

Native Plants

What is a native plant?

Although many definitions exist, the term “native” is widely used to describe a plant species that existed naturally in an area prior to European contact (~1500), and not as a result of direct or indirect human influence.

Tips on Selecting Native Plants

Plant Origin: For plants that have a wide natural range, plant origin/source should be considered. This is because species derived from more northern climates or different environmental conditions may not grow well under Florida conditions, which could affect growth, flowering, seed yield, plant quality and overall survival of the plant.

Right Plant, Right Place: It is important to never select native plants simply because they are native. Instead, select them because it is the “right plant for the right place.” Because residential and commercial landscapes typically have disturbed soils or areas where fill dirt has been brought on site, native plants cannot automatically be expected to thrive in these environments which are very unlike their native habitats. Also, never assume native plants will be more tolerant to adverse soil conditions, moisture stress or pests (insects, diseases) than nonnative species.

Natives, Cultivars & FFL

Although not considered true natives, native plant cultivars (man-made selections or hybrids) are suitable for landscapes because they have been shown to perform well under those conditions.

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) promotes environmentally sustainable practices and low-maintenance plants including native plants, native cultivars, and non-native, non-invasive species.

See our plant selection guide at:
https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_2015.pdf

Reference: Norcini, J. G. (2007). *Native Plants: An Overview*. University of Florida. Publication #ENH1045



Follow these 9 principles to make your yard a Florida-Friendly™ Yard!



Right Plant, Right Place

Plants selected to suit a specific site will require minimal amounts of water, fertilizer, and pesticides.

Water Efficiently

Conserve water and maintain a healthy yard by irrigating only when you lawn and landscape need water.

Fertilize Appropriately

Less is often best. Over-use is hazardous to plants and the environment.

Mulch

A 3” mulch layer helps retain moisture, enrich soil, and suppress weeds.

Attract Wildlife

Plants in your yard that provide food, water, and shelter can conserve Florida’s diverse wildlife.

Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

Unwise use of pesticides can harm people, pets, beneficial insects, wildlife, and the environment.

Recycle

Grass clippings, leaves, and yard trimmings recycled on site provide nutrients to the soil & reduce waste.

Reduce Stormwater Runoff

Water running off your yard can carry pollutants which adversely impact water quality.

Protect the Waterfront

Waterfront property (on a river, stream, lake, or pond) should be carefully protected to maintain water quality for both humans and wildlife.

Go Wild, Plant Native!

Part 1: Popular Native Plants for North Florida Landscapes



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Popular Native Plants for the Landscape

Trees:

<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple
<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	Red Buckeye
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Hackberry, Sugarberry
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringetree
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood
<i>Gordonia lasianthus</i>	Loblolly Bay
<i>Ilex cassine</i>	Dahoon Holly
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly
<i>Juniperus silicicola</i>	Southern Redcedar
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	Southern Magnolia
<i>Pinus elliotii</i>	Slash Pine
<i>Pinus glabra</i>	Spruce Pine
<i>Pinus palustris</i>	Longleaf Pine
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	Loblolly Pine
<i>Quercus geminate</i>	Sand Live Oak
<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	Swamp Chestnut Oak
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Live Oak
<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	Cabbage Palm
<i>Taxodium ascendens</i>	Pond Cypress
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald Cypress

Vines:

<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Crossvine
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	Trumpet Creeper
<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	Yellow Jessamine, Carolina Jessamine
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Coral Honeysuckle
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Purple Passion Flower
<i>Wisteria frutescens</i>	American Wisteria

Shrubs:

<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	Bottlebrush Buckeye
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	False Indigo
<i>Asimina pygmaea</i>	Dwarf Pawpaw
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	Beautyberry
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush
<i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	Cherokee Bean, Coral Bean
<i>Hamelia patens</i>	Firebush
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oakleaf Hydrangea
<i>Illicium floridanum</i>	Florida Anise
<i>Illicium parviflorum</i>	Yellow Anise
<i>Morella cerifera</i>	Wax Myrtle
<i>Rhododendron austrinum</i>	Florida Flame Azalea
<i>Rhododendron canescens</i>	Pinxter Azalea
<i>Serenoa repens</i>	Saw Palmetto
<i>Virburnum dentatum</i>	Southern Arrow- wood Viburnum
<i>Viburnum obovatum</i>	Walter's Viburnum
<i>Zamia pumila</i>	Coontie

Grasses:

<i>Chasmanthum latifolium</i>	River Oats, Wild Oats
<i>Eragrostis elliotii</i>	Elliott's Lovegrass
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	Purple Lovegrass
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	Muhly Grass
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	Blue-eyed Grass
<i>Sporobolus junceus</i>	Pineywoods Dropseed
<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	Fakahatchee Grass, Eastern Gamagrass
<i>Tripsacum floridanum</i>	Dwarf Fakahatchee, Florida Gamagrass

Flowers:

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Common Yarrow
<i>Asclepias perennis</i>	Swamp Milkweed
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterflyweed, Orange Milkweed
<i>Baptisa alba</i>	White Wild Indigo
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Lance-leaved Tickseed
<i>Coreopsis leavenworthii</i>	Leavenworth Tickseed
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Blanket Flower, Indian Blanket, Gaillardia
<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	Swamp Sunflower
<i>Helianthus debilis</i>	Beach Sunflower
<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>	Scarlet Rosemallow
<i>Iris virginica</i>	Blue Flag Iris
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Blazing-star
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower
<i>Mimosa strigillosa</i>	Powderpuff Mimosa
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Dotted Horsemint
<i>Phlox spp.</i>	Phlox
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan
<i>Rudbeckia mollis</i>	Softhair Coneflower
<i>Salvia azurea</i>	Azure Blue Sage
<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	Lyre-leaf Sage
<i>Trichostema dichotomum</i>	Forked Bluecurls
<i>Zephyranthes atamasca</i>	Zephyr Lily, Rainlily
Edible Fruit:	
<i>Crataegus aestivalis</i>	Mayhaw
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon
<i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	Chickasaw Plum
<i>Prunus umbellata</i>	Flatwoods Plum