

Start Gardening with Wildflowers

Florida Wildflower Foundation



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the State Wildflower license plate



FLORIDA
WILDFLOWER
FOUNDATION

Download this presentation:

www.FlaWildflowers.org/library.php



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What is a Florida native wildflower?



“Any flowering herbaceous species, or woody species with ornamental flowers, that grew wild within the state’s natural ecosystems in the 1560s when Florida’s first botanical records were created.”

More:
www.FlaWildflowers.org/learn.php



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What's a native ecotype?



A genetically unique population that has adapted to its local climate.



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Swamp
tickseed
(*Coreopsis
nudata*)

Why native wildflowers?



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Why native wildflowers?

Adapted to Florida's
unique conditions

- Soil
- Climate
- Pests
- Diseases



Sunshine mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*)

Courtesy of Jeff Norcini



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Why native wildflowers?

Food and cover for wildlife -
Co-evolved with native insects and animals



Courtesy of Rebecca Eagan



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Why native wildflowers?

More ...

- Pollinators
- Wildlife, songbirds
- Species diversity
- Water quality
- Improved soil
- Enjoyment



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Why native wildflowers?

Less ...

- Water use
- Fertilizer
- Energy use
- Expense
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Water runoff
- Invasive species



**Rudbeckia
spp.**

The correct native plant, used in the right place, exists without the need for supplemental assistance.

- Craig Huegel

Courtesy of FDOACS

Why native?



- Create a sense of place that is *La Florida* – “place of flowers”

2013: The 500th anniversary of European arrival in Florida



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Native wildflowers ...

Put food on your table

- Provide habitat for hundreds of species of native bees
- Provide pollinators supplemental food sources



Akers Pence, UF researcher. Photo/Courtesy of UF/IFAS

Pollinator support

Citrus, beans,
melons,
squash,
cucumbers,
strawberries,
blueberries
and much
more



Photo/Courtesy of UF/IFAS



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Millions of acres of unique Florida habitat are gone

The University of Florida's GeoPlan Center predicts **Florida's population will double** from 17.9 million people in 2005 to 35.8 million in 2060.



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Loss of biodiversity

- Through development of natural land
- Through alien monocultures (Australian pine, Brazilian pepper)
- Through urbanization of landscapes
 - People grow what they're familiar with
 - People are attracted to new, dazzling species
 - Developers limit plant palettes
 - Big box stores set the standard





“Conventional landscapes are a symbol of our success at conquering nature. The natural landscape is an acceptance that we are a part of it.” – Craig Huegel



Dune sunflower
Muhly grass
Carolina aster
Gamma grass
Walter's viburnum
Coonties
Blanketflower
Coral honeysuckle
Lizardtail
Rosinweed



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Restoring biodiversity



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Go wild



Species

Tropical sage
Walter's viburnum
Goldenrod
Mimosa strigulosa
Milkweed
Muhly Grass
Gayfeather
Black-eyed Susan
Soft-hair Coneflower
Coral honeysuckle
Fakahatchee grass
Ironweed
Leavenworth's tickseed
Lanceleaf Coreopsis
Standing cypress
Carolina aster
Dune sunflower
Blanketflower

Ouch!



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Go native!

Florida has the third-greatest diversity of native plants in the United States.

About 3,000 native species have been described, including:

- More than 1,500 species of herbaceous flowering plants
- 500 grasses and grass-like plants
- 825 trees, shrubs, vines
- More than 300 endemic wildflowers, most found in Central Florida



Carolina Lily (*Lilium micheauxii*)

Courtesy of Dara Dobson



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Maintenance

Native wildflowers are **NOT** maintenance free



- Plan on cutting back, string-trimming, pruning, deadheading (depending on species)
- Ask your native nursery how to maintain plants purchased
- Weed control will be needed
 - * Light mulching of pine straw will deter some weeds, but not all
 - * Hand-pulling strongly recommended
- Water transplants for up to two months for establishment



Planning

What plant community was here before development?



