



BRING HOME THE NATIVES!

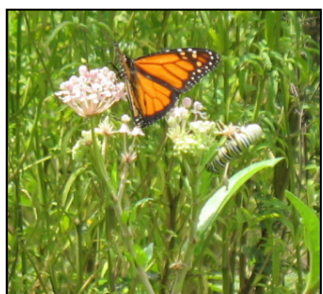
Planting Native Plants in Your Central Florida Yard



Swallowtail butterfly on blazing star

Why plant natives?

- Natives attract wildlife, protect water quality and maintain the unique beauty of our region.
- Butterflies and other wildlife depend on particular native plant species. They cannot survive without those plants.
- Birds need year-round food, water and protection. If you want to attract birds to your yard, a native landscape is the best way to provide those things.
- Planting natives in the right place will eliminate the need for fertilizer and reduce irrigation. This benefits Florida's water supply and water quality.



Monarch butterfly on milkweed

What is a native plant?

- Native plants have lived in Florida before the arrival of Columbus and have adapted to Florida's environment over thousands of years.
- Native plants have long-standing relationships with Florida's wildlife, people and habitats.
- Many trees that you are familiar with are natives, for example - red maple, bald cypress, live oak and longleaf pine.



Muhly grass in the fall

Where can I get native plants?

- **Native plant sales** – SNPS (Suncoastnps.org) has a spring and fall plant sale at the USF Botanical Garden. Other FNPS chapters also have native plant sales (FNPS.org)
- **Native plant nurseries** - The Florida Association of Native Nurseries website has a list of native plants, the native nurseries that grow them, and the contact information for each nursery (plantrealfloirida.org)
- **Monthly SNPS meetings** – we have plant auctions after each meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7 PM at the Seffner Hillsborough County Extension office (Suncoastnps.org)

Join us at our monthly meetings!

Learn about native plants and get some Plants for your yard!

Each of us, by making small changes in our home landscapes, can have a major impact on our community, state, and world. Planting even a few native plants in our yards can add to the larger restoration of Florida's natural landscapes and will provide a place for our wildlife to survive.



Compliments of the **Suncoast Native Plant Society (SNPS)**
www.suncoastnps.org

EASY-TO-GROW NATIVE PLANTS FOR YOUR CENTRAL FLORIDA YARD



Starry Rosinweed
Silphium asteriscus

- Perennial, looks lovely in groups, up to 4 ft tall
 - Full sun to part sun, average moisture to dry
 - Yellow flowers from spring through fall
 - Nectar plant for butterflies
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Blanket Flower
Gaillardia pulchella

- Annual, reseeds easily, up to 2 ft tall
 - Full sun, average moisture to dry
 - Orange/red/yellow flowers from spring to fall
 - Butterfly nectar plant
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Beautyberry
Callicarpa americana

- Understory shrub, up to 10 ft tall
 - Part sun, average moisture to wet
 - Small lavender flowers become purple berries
 - Food for birds
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Purple Passion Flower
Passiflora incarnata

- Spreading vine, best for a large area as it will spread and may need pruning
 - Host plant for Gulf fritillary butterfly larvae
 - Produces edible fruits
 - Passion fruit juice is used in commercial juices
 - Vine freezes back but re-sprouts in the spring
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Walter's Viburnum
Viburnum obovatum

- Evergreen bush with white flowers in the spring, up to 15 ft tall, can be pruned as a small tree.
 - It produces fruits that are eaten by birds
 - Full sun to shade
 - Can be used as screening hedge, will sucker
 - Prefers moist soil but will tolerate dry
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Firebush
Hamelia patens

- Full to part sun, average moisture to dry, up to 15 ft tall, 6 ft wide
 - Bush with red/orange flowers, nectar for butterflies and humming birds
 - Not cold hardy in Central Florida but will grow back after a freeze
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Wax Myrtle
Myrica cerifera

- Evergreen bush that produces fruits along the stems
 - Good cover and food for birds
 - Full sun to medium shade, average to wet soil, up to 20 ft tall
 - White flowers produced in the spring
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MORE NATIVE PLANTS TO TRY

<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>Sun</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Ht/Width</u>	<u>Flwr color</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Wildlife use</u>
Beach sunflower <i>Helianthus debilis</i>	full sun	avg to dry	2/4 ft	yellow	spring/ summer	nectar
Black-eyed susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	full sun	dry to moist	2/2 ft	yellow	spring/ summer	nectar
Blazing star <i>Liatris spp.</i>	full sun	dry to moist	5/.5 ft	purple	fall	nectar
Goldenrod <i>Solidago spp.</i>	full sun	dry to moist	4/.5 ft	yellow	fall	nectar
Tickseed <i>Coreopsis spp.</i>	full sun to part sun	avg to moist	3/1 ft	yellow	spring/ summer	nectar

