spp.</i>	W B	
Tropical sage – <i>Salvia coccinea</i>	S D B	L

Vines

Carolina jessamine – <i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	D B
Climbing aster – <i>Ampelaster carolinianus</i>	W B
Coral honeysuckle – <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	D B L
Purple passion vine – <i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	S D B L
Trumpet vine – <i>Campsis radicans</i>	S D W B L

Grasses

Elliott's love grass – <i>Eragrostis elliotii</i>	S D	L
Dwarf Fakahatchee – <i>Tripsacum floridanum</i>	S D	L
Fakahatchee grass – <i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	D W	L
Log-sided Indian grass – <i>Sorghastrum secundum</i>	S D	L
Muhly grass – <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	S D W	L
Purple love grass – <i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	D	L

Ground Covers

Adam's needle – <i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	D B
Beach sunflower – <i>Helianthus debilis</i>	S D B L
Blue-eyed grass – <i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	W B L
Coontie – <i>Zamia pumila</i>	S D
Sunshine mimosa – <i>Mimosa strigillosa</i>	D W B

Ferns

Cinnamon fern – <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	W L
Royal fern – <i>Osmunda regalis</i>	W L

S = Moderate to high salt tolerance
 D = Drought tolerant
 W = Grows best in a moist area of your yard
 B = Butterfly larval or nectar plant
 L = Provides food and/or cover for wildlife
 s, d, w = applies to some species

Florida: It's more than just the "Sunshine State"

When most people think of Florida, they think theme parks, white sand beaches, and plastic, pink flamingos. These things are a part of Florida, but what few people realize is that there is much more to the real Florida.

Real Florida includes the lakes and rivers, the wetlands, estuaries and coastal savannas, the pine flatwoods and dry scrub. It includes the tropical hardwood hammocks of extreme south Florida, the sinkhole region and sandhills of the central peninsula, the rich slope forest of northern Florida, and the subterranean caverns of the north Florida panhandle. What do all of these places have in common? Plants!

Plants are important for many reasons—they provide food, medicines, jobs, wildlife habitat and places of beauty. There are more than 80 different plant communities in Florida, some of which are unique in the world. These communities include more than 2400 native plant species, many of which are found only in Florida. Plants are an important part of what Florida is—they give us a sense of place.

So with all of these plants to choose from, landscaping should be a snap!

Living in Florida means you will have lots of plant choices for your yard, both native and exotic. Exotic plants are plants that have been brought into the state from elsewhere. Many plants from Asia, Africa, South America and Australia grow very well in Florida. Some of these plants grow so well that they will spread from your yard into nearby natural areas and can crowd out the native plants and animals we are trying to protect! Millions of tax dollars are then spent removing them.

Take the time to learn about a plant before you buy it. This information can help you decide where (and whether) to plant it in your yard. Native plant landscaping is based on the principle of putting the right plant in the right place. Rather than first choosing your plants and then modifying the site to suit them, first determine the nature of your site (such as soil pH, content and moisture, and the amount of sunlight), then select the plants that will thrive in that location. Here are some key questions to ask:

- Does it like lots of moisture, or can I plant it in a drier area of my yard?
- Does it like full sun, or can I grow it in the shade?
- Is it an exotic that can spread into nearby areas?

Rethink that lawn.

Do you really want a large lawn? Lawns are a maintenance headache and use lots of water and chemicals. The good news is when you install a native plant landscape in all or part of your yard, there will be less mowing, edging and fertilizing and more time for relaxing! You will also help conserve water and reduce toxins in your home environment. Native landscapes, no matter how small, also have the added benefit of providing habitat for wildlife like birds and butterflies. And that's good for everyone!

Local Native Plant Nurseries

Hickory Hill
Brooksville
352-754-9701

Rita Grant
Brooksville
727-365-4147

All Natives
San Antonio
352-588-3687

More information
Hernando Chapter
of the Florida Native Plant Society
www.hcfnps.org



This brochure was produced by the Hernando Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Content was adapted from "Welcome to Florida Gardening," by the Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

native plants for west central FLORIDA