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Planning

- **Soil**
 - PH 5.5 – 6.5
 - Sandy or organic?
 - Wet or dry?
- **Sun, sun/shade or shade?**
 - Most herbaceous wildflowers thrive in full sun (6 or more hours/day)



Resources

www.FlaWildflowers.org/planting.php

Videos
Handouts
Seed sources
Plant sources



FlaWildflowers.org

Home About Us Learn Grow What's in Bloom? Research Grants News Blog

planting & growing WILDFLOWERS

FLORIDA WILDFLOWER FOUNDATION

See how they grow

Wildflowers of Florida
Watch this video and you'll know how the Sunshine State got its name, who named it and what that name means ... plus other interesting facts about Florida wildflowers.

Planting for the future
The Foundation is dedicated to discovering and sharing best practices for establishing native Florida wildflowers across our landscapes. On this page we share what we've learned through funded projects, as well as point the way to excellent resources that can make your efforts bloom in any setting.

Resolve to protect wildflowers

Throughout Florida, counties are resolving to take measures to protect and increase wildflowers. The resolution they adopted acknowledges native wildflowers' environmental, historical and cultural significance while promoting their conservation through management practices – including reduced mowing that can save money. [Learn how your county can resolve to protect wildflowers.](#)

Woodville Elementary Learning Landscape

Woodville Elementary School in Tallahassee received a Florida Wildflower Foundation grant in 2007 to build a learning landscape that would get students outside to discover native Florida wildflowers and plants while building math, science and language skills. See the [movie!](#)

Seeds for Schools

The Seeds for Schools grant program provides native wildflower seeds and learning resources to Florida elementary, middle and high schools. The gardens are exposing schoolchildren in Florida's native flora and fauna while helping them to achieve state education standards. [Learn more](#)

Planting grants

The Foundation brings the beauty of wildflowers to communities throughout the state through planting projects. Past projects added wildflowers to museum gardens, state parks, local preserves and roadways. Funds also supported landscape evaluation, demonstration gardens and important research on wildflower propagation and production techniques. [See highlights of a past project.](#)

Your source for seeds

Florida's Wildflower Growers Co-op, a project of the Florida Wildflower and Plant Growers Association, has many varieties of Florida native seeds by the seed packet and in bulk. Visit www.floridawildflowers.com

Starting a Florida wildflower garden? Plan for success

- For sunny gardens, choose a site that gets four or more hours of sun.
- For shady gardens, select a site with light daily or afternoon shade.
- Use an herbicide to discourage unwanted grass and weeds.
- Choose plants correct for your site's conditions and climate zone.
- Consult a native nursery to choose plants that bloom in different seasons.
- Use native grasses or groundcovers to fill space and add interest.
- Perform seasonal upkeep to remove weeds and debris.
- Let seeds dry and set naturally to produce the next bloom.

At home with horticulture

Your guide to growing wildflowers

In 2010, the Florida Wildflower Foundation sponsored a six-page article on growing wildflowers in the Association of Florida Native Nurseries annual retail catalog. This article covers all the

Other seed sources

Resources

www.FlaWildflowers.org/planting.php

- Where to find plants
- Links to sustainable landscape info
- Photos and descriptions of seedlings
- 8-page guide to adding wildflowers to landscape



FlaWildflowers.org

At home with horticulture
Your guide to growing wildflowers

In 2010, the Florida Wildflower Foundation sponsored a six-page article on growing wildflowers in the Association of Florida Native Nurseries annual retail catalog. This article covers all the benefits and strategies for creating a wildflower garden in your home landscape. The beautiful photography depicts the visual rewards of gardening with Florida-native wildflowers. [Download this article](#), and share it with other enthusiasts!

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More wildflowers by design
Sustainable landscaping for Landscape Architects and Maintenance Professionals

The Foundation actively seeks information on best practices in landscaping with Florida's native plants. These resources are provided by a range of public

Other seed sources
Florida Association of Native Nurseries
www.fandanative nurseries.com

Wildflowers or weed?
Wondering if your sprout is a weed or a wildflower? Download a [sheet](#) (PDF) by Dr. Jeff Norton showing close-up photos of common species as seedlings.

