

# Wildflower Information Sheet

Courtesy of the Florida Wildflower Advisory Council



**Leavenworth's coreopsis**

a State Wildflower and  
Florida endemic (found only in Florida)

## What is a "wildflower"?

The dictionary will tell you that a "wildflower" is simply that, any flowering plant growing wild, uncultivated. The Florida Wildflower Council, based on recommendations from its science committee, has refined the definition to encourage the use of Florida's many lovely herbaceous natives in roadside and urban beautification projects:

***"Wildflower refers to flowering plant species native to Florida,  
with emphasis on herbaceous annuals and perennials."***

## BOOKS with color pictures of Florida wildflowers

The first four books are available in franchise bookstores. The next two can be obtained through the Florida Native Plant Society (<http://www.fnps.org/>). The last book is available from UF/IFAS Publications in Gainesville (1-800-226-1764). Enjoy!

**The Guide to Florida Wildflowers** (by Walter Kingsley Taylor. 1992.)

**Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities** (by Walter Kingsley Taylor. 1998.)

**Florida Wild Flowers and Roadside Plants** (by C. Ritchie Bell & Bryan J. Taylor. 1982.)

**Everglades Wildflowers** (by Roger Hammer. 2002.)

**The Right Plants for Dry Places, Native Plant Landscaping in Central Florida**  
(by the Suncoast Native Plant Society. 1997.)

**A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants** (by Rufino Osorio. 2001.)

**Florida Wetland Plants: An Identification Manual** (by John C. Tobe and others. 1998.)

## Websites with information on Florida wildflowers and related topics

**Florida Wildflower Council** <http://users.hcsys.com/~wildflower/> (Info on **Wildflower License Plate!**)

**Florida Federation of Garden Clubs** [www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org) (Also info on **Wildflower License Plate!**)

**Florida Native Plant Society** [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)

**Association of Florida Native Nurseries** [www.afnn.org](http://www.afnn.org)

**Atlas of Florida Plants** [www.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu)

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# Wildflower Bouquet

## A Sampler of Favorites from the Florida Wildflower Advisory Council

These Florida wildflowers are examples of the many native species suitable for roadside and urban plantings. They are arranged alphabetically by scientific name, which is best to use in searching for more detailed information. For "Fla. Region," N = north, C = central, and S = south. For "soils," D = dry soils and M = moist soils. For "season," Spr = spring, Sum = summer, F = fall, W = winter. Many of these are available from Florida native nurseries; a small but growing number are available from Florida-based seed producers. Check the Council website for new developments.

Common name	Scientific name	Fla. region	Flower color	Soils	Bloom season	Notes
fringed bluestar	<i>Amsonia ciliata</i>	N, C	blue	D	Spr, Sum	good for sandhill sites
butterflyweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	N, C, S	orange-red	D**	Sum, F	**urban sites <u>only</u> ; toxic to cattle
Elliott's aster	<i>Aster elliotii</i>	N, C, S	pink-lavender	M	Sum, F	fairly tall, good in clumps
yellow buttons	<i>Balduina angustifolia</i>	N, C, S	yellow	D	F	great yellow display
partridge pea	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	N, C, S	yellow	D	Spr, Sum	nitrogen-fixing legume; good for poor soils
Florida coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis floridana</i>	N, C, S	yellow	M	F, W	endemic State Wildflower
long-leaf coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis gladiata</i>	C, S	yellow	M	Sum, F	State Wildflower
lance-leaf coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	N, C	yellow	D	Spr	State Wildflower
Leavenworth's coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis leavenworthii</i>	N, C, S	yellow	D, M	Sum, F	endemic State Wildflower
pink coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis nudata</i>	N	pink-lavender	M	Spr	State Wildflower
purple love grass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	N, C, S	lavender	D, M	Sum, F	sparkly in sun with dew
oak-leaf fleabane	<i>Erigeron quercifolius</i>	N, C, S	white-pale pink	D, M	Spr, Sum	mow after seed set
slender goldenrod	<i>Euthamia caroliniana</i>	N, C, S	yellow	D, M	Sum, F	great yellow color
joepy-weed	<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	N, C	pink-purple	M	Sum, F	tall, for outer swale edges
yellowtops	<i>Flaveria linearis</i>	N, C, S	yellow	D	Sum, F	use only in coastal areas
firewheel	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	N, C, S	red & yellow	D	all	pretty in swaths
narrow-leaf sunflower	<i>Helianthus angustifolia</i>	N, C	yellow	M	Sum, F	showy in wet places
standing-cypress	<i>Ipomopsis rubra</i>	N, C	red	D	Sum	tall, for sandy slopes
Chapman's gayfeather	<i>Liatris chapmanii</i>	N, C, S	pink-lavender	D	F	great display, like all <i>Liatris</i> (blazing stars)
pinkscale gayfeather	<i>Liatris elegans</i>		pale lavender	D	F	tolerates disturbance
slender gayfeather	<i>Liatris gracilis</i>	N, C, S	lavender	D, M	Sum, F	great lavender display
winged loosestrife	<i>Lythrum alatum</i>	N, C, S	bluish pink	M	Sum	showy ditch-edge plant
powderpuff	<i>Mimosa strigillosa</i>	N, C	pink	D	Spr to F	pretty ground cover
spotted beebalm	<i>Monarda punctata</i>	N, C, S	pink-lavender	D	Sum, F	best show in clumps
hairawn muhly grass	<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	N, C, S	deep pink	D, M	F, W	use regional varieties; large grass, for clumping
downy phlox	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	N, C	pink-blue	D	Spr	attractive native phlox
West Indian meadowbeauty	<i>Rhexia cubensis</i>	N, C, S	lavender	M	Spr to Fall	good ditch plant
blackeyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	N, C, S	yellow	D	Sum, F	use native ecotypes
soft-hair coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia mollis</i>	N, C	yellow	D	Sum	large, showy heads
lyre-leaf sage	<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	N, C	blue	D	Spr to F	mow after seed set
perennial yellow foxtail grass	<i>Setaria parviflora</i>	N, C, S	yellowish white	D, M	all	low grass, bristly small spikes sparkly with dew
loptide Indian grass	<i>Sorghastrum secundum</i>	N, C, S	shiny brown	D	Sum, F	a standout in swaths
bluejacket	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	N, C	blue	M	Spr, Sum	showy blue in clumps
Florida ironweed	<i>Vernonia blodgettii</i>	S	magenta	M	Sum, F	likes limestone below soil
giant ironweed	<i>Vernonia gigantea</i>	N, C	purple	M	Sum, F	tall, for outer swale edge