Attracting wildlife with Florida’s native wildflowers

Florida’s wildflowers play important roles in the state’s natural landscape. Not only do they add beauty, they support insects, birds and other wildlife by providing food. Here are some of the best wildflowers that can draw wildlife to your landscape. Look for them at Florida’s native nurseries. To find a nursery near you, visit the Florida Association of Native Nurseries’ web site at www.PlantRealFlorida.org.

Butterfly larval plants

- Bahama cassia (Senna ligustrina) with cloudless sulphur butterfly caterpillar
- Passionvine (Passiflora incarnata)
- Swamp milkweed (Asclepias incarnata)

Butterfly nectar plants

- Butterfly milkweed (Asclepias tuberosa)
- Blazing star (Liatris spp.)
- Florida paintbrush (Carphephorus corymbosus)

Photos by Craig Heugel
Foliage for herbivores

- Dotted horsemint (Monarda punctata)
- Grassleaf goldenaster (Pityopsis graminifolia)
- Goldenrod (Solidago spp.)

Wildflowers that attract hummingbirds

- Coral honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens)
- Cardinal flower (Lobelia cardinalis)
- Tropical sage (Salvia coccinea)

Seed producers for birds and small mammals

- Sunflower (Helianthus spp.)
- Partidge pea (Chamaecrista fasciculata)
- Thistle (Cirsium spp.) (Cirsium species often can be difficult to control.)