Finding the right plant for the right place

- **Plant Near Flooding** - learn all about the native plants that will do best in your area.
- **Florida Association of Native Nurseries** - locate wholesale and retail sources of Florida native plants
- **Florida Wildflower and Plant Growers Association** - source of Florida wildflower seeds and plants
- **Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscapers Association** - database of nurseries and members of FNOLA
- **Florida-friendly Plant Database** - provided by Florida Yards and Neighborhoods
- **Florida Trees for Urban and Suburban Sites** - University of

Resources for sustainable landscaping for homeowners
Find Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Programs in your county
www.fas.fl.edu/land.htm

The Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Handbook (PDF)
www.fas.fl.edu/materials/FYN_Handbook_v2Rev08.pdf

The Florida Friendly Landscaping Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design (PDF)
www.fas.fl.edu/land/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v0903.pdf

Adopting a Florida-Friendly Landscape: Steps to Converting a Traditional Development Landscape to a Florida-Friendly Landscape
www.fas.fl.edu/land/

WaterWise: South Florida Landscapes South Florida Water Management District Plant and Landscape Practices Guide
[Download the checklist](#)

Southwest Florida Water Management District - Florida-friendly landscaping videos, advice and workshops
www.sfwmd.state.fl.us/yards

Southwest Florida Water Management District - Homeowners/Community Associations
www.sfwmd.state.fl.us/yards/community

WaterWise: Florida Landscapes St John's River Water Management District landscaping website
www.sfwmd.com/waterwise/landscapes

Know your Irrigation Contractor Brochure - Florida Irrigation Society (PDF)
[Know Your Irrigation Contractor Brochure.pdf](#)

Landscape for Life - How to work with the nature in your garden based on the principles of the Sustainable Sites Initiative™
www.landscaperforlife.org

Practice - including reduced mowing that can save money. [Learn how your county can reduce its annual wildflowers](#)

Resources



On the Web

- Florida Association of Native Nurseries
PlantRealFlorida.org
- Find a nursery or plant
- Learn about plant communities
- Sign up to receive annual
Guide for Real Florida Gardeners

Resources

The screenshot displays the website for Florida Wildflowers Growers Cooperative. The header features the organization's logo and name, along with navigation links for 'Home', 'About the Coop', 'Membership', 'Planting Information', 'Shipping', and 'Contact Us'. A search bar is also present. The main content area is titled 'Seed Packets' and shows a grid of 10 different seed varieties, each with a small image, name, and price. A sidebar on the left offers 'Seed Packets by Categories' and 'More Options'. A 'Current Top Sellers' sidebar on the right lists the most popular items.

Image	Scientific Name	Common Name	Price	Action
	<i>Ageratum columbianum</i>	Heart-leaved, Horned, Shredded	\$3.00	Compare / Add To Cart
	<i>Aristida stricta</i>	Stingray, Pineland, Thicket	\$3.00	Compare / Add To Cart
	<i>Baccharis arifolia</i>	White Wild Indigo	\$3.00	Compare / Add To Cart
	<i>Bahenaria subseriata</i>	Florida Dandelion	\$3.00	Compare / Add To Cart
	<i>Bidens nitida</i>	Smooth Ragwort, Sun Margold	\$3.00	Compare / Add To Cart
	<i>Blattaria hirtellina</i>	Felix Hairy, Big Hemp	\$3.00	Compare / Add To Cart
	<i>Canna flaccida</i>	Fla-Everglaste, Southern, Heath Canna	\$3.00	Compare / Add To Cart
	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	Partridge Pea	\$3.00	Compare / Add To Cart
	<i>Chrysantha mollis</i>	Maryland Goldenaster	\$3.00	Compare / Add To Cart
	<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Blue Blackflower	\$3.00	Compare / Add To Cart

