20 Easy to Grow Wildflowers

With species for different soils and parts of the State

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Butterflyweed

*Asclepias tuberosa ssp. rolfsii*
Butterflyweed
*Asclepias tuberosa ssp. tuberosa*
Pink Milkweed

*Asclepias incarnata*
White Milkweed
Asclepias perennis

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Maryland Goldenaster  *Chrysopsis mariana*

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False Rosemary

*Conradina canescens*
Largeflower False Rosemary
*Conradina grandiflora*
Coreopsis, our State wildflower
13 species occur in Florida

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Coreopsis or Tickseed

Coreopsis leavenworthii

Annual, reseeds readily
Long bloom period
Endemic to Florida and in all Florida
Moist sand
At Nemours Children’s Hospital was seeded with other grasses and wildflowers.
Lanceleaf Coreopsis
Coreopsis lanceolata

Perennial
North and Central Florida
Low growing, about 1 foot
Well-drained soils
Twinflower
*Dyschoriste oblongifolia*

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Moving Air Masses
Warm, humid air rises at the Equator, then sinks again at around 30°N and 30°S. Meanwhile, polar air masses are heading to the Equator, with some circling around about 60° latitude and the rest continuing toward the tropics.

Doldrums
There is a static low-pressure belt around the Equator, an area known by sailors as “the doldrums.” There is hardly any wind, so sailing ships can get stuck there.

Tropical Storms
Polar and equatorial air masses and ocean currents often meet between 5° and 23.5°N and S. Warm seas and cooler air can create a very lively mix. That’s why the tropics are prone to violent thunderstorms, hurricanes, or typhoons.
Florida’s Stream Setting: Climate

- Monthly rainfall from Southeast Regional Climate Center, NOAA
- From USGS Circular 1137 (1998)

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- From Kelly (2004), SWFWMD
from USGS Circular 1137 (1998)
Blanket Flower

*Gaillardia pulchella*

Annual, year long bloom

Well-drained soils

All Florida

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Mixed planting beds

Rooftop garden

Seeded with grasses and wildflowers
Tampa Verbena
*Glandularia tampensis*

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Dune Sunflower
*Helianthus debilis*

3 subspecies
All growing season
Lakeside Sunflower
*Helianthus carnosus*
Rare plant but easy to grow
North and Central Florida
Flowers on stems 1 to 3 ft. tall,
3 in. wide through growing season
Moist soil

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Rayless Sunflower or Manflower

*Helianthus radula*

moist soil
Wingless meadow katydid
Rayless sunflower with chalky bluestem
St. John’s Wort

*Hypericum tenuifolium*
Blazing Stars
Many species North to South and well-drained to wet soils

Top – *Liatris chapmanii*, very xeric, short, and early, all Florida
Left – *Liatris elegans*, well-drained, North and Central
Graceful Blazing Star, *Liatris gracilis* well-drained to moist, all Florida
Blazing Star
*Liatris spicata*

The wettest of our many blazing stars

All Florida

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Beebalm

Monarda punctata

All Florida, well-drained soils

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One of our best plants for pollinators

316 native bees in Florida

Beebalm used in research
Silver-leaved Aster
*Pityopsis graminifolia*

All Florida
Well-drained to moist soils
Late fall bloom
Many subspecies

*P. graminifolia var. Tracyi*
Wide range dry to moist
Spreads by rhizomes for groundcover

*P. graminifolia var. aequifolia*
In very well-drained soils
Black-eyed Susan
*Rudbeckia hirta*

*Rudeckia hirta* var. *floridana* perennial in Central and South FL

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Ecosystem services of vegetation on Florida roads worth $.5 billion
They include:

* carbon sequestration
* runoff prevention
* support of crop pollinators and other insects
* contributions to air quality
* invasive species resistance
* roadside aesthetics
Wild Petunia (not related to petunias)

*Ruellia caroliniensis*
Scarlet Sage
Salvia coccinea

Perennial, reseeds easily
Florida origin best
Lyre-leaved Sage

*Salvia lyrata*

All Florida
Late winter, early spring
Perennial, reseeds readily
Moist soil
Does well in partial shade
Can be mown after seed set

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Planting from containers can be anytime

- Plant may be dormant in the winter
- Spring is the highest stress time
Do not enrich soil
Tip containers to lift plants out
Dig oversized hole
Fertilizer in bottom of hole (usually none necessary)
Hand tuck
Water as needed to establish
Overwatering will encourage weeds
Above ground temporary irrigation for large areas

Pink Lupine
*Lupinus aridorum*

Mulch can be applied normally, but reduce mulch around rosettes and crowns of plants.

Apply mulch or remulch thinly where reseeding is desired.

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“Weeds are the Red Cross of the plant world. They deal with ecological emergencies.”
WEED DEFINITION

A weed is a species that depend on unnatural or severe disturbances to become established . . . .

by taking advantage of open space,

germinating quickly(often one rain event),

maturing quickly,

and producing seed in a short period of time, which falls back into the seed bank to await the next disturbance.

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Coreopsis leavenworthii, annual and a weed
Moist sandy soils
Germinates quickly after disturbance, settles back into seedbank and waits.
Blanket Flower
*Gaillardia pulchella*
For dry soils
Silver-leaved Aster *Pityopsis graminifolia* var. *Tracyi*

Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta*
Allow plants to reseed
Hand pulling disturbs the soil and brings more seed to the light, air and space that it needs to germinate.
A variety of methods for safe herbicide application are:

- Car Wash Mitt
- Foam Paint Brush
- Paint Brush Roller
- 30% active material

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Dead-heading
Cutting back
Long blooming flowers

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Skullcap, *Scutellaria integrifolia*
Privet Senna
*Senna ligustrina*

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Chapman’s Senna
*Senna mexicana*
var. *chapmanii*
Starry Silphium  
*Silphium astericus*

North, Central, and some South Florida

Spring through Fall, heavy bloomer
Well-drained and moist soils

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Seaside Goldenrod
*Solidago sempervirens*
All Florida
Blooms summer and fall, even spring in South Florida
4 to 6 feet
Perennial, spreading by rhizomes
Moist to wet soils
Pinebarren Goldenrod *Solidago fistulosa*

Commonly seen and used
All Florida
Fall blooming
Perennial
Moist soils

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Slender Goldenrod or Wand Goldenrod
*Solidago stricta*

Form of blazing star, blooms with blazing star

All Florida

Moist soils

Fall bloom

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Chapman’s Goldenrod
*Solidago odora* var. *chapmanii*

Dry soils
All Florida
Summer-early fall bloom
Elliott’s Aster, *Symphyotrichum elliottii*
Carolina Aster
*Symphyotrichum carolinianum*

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