

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 book is so enlightening in explaining the importance of native plants for pollinators in our yards and the dangers posed by invasive plants in the landscape.

Tallamy, Douglas W. Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard. Timber Press, 2019. Continuation of earlier work. Inspired the creation of the Homegrown National Park project. Website is: homegrownnationalpark.org.

For Getting it Done, the HOW:

Huegel, Craig. Native Florida Plants for Shady Landscapes. University Press of Florida, 2015.

Huegel, Craig. Native Wildflowers and Other Ground Covers for Florida Landscapes. University of Florida Press, 2012.

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

Matrazzo, Stacey and Nancy Bissett. Native Plants for Florida Gardens. Pineapple Press, 2020.

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

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

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.

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

Xerxes Society. 100 Plants to Feed the Bees: Provide a Healthy Habitat to Help Pollinators Thrive. Storey Publishing, 2019. Easy to read and very educational. Provides maps and planting suggestions with each plant listed so can easily figure out what to use in NE Florida.

WHERE CAN I FIND NATIVE PLANTS IN NORTHEAST FLORIDA?

Start with the **Florida Association of Native Nurseries'** web site - plantrealflorida.org. Click on "Find a Specific Plant" to help you locate a grower that has the specific plant you're looking for. Pass this along to your local garden center, and see if they can get it for you. Under the heading, "Real Florida Professionals" you can locate retail nurseries, mail order supplier, landscapers and other professionals with native plant experience. And under the heading "Real Florida Landscapes" you can enter your county or zip code and get a list of plants native to your specific area.

The businesses listed below are members of the Florida Native Plant Society.

Chiappini Farm Native Nursery, 150 Chiappini Farm Road, Hawthorne FL 32640. (352) 475-5413. chiappinifarm.com. Wholesale and retail plant sales; closed on weekends.

Lark Native Plants in Jacksonville. larknativeplants.com
Pop-up plant sales at events in and around Jacksonville. Check their website for a calendar and contact information for plant availability.

Native and Uncommon Plants in Jacksonville. www.nativeanduncommonplants.com.
(904) 388 9851. Retail sales at events in and around Jacksonville. Nursery visits by appointment. Check their website for current availability, calendar and contact information.

Southern Horticulture, 1690 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080. (904) 471-0440.
www.southernhorticulture.com. Complete garden center and landscape company with a large selection of native plants. Check their website for hours.

The Elegant Garden in St. Johns. (904) 616-7575. theelegantgarden.com.
Garden design, workshops, speaking.

Native Plant Consulting in St. Augustine, FL. (904) 671-2880. www.nativeplantconsulting.com.
Consulting, landscape design, installation, maintenance, wildlife & bird sanctuaries & garden angels. They also have periodic plant sales.

Wacca Pilatka in Jacksonville. (904) 516-0204. waccapilatka.com.
Landscape design & build, irrigation & drainage, landscape lighting, maintenance, habitat restoration & plant surveys, consultation & education.

Wink To Science & Art in Ponte Vedra Beach. (904) 426-7182. winktoscienceandart.com.
Fashion design label created by Maggie Walker Costello inspired by her passion for art and ocean conservation.

ADDITIONAL NATIVE PLANT INFORMATION ONLINE

Visit the **Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program** website ffl.ifas.ufl.edu for tips and information on how to make your yard “Florida-Friendly.”

The **Atlas of Florida Plants, Institute of Systematic Botany, University of South Florida** website florida.plantatlas.usf.edu is a great resource for seeing if a plant is native or not-native to Florida. Click on your county on the state map in the center of the page to get a list of plants that have been recorded by botanists as found in the county.

For a field guide to **Florida Invasive Plants** go to their website plantatlas.usf.edu/flip

The **Florida Native Plant Society** website is a very helpful source for researching plant characteristics to determine if plants are suitable for your location. Go to fnps.org/plants to browse and search for plants based on your location and needs.

The **Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society** website ixia.fnpschapters.org has a calendar of events, where to see native plants in Jacksonville and much more useful information. Attend the chapter’s meetings to learn more about native plants and meet other native plant gardeners. Check the Events page of the website for upcoming activities.