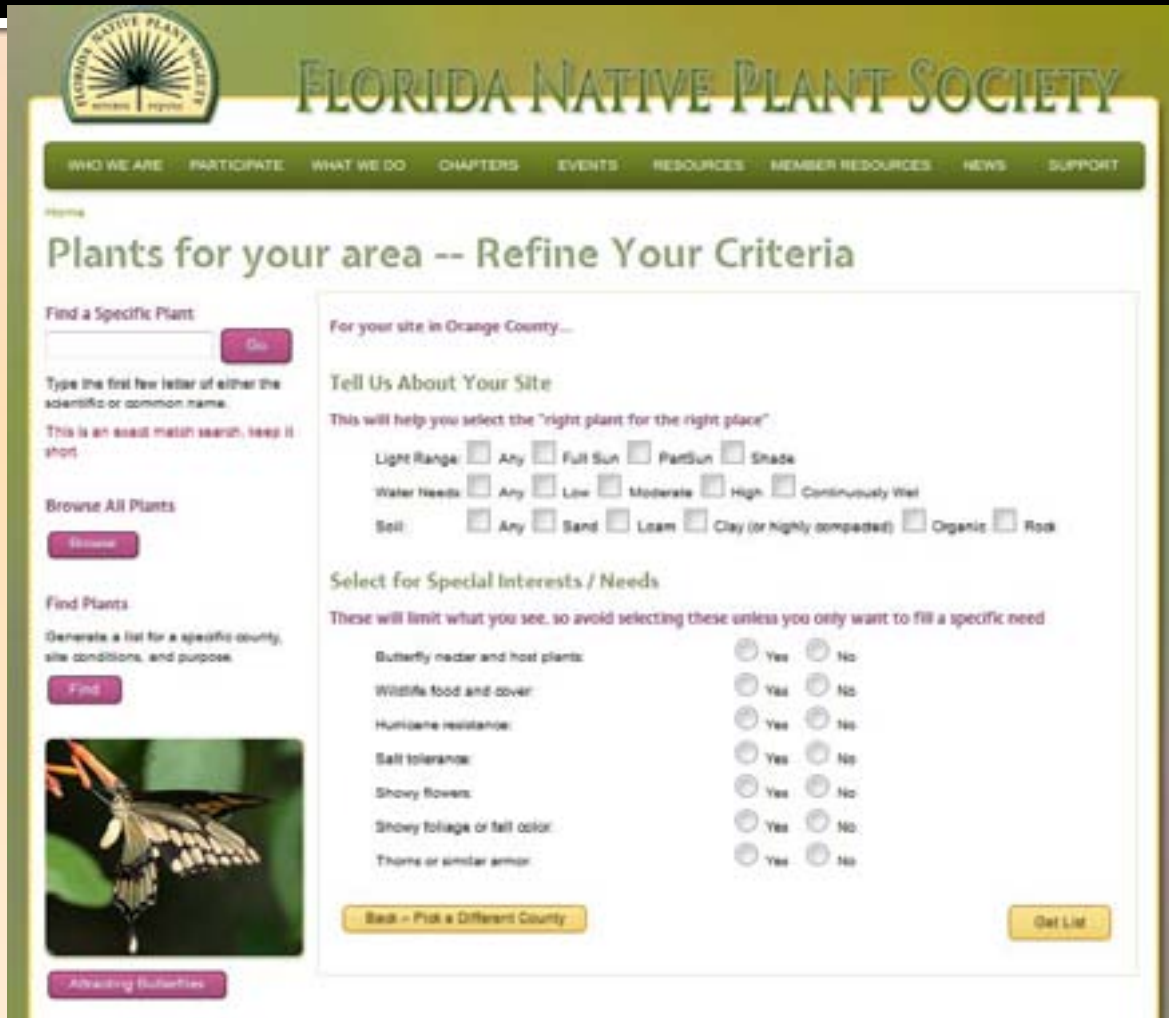
Current Top Sellers:

- Blattaria hirtellina* - Felix Hairy, Big Hemp \$3.00 Add To Cart
- Blattaria hirtellina* - Felix Hairy, Big Hemp \$3.00 Add To Cart
- Blattaria hirtellina* - Felix Hairy, Big Hemp \$3.00 Add To Cart
- Blattaria hirtellina* - Felix Hairy, Big Hemp \$3.00 Add To Cart
- Blattaria hirtellina* - Felix Hairy, Big Hemp \$3.00 Add To Cart

