

# RELIABLE, DURABLE AND DEPENDABLE NATIVE PLANTS FOR NORTHEAST FLORIDA

The following list of favorite natives was compiled by Jake Ingram, Landscape Architect in 2013. These plants (68 in total with 24 “favorites” marked with \*) are all inhabitants of upland sites in Florida and, with three or four exceptions, are native to NE Florida counties, USDA Zones 8B & 9A.

## • TREES (14)

- Live Oak *Quercus virginiana* \*
- Southern Magnolia *Magnolia grandiflora*\*
- Sweetbay Magnolia *Magnolia virginiana*
- Sabal Palm *Sabal palmetto*\*
- Winged Elm *Ulmus alata*
- Loblolly Bay *Gordonia lasianthus*
- Hornbeam *Carpinus caroliniana*
- Fringe Tree *Chionanthus virginicus*
- Florida Sugar Maple *Acer saccharum* ssp. 'floridanum'\*
- American Holly *Ilex opaca*\*
- Yaupon Holly *Ilex vomitoria* (Tree-Form, Std., Multi-Stem)
- Black Gum *Nyssa sylvatica*
- Southern Red Cedar *Juniperus virginiana* (silicicola)
- Slash & Longleaf Pines *Pinus elliotti, P. palustris*
- Dogwood *Cornus florida*

## • SHRUBS, PALMS & CYCADS (14)

- Yellow or Ocala Anise *Illicium parviflorum*\*
- Florida Anise *Illicium floridanum*
- Simpson’s Stopper *Myrcianthes fragrans*\*
- Walter’s Viburnum *Viburnum obovatum* (incl. dwarf variety)
- Saw Palmetto *Serenoa repens* (green & silver)\*
- Blue Stem Palmetto *Sabal minor*
- Coontie *Zamia pumila*\*
- Needle Palm *Rhapidophyllum hystrix*
- Spanish Bayonet *Yucca aloifolia*
- Yaupon Holly *Ilex vomitoria* (nana & pendula)\*
- Wax Myrtle *Myrica cerifera* (incl. dwarf varieties)
- American Beautyberry *Callicarpa americana*\*
- Oakleaf Hydrangea *Hydrangea quercifolia*\*
- Florida Flame Azalea *Rhododendron austrinum*
- Firebush *Hamelia patens*

## • GROUND COVERS AND FERNS (8)

- Partridgeberry *Mitchella repens*\*
- Sunshine Mimosa *Mimosa strigillosa*\*
- Wild Petunia *Ruellia caroliniana*
- Beargrass, Adam’s Needle *Yucca filamentosa*\*
- Venus Maidenhair Fern *Adiantum capillus-veneris*\*
- Southern Shield Fern *Thelypteris kunthii*
- Dichondra or Ponyfoot *Dichondra caroliniana*

Frogfruit

*Phyla nodiflora*

• **VINES (5)**

- Trumpet Honeysuckle *Lonicera sempervirens\**
- Yellow Jessamine *Gelsemium sempervirens*
- American Wisteria *Wisteria frutescens*
- Jackson Vine, Dwarf Smilax *Smilax smallii*
- Cross Vine *Bignonia capreolata*

• **GRASSES AND SEDGES (9)**

- Purple Muhley Grass *Muhlenbergia capillaris*
- Dwarf Fakahatchee Grass *Tripsacum floridanum\**
- Fakahatchee Grass *Tripsacum dactyloides*
- Smooth Cordgrass *Spartina bakeri*
- Saltmeadow Cordgrass *Spartina patens*
- Elliott's Lovegrass *Eragrostis elliottii*
- White-topped Sedge *Rhynchospora colorata* (needs wet)
- Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* (needs wet)
- Panic Grass *Panicum virgatum*

