



# W A T E R W I S E

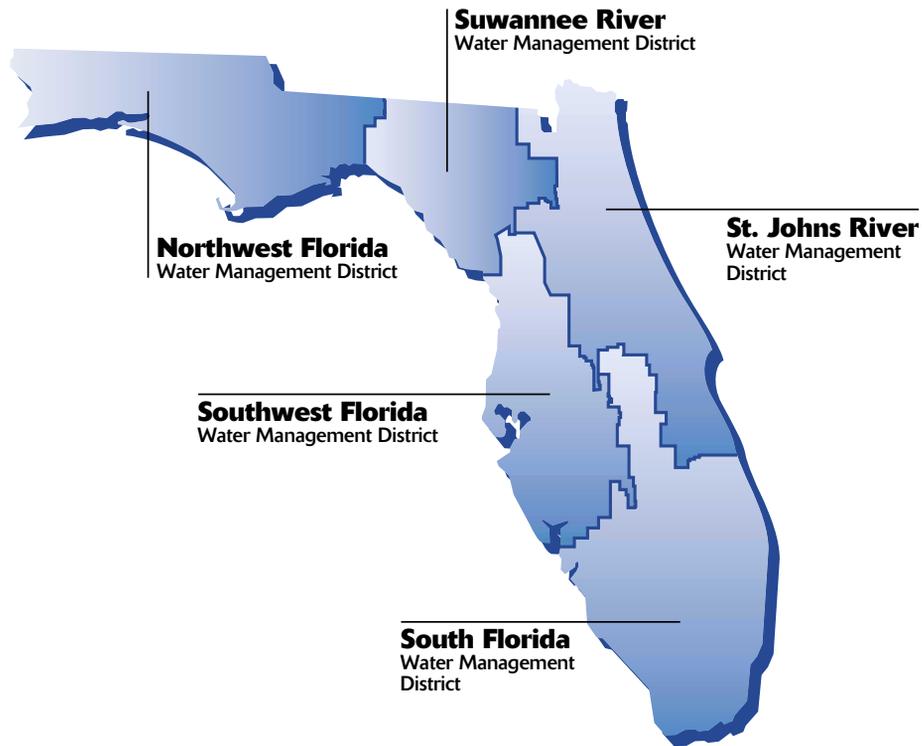
Florida Landscapes



Landscaping to Promote Water Conservation  
Using the Principles of Xeriscape™

*from Florida's water management districts*

## Florida's water management districts



## Credits

This publication is provided to you by Florida's five regional water management districts. Principal staff involved in preparing this guide include Bruce Adams, Daniel Boyar, Linda Burnette, Amy Ferriter, Martha Friedrich, Lisa Grant, Beth Hickenlooper, Lou Kavouras, Mathew O'Malley, Sandra McGee, Marc Minno, Brian Nelson, Katherine Pordeli, Eileen Tramontana, Daniel Thayer, John Thompson and Garrett Wallace.

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## Introduction

Florida is surrounded on three sides by water. The state's greatest sources of surface water are wetlands, thousands of lakes, and many rivers and streams. With all this water around, many people may not realize there is a need to **conserve** water. Even though Florida is surrounded by water and has many interior water bodies, not all of that water is available for drinking or other uses by humans. In addition, Florida's weather is fickle — long periods of wet weather may be followed by long periods of dry weather. The state's leaders recognize the need to conserve water as a means to ensure the continued availability of this vital resource for everyone from year to year.

Preserving and protecting Florida's water resources is a main focus of the state's five water management districts. This guide is brought to you by the water management districts in an effort to help you work with nature in the state's unique environment to establish a landscape that conserves water resources and protects water quality. Through use of the Xeriscape landscaping principles, everyone can help conserve resources. Florida's water management districts have permission to use the concepts of Xeriscape, which is a registered trademark of Denver Water, 1600 West 12th Ave., Denver, Colo. 80254, (303) 628-6325.

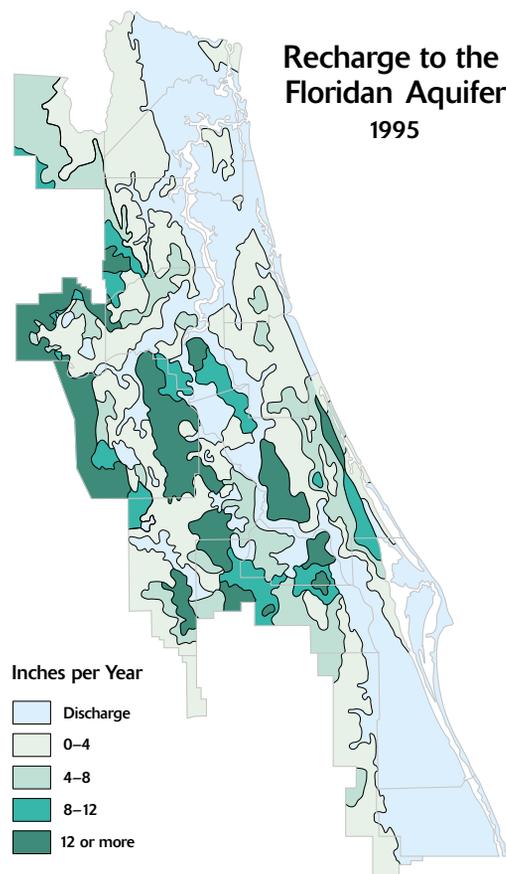
Achieving a natural, healthy balance in your landscape starts by putting the right plant in the right place. Matching plants to conditions that exist in your area helps them thrive, once established, with little or no irrigation or chemicals. The seven principles of Xeriscape are explained in this guide. Scientific or other special terms appear in bold. These terms are listed in the glossary at the end of this guide and are defined in the context in which they are used in this guide. A plant list is included to help you choose the best plants for your landscape. Resources and references for more information are listed at the back of the guide.