SHRUBS/GRASSES

Coontie <i>Zamia pumila</i>	full sun to part sun	dry to moist	3/3 ft	---		orange seeds, host plant
Muhly grass <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	full sun to part sun	avg to moist	4/6 ft	pink/ purple	fall	cover
Saw palmetto <i>Serenoa repens</i>	full sun to part sun	dry to moist	10/10 ft	white	spring	berries
Simpson's stopper <i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i>	full sun to part sun	avg to dry	20/5 ft	white	spring	cover, fruits
Yaupon holly <i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	full sun to part sun	avg to dry	20/6 ft	white	spring	female- red fruits

TREES

Cypress <i>Taxodium spp.</i>	full sun to part sun	avg to moist	50+/16 ft	---		seeds, deciduous
Flatwoods plum <i>Prunus umbellata</i>	full sun to part sun	dry to moist	15/15 ft	white	spring	fruits, nectar, deciduous
Live oak <i>Quercus virginiana</i>	full sun to part sun	dry to moist	60/60 ft	---		acorns, cover evergreen
Longleaf pine <i>Pinus palustris</i>	full sun	drought tolerant	100/20 ft	---		cover, nesting, evergreen
Red Bay <i>Persea borbonia</i>	full sun	avg to moist	60/12 ft	white	spring/ summer	host plant, fruit, evergreen
Red cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	full sun	drought tolerant	60/8 ft	---		female - cones evergreen
Slash pine <i>Pinus elliottii</i>	full sun	dry to moist	80/16 ft	---		cover, nesting evergreen
Southern magnolia <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	full sun to part sun	avg to moist	100/20 ft	white	spring/ summer	seeds, evergreen
Sugarberry <i>Celtis laevigata</i>	full sun	avg to moist	90/18 ft	tiny		host plant, deciduous
Sweetbay magnolia <i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	full sun to part sun	avg to moist	40+/12 ft	white	spring/ summer	host plant, evergreen
Winged elm <i>Ulmus alata</i>	full sun to part sun	avg to moist	50/20 ft	tiny		cover, deciduous

KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL PLANTING

1. **Make a plan – draw out a rough guide for the space you want to fill with natives.**
2. **Verify that the plant’s size, water, and sun requirements match the location you are planning to plant it.**
 - How big will it get?
 - How much water does it need?
 - Does it need full sun, part sun, shade?
3. **Make sure that the hole for the plant allows the surrounding dirt to be at the same level as it was in the pot.**
4. **Water your new plant until it is established** (planting during the summer rainy season may do some of the watering for you).
 - Water daily for 2 weeks, Then alternate days for 2 weeks
 - Then less frequently down to once per week
5. **Check the plant for dryness and signs of wilting**, weekly watering may be needed for up to a year and during a drought.



BEWARE OF INVASIVE PLANTS

Florida is being invaded by exotic (non-native) plants such as Old World climbing fern and Brazilian pepper. Invasive plants spread rapidly and crowd out the natives. Millions of dollars are spent removing these invasive plants. They disrupt natural areas and threaten the survival of native wildlife. For more information visit -

- www.floridainvasives.org
- www.fleppc.org

MORE INFORMATION ON NATIVE PLANTS

BOOKS

- Haehle & Brookwell. *Native Florida Plants: Low Maintenance Landscaping and Gardening.*
- Huegel, Craig. *Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife.*
- Nelson, Gil. *Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens: A Handbook for Gardeners, Homeowners, and Professionals.*
- Tallamy, Doug. *Bringing Nature Home.*
- Suncoast Native Plant Society. *The Right Plants for Dry Places.*

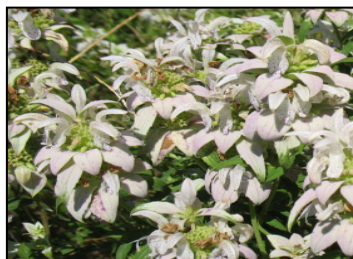


WEBSITES

- www.FNPS.org
- www.Suncoastnps.org
- www.plantrealflorida.org
- www.myfwc.com/viewing/adventures/wildlife-viewing-at-home/refuge/



Golden aster



Dotted horsemint



Cardinal flower