Florida Wildflower Seed Co-op FloridaWildflowers.com

- Native ecotype seeds

Resources

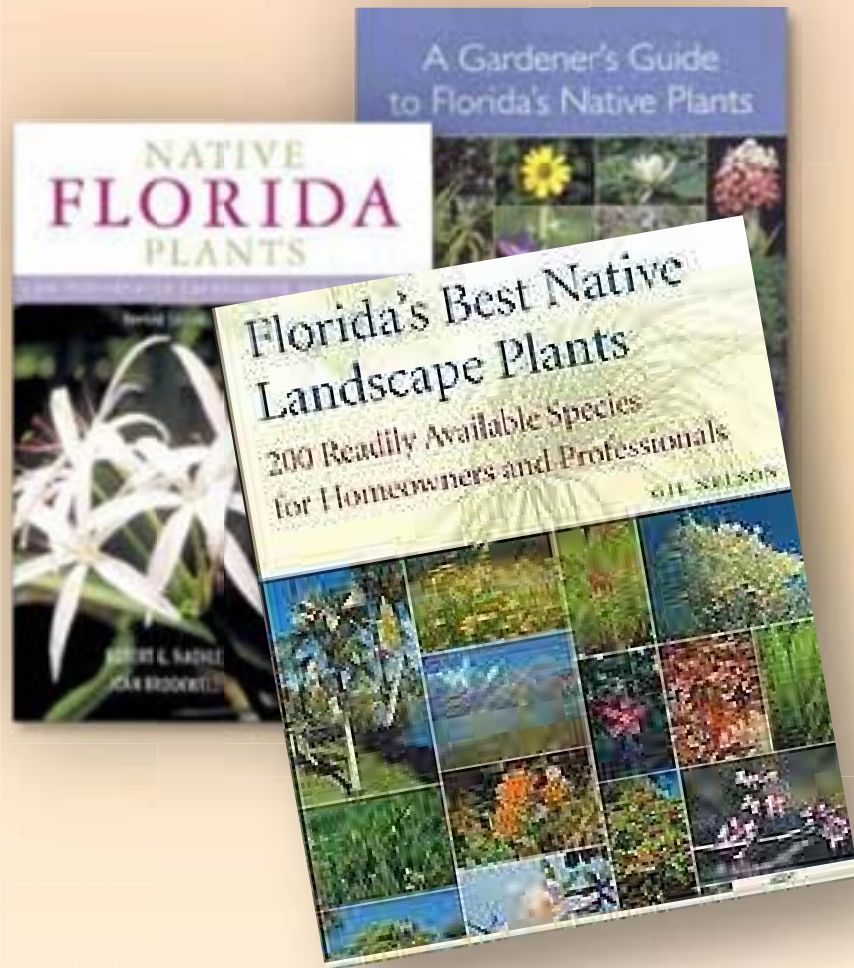


The screenshot shows the Florida Native Plant Society website. At the top is the logo and the text "FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY". Below this is a navigation bar with links: WHO WE ARE, PARTICIPATE, WHAT WE DO, CHAPTERS, EVENTS, RESOURCES, MEMBER RESOURCES, NEWS, SUPPORT. The main heading is "Plants for your area -- Refine Your Criteria". There are several search options: "Find a Specific Plant" with a search box and "Go" button; "Browse All Plants" with a "Browse" button; and "Find Plants" with a "Find" button. The "Find Plants" section includes a description: "Generate a list for a specific county, site conditions, and purpose." Below this is a photograph of a butterfly on a flower, with a caption "Attracting Butterflies". The "For your site in Orange County..." section includes "Tell Us About Your Site" with a description: "This will help you select the 'right plant for the right place'". It has several filter options: "Light Range" (Any, Full Sun, PartSun, Shade), "Water Needs" (Any, Low, Moderate, High, Continuously Wet), "Soil" (Any, Sand, Loam, Clay (or highly compacted), Organic, Rock), and "Select for Special Interests / Needs" (These will limit what you see, so avoid selecting these unless you only want to fill a specific need). The "Select for Special Interests / Needs" section has a list of options with "Yes" and "No" radio buttons: Butterfly nectar and host plants, Wildlife food and cover, Hurricane resistance, Salt tolerance, Showy flowers, Showy foliage or fall color, Thorns or similar armor. At the bottom are two buttons: "Back - Pick a Different County" and "Get List".

