

Powderpuff

(*Mimosa strigillosa*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms.

Powderpuff (also known as sunshine mimosa) is a prostrate, mat-forming perennial wildflower. Its showy pink to lavender “powderpuff” blooms are globose and have many small flowers. Its leaves are bluish-green and featherlike in appearance. They are twice compound, having 15± pairs of linear leaflets. Its stems are woody to herbaceous.

Powderpuff typically blooms in spring through summer and occurs naturally in open, disturbed areas and along roadsides. It is pollinated mainly by bees, but is the host plant for the little sulphur (*Eurema lisa*) butterfly.

Family: Fabaceae (Legume family)

Native range: Nearly throughout peninsular Florida

To see where natural populations of Powderpuff have been vouchered, visit www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu.

Hardiness: Zones 8–10

Soil: Sandy, moist to well-drained soils

Exposure: Full sun to minimal shade

Growth habit: 6–9” tall

Propagation: Seeds, cuttings

Garden tips: Powderpuff is a great groundcover replacement as it is low-growing, spreads readily and tolerates being mowed. It is adaptable to both dry and moist sites. It can be propagated by seed and division.

Powderpuff seeds are often available from the Florida Wildflowers Growers Cooperative at www.FloridaWildflowers.com. Plants are occasionally available at nurseries that specialize in native plants. Visit PlantRealFlorida.org to find a native nursery on your area.



Photo by Lisa Roberts



Polk County roadside adorned with *Mimosa strigillosa*.
Photo by Steve Woosley