• **PERENNIALS/WILDFLOWERS (18)**

- Leavenworth's Coreopsis *Coreopsis leavenworthii*
- Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta*
- Red Sage *Salvia coccinea*
- Purple Coneflower *Echinacea purpurea\**
- Woodland Phlox *Phlox divaricata\**
- Downy Phlox *Phlox pilosa\**
- Butterfly Weed *Asclepias tuberosa\**
- Stokes Aster *Stokesia laevis\**
- Scarlet Hibiscus *Hibiscus coccineus*
- Blazing Star *Liatris chapmanii*
- White Beardtongue *Penstemon multiflorus*
- Eustis Lake Beardtongue *Penstemon australis*
- Wild Petunia *Ruellia caroliniana*
- Rain Lily *Zephyranthes atamasco*
- Snakeroot *Eryngium spp.\**
- Blue-eyed Grass *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*
- Blue Porterweed *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis\**
- Greeneyes *Berlandiera pumila*

The favorites are judged on their longevity, toughness, drought-tolerance, utility as an urban 'landscape' plant, visual or aesthetic beauty and adaptability to well-drained, upland sites in northeast Florida.

## THE BEST BOOKS IN PRINT ABOUT LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVES

### **For Inspiration, the WHY:**

Tallamy, Douglas W. Bringing Nature Home. Timber Press, 2009.

This will answer the age-old question: Why should I use Native Plants in my yard/garden?

### **For Getting it Done, the HOW:**

Osorio, Rufino. A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants. University Press of Florida, 2001.

Every page of this book is packed with pithy information about gardening, especially the first 46 pages. Read a little bit every day. . .

Nelson, Gil. Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens: A Handbook for Gardeners, Homeowners and Professionals. University Press of Florida, 2010.

Nelson, Gil. Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants. University Press of Florida, 2003.

Huegel, Craig. Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife. University Press of Florida, 2010.

Minno, Marc C. and Maria Minno. Florida Butterfly Gardening: A Complete Guide to Attracting, Identifying and Enjoying Butterflies. University Press of Florida, 1999.

Stibolt, Ginny. The Art of Maintaining a Florida Native Landscape. University Press of Florida, 2015.

## WHERE CAN I FIND NATIVE PLANTS IN MY AREA?

Start with the **Association of Florida Native Nurseries'** web site - [www.AFNN.org](http://www.AFNN.org). Click on "Find Plants" to help you locate a wholesale (or retail) grower that has the specific plant you're looking for. Pass this along to your local garden center, and they can get it for you.

To find a list of plants native to your county, go to [www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu) and click on your county on the state map in the center of the page.

**Reflections of Nature** nursery in Fernandina: 3030 S. 8<sup>th</sup>. St., A1A  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 [www.rlnursery.com](http://www.rlnursery.com) 904 225 9915

**Native and Uncommon Plants** 6511 Lou Drive, S., Jacksonville, FL 32216  
[www.nativeanduncommonplants.com](http://www.nativeanduncommonplants.com) 904 388 9851

**Philips Garden Center** Herschel St., Fairfax Manor has a limited selection.  
[www.philipsgardenstore.com](http://www.philipsgardenstore.com)

**Trad's Nursery** 8178 San Jose Blvd. has a limited selection [www.tradsgardencenter.com](http://www.tradsgardencenter.com)  
904 733 7549

Native Gardens Nursery St. Augustine, FL. [www.nativeplantconsulting.com](http://www.nativeplantconsulting.com) 904 692 3927

Earthworks Garden Center 12501 Beach Blvd. Jax., FL [www.earth.works.com](http://www.earth.works.com) 904 996-0712

Southern Horticulture St. Augustine, FL [www.southernhorticulture.com](http://www.southernhorticulture.com) 904 471-0440

#### **ADDITIONAL NATIVE PLANT INFORMATION ONLINE**

**Florida-Friendly Landscaping:** Visit [www.floridayards.org](http://www.floridayards.org) for “Florida Friendly Yard” tips and information.

**The Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants, Institute of Systematic Botany, USF** is a great resource for identifying and locating Native plants all over our state:

[www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu)

**For Invasive Exotic Plants consult:** <http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/flip/>

**The Florida Native Plant Society:** [www.FNPS.org](http://www.FNPS.org) The FNPS website offers a wealth of native plant gardening information with a variety of links, plus it tells you what the local IXIA Chapter is doing in their Northeast Florida region. The Ixia Chapter meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of months Sept thru June at the Willowbranch COJ Library. Please come join us!