Florida Native Plant Society
www.FNPS.org/plants

- Click on county
- Select light, water, soil

Resources



- **Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants**, by Gil Nelson
- **Native Wildflowers and Other Ground Covers for Florida Landscapes**, by Craig Huegel
- **Native Florida Plants**, by Robert G. Haehle and Joan Brookwell
- **A Gardeners Guide to Florida's Native Plants**, by Rufino Osorio

More books:

www.FlaWildflowers.org/learn.php

Invasives among us



More information: www.fleppc.org

Florida spends millions of taxpayer dollars each year to thwart invasives

Common invasives/escapees

- Mexican petunia (*Ruellia brittoniana*)*
- Asparagus fern (*Asparagus sprengeri*)*
- Skunk vine (*Paederia scandens*)
- Schefflera (*Brassaia actinophylla*)*
- Shrimp plant (*Blechum pyramidatum*)*
- Golden rain tree (*Koelreuteria elegans*)
- Nandina/Heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*)*
- Wedelia (*Sphagneticola trilobata*)*

* Still sold in nurseries

Dry – full sun



Butterflyweed
(Asclepias tuberosa)

- Showy; spring, summer, fall flowers
- Must-have for butterfly gardens - larval food for Monarchs, Queens
- Drought-tolerant
- 2- to 3-foot clumping perennial
- Group for striking planting
- May be difficult to start from seed



Beach Sunflower
(Helianthus debilis)

- Found in dune systems
- Spreading shape; re-seeds easily
- Drought-tolerant
- Use on borders or like a low hedge
- From 6 inches to 2 feet high
- Trim when it declines; will regenerate from plant or seeds

Dry – full sun



Softhair coneflower
(Rudbeckia mollis)

- 2- to 3-foot high from rosette of leaves
- Sandy soil, drought tolerant
- Easy to grow from seeds
- Re-seeds readily
- Leaves on main stem may shrivel and die when flowering



Blanketflower
(Gaillardia pulchella)

- Good pollinator plant
- Drought-tolerant dunes plant
- Perennial or annual
- Re-seeds readily
- Robust and must be kept in bounds

Courtesy of Claudia Larsen

Dry – Full sun

Florida State Wildflower

- 15 species in Florida
- Easy to grow from seed

For meadows:

- *Coreopsis leavenworthii*
- *Coreopsis lanceolata*

For borders:

- *Coreopsis lanceolata*, small beds



Coreopsis leavenworthii

Courtesy of Jeff Norcini



Dry – Full sun

Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*)

- Summer, fall bloom
- Great for meadows
- Clumping, but spreads easily through seed, suckers
- Best used as screen or border
- Terrific pollinator magnet
- Trim back in winter
- Will take part shade



Dry – sun/shade

White Beardtongue (*Penstemon multiflorus*)

- Relative of snapdragons
- Drought-tolerant once established
- Perennial
- Clumping rosette with 1- to 2-foot stalks
- Summer bloom
- Plant 5 or 7 for striking statement
- Found on woodland edges



Courtesy of Walter K. Taylor



Courtesy of Walter K. Taylor

Florida Paintbrush (*Carphephorus corymbosus*)

- Great pollinator plant
- Up to 3 feet in height
- Likes sandy, acidic soil
- Blooms late summer, fall
- Mix with grasses for meadow look
- Found in dry, sandy sites, pine woods



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Dry – sun/shade

Blazing star/
Gayfeather
(*Liatris spp.*)

- Use in a mass
- Sandy moist to dry soil
- Easy to grow
- Excellent in bouquets
- Plant among native grasses
- 17 species; 4 endemic



Dry – sun/shade

Tropical sage (*Salvia coccinea*)

- Year-round blooms
- Deadhead and cut back to spread seed and maintain fullness
- Attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies
- Will “volunteer” in other areas of garden



Dry – shade



Wild coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*)

- Inconspicuous, fragrant flowers in spring, summer
- Red berries
- Attractive to songbirds, butterflies, including spicebush swallowtail
- Cold sensitive
- Dense, round growth habit
- Attractive foliage
- Used by Native Americans in ceremonies and medicine



Dry – sun/shade

Firebush (*Hamelia patens*)

- Year-round blooms
- Shrub to 15 feet
- Attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies
- Blooms best in sun
- Can freeze to ground but comes back readily



Dry to semi-dry sun/shade

Wild Petunia (*Ruellia caroliniensis*)

- Perennial; dies back in winter, re-emerges in spring
- Prolific flowers in spring, summer, fall
- Trim to maintain uniform height and fullness
- Found in open woodlands
- Does well in full sun
- Spreads through seeds
- Tolerates full sun – blooms more



Courtesy of Claudia Larsen



Dry to semi-dry part shade



Beautyberry
(*Callicarpa americana*)

- Use as specimen shrub or in mass
- Flowers late spring, summer
- Prefers rich soil, but adapts
- Showy berries attract songbirds, woodpeckers



Scrub mint
(*Conradina canesens*)

- Best in full sun, will take some shade
- Flowers spring, fall
- Makes low-growing groundcover
- Showy lavender, white-purple flowers

Semi-dry shade

Oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)

- Grows 4- to 8-feet tall and wide, trims to nice shrub
- Drought-tolerant once established
- Prefers acidic, well-drained soils – plant with peat
- Long-lasting flowers of 12-inch clusters late spring/early summer
- Found on ravine slopes, near streams
- Leaves provide fall color



Moist



Blue flag iris

Iris spp.

- Pond or lake edges
- Blooms in spring
- Sun to part shade



Hibiscus coccineus

- Moist soils
- Rain gardens
- Perennial shrub, upright to sprawling
- 4- to- 8-inch flowers in summer

Vines

Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera Sempervirens*)

- Fences and arbors
- Groundcover
- Fertile, moist soil – adapts to dry
- Full sun to part shade
- Keep away from livestock
- Hummingbirds, bobwhites, cardinals, goldfinches, pine siskins, purple finches, sparrows



Vines

Passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*)

- Hardy climber or groundcover
- Full sun to part shade
- Flowers late spring to summer
- Rich, acidic, dry-to-moist soils but adapts to poorer soils
- Gulf fritillary, Variegated fritillary, Zebra heliconiod (Longwing)



Grasses



Purple lovegrass
(Eragrostis spectabilis)

- Short, clumping grass
- Full sun to light shade
- Poor, sandy soils
- Use with wildflowers



Pink Muhly grass
(Muhlenbergia capillaris)

- Use among wildflowers or massed in beds
- Sandy soil, full sun
- Drought and salt tolerant

Handouts

Easy to Grow Florida Wildflowers

These wildflowers are adapted to an average moderate to dry garden in all regions of Florida. They grow best with 6 or more hours of sun and will thrive without regular irrigation once established.

<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Millflower	Orange/red	5/55
<i>Aeschylia</i> spp.	Crowwees	Yellow	5/55
<i>Cnaphaloxis corymbosa</i>	Chaffhead Pimpernel	Purple	55/F
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	Rattlesnake	Yellow	55/F
<i>Crotopis leavenworthii</i>	Leavenworth's crotopis	Yellow	5/55
<i>Calliandra pulchella</i>	Blanketflower	Red/yellow	55/F
<i>Cassia angustifolia</i>	Southern beeblissum	Pink	5/55/F
<i>Helianthus debilis</i>	Beach sunflower	Yellow	55/F
<i>Liatris</i> spp.	Blazing star	Purple	55/F
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Spotted horsemint	White	55/F
<i>Penstemon multiflorus</i>	White Beardlongue	White	55
<i>Panicum graminifolium</i>	Silkglass	Yellow	55/F
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	Yellow	55/5
<i>Ruellia caroliniana</i>	Wild petunia	Blue	5/55
<i>Sida carolinensis</i>	Tropical egg	Red	5/55/F
<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	Seaside goldenrod	Yellow	55/F
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Rice button aster	White/pale purple	55/F
<i>Tachostema dichroanthum</i>	Blue curls	Blue	55/F

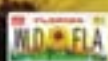
5/55/F Blooms in Spring/Summer/Fall

Additional wildflowers for North/Central Florida gardens:

<i>Crotopis lanceolata</i>	Threadleaf crotopis	Yellow	5/55
<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	Dorothy phlox	Pink	5/55
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Cutleaf coneflower	Yellow	5/55
<i>Sida</i> spp.	Reeveseed	Yellow	55/F
<i>Solidago odora</i>	Flaggold goldenrod	Yellow	55/F
<i>Veronica</i> spp.	Ironweed	Purple	55/F

Additional wildflowers for South/Central Florida gardens:

<i>Flaveria linearis</i>	Yellowtop	Yellow	5/55/F
<i>Cloniflora tampani</i>	Tampa verbena	Blue/Purple	5
<i>Heliotropium angiospermum</i>	Scorpiontail	White	5/55/F
<i>Jacquemontia pentanifida</i>	Key West morning glory vine	Blue	F/5/5
<i>Palicourea linearis</i>	Key's Palicourea	White/pink	55/F
<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	Corky passionflower	Green	5/55/F
<i>Asina humilis</i>	Rouge plant	Pale pink/white	5/55/F
<i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>	Blue porterweed	Blue	5/55/F



Florida Wildflower Foundation
www.FlaWildflowers.org



Great wildflowers for your dry landscape



If you have added wildflowers to your landscape, you've probably learned how adaptable they are to a wide range of environmental conditions. Although it is a challenge to introduce wildflowers to a dry site, many species will adapt and flourish once established. According to the Florida Native Plant Society Southeast Chapter's landscape manual *The Right Plants for Dry Places*, all Florida counties from Levy, Marion and Volusia south to Broward County are considered dry. Other counties have many dry areas where development has traditionally occurred. Typically, your landscape qualifies as "dry" if puddles disappear within a few minutes after a heavy rain.

Beach Sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*)



Succulent green leaves support bright yellow 2-inch flowers on a plant that covers a 3- to 4-foot area. Although it spreads, this plant rarely is higher than 6 to 18 inches, depending on the source of seeds. It will reseed dependably in Central and South Florida.

Blanketflower (*Calliandra pulchella*)



Light grey-green narrow leaves create a soft background for bright 3-inch, yellow and red flowers that rise 15 to 18 inches above the ground, forming a mass display. Blanketflower produces each year from previous year's seeds.

Some wildflowers prefer 8 to 10 hours of full sun per day and thrive in the heat. The best examples are found on beaches, but these plants can also be used inland to fill large beds with continuous color from summer through fall. Both species respond to late-summer pruning that renews foliage and flowers, which last until cold weather.

False Petunia (*Ruellia caroliniana*)



This low-growing plant might spread too much in fertile moist soil, but it is easily controlled in dry, shady locations. The light blue petunia-shaped flowers create a cooling effect under dappled shade of soils. False petunia also grows well in full sun, where it forms a compact 3- to 15-inch mound that flowers throughout summer.

Fruited or White Crownbeard (*Verbesina virginica*)



The Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville recommends this late-blooming plant as a pollinator magnet. Its natural habitat is shady hammocks, where it grows to 2 to 4 feet, but it also well in sunny locations, too. The flowers are a cluster of white with green central discs. The large, narrow, outflared leaves may be more adapted to the background in a bed or a knowledge planting where it can form colonies.

What you can do

- Garden with wildflowers
- Protect natural areas
- Purchase the State Wildflower plate
- Become a FWF member (\$15 to \$25 annually)
- Make a donation



FlaWildflowers.org