Through this guide, we hope you'll find that when you work with nature, nature will work for you. And you'll be doing your part to ensure that our natural resources can be enjoyed today and by future generations.

## What Is Xeriscape Landscaping?

Xeriscape is a common sense way to landscape that conserves water and protects the environment. Xeriscape landscaping is based on seven basic principles that can be successfully applied anywhere.

The main objective of Xeriscape is to establish and maintain a healthy landscape by matching the right plants with existing site conditions so that the use of additional resources, such as water, fertilizer, pesticides and labor, is minimized. In addition to helping conserve water resources, Xeriscape landscaping practices reduce the amount of pollutants reaching water bodies because fewer yard chemicals are used. Fertilizers and pesticides can contaminate water bodies when they are washed out of the yard with the rain, in **stormwater runoff**.



The term Xeriscape and the concept of Xeriscape were first developed in the southwestern United States during droughts in the early 1980s. Residents of the West learned that one way to save water was to develop landscapes with plants that occur naturally in the existing conditions, rather than perpetually trying to change the conditions. In Florida, Xeriscape landscaping can be as lush as Florida itself — Xeriscape is rocks and cactus only where they naturally occur.

The best time to establish a drought-tolerant Xeriscape landscape for your home or commercial property is long before a drought. Once established, the right plant in the right place will be highly self-sufficient, needing little help to survive nature’s extremes. Healthy, well-placed plants with deep, established root systems will need less help to survive a drought.

Conserving our water supply and reducing water pollution have become important issues in our growing communities. Despite Florida’s humid climate and abundant surface water bodies, water shortages do occur here. Demand can overtake supply, and regional droughts force Floridians to practice water conservation as a way of life.

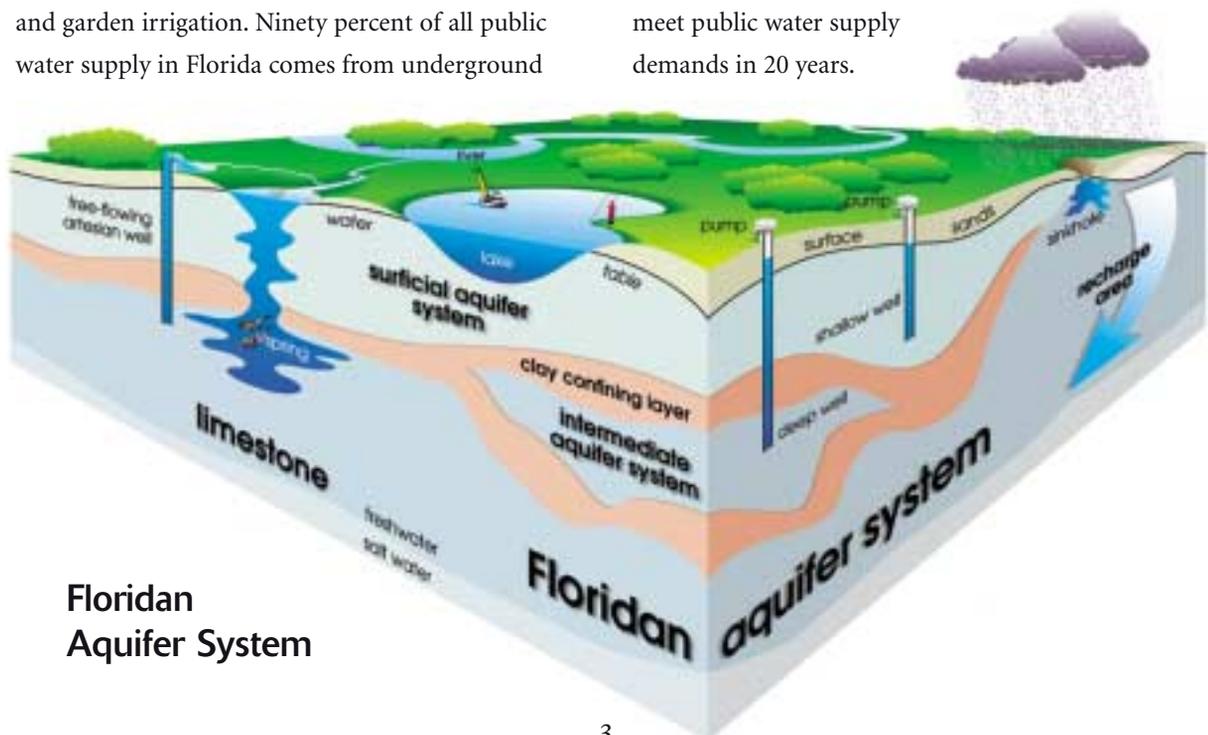
In many Florida households, as much as half of household water is used outdoors, mostly for lawn and garden irrigation. Ninety percent of all public water supply in Florida comes from underground

sources, primarily the Floridan aquifer. The aquifer’s resources are limited. Each day we pump billions of gallons from the Floridan **aquifer**, but the rate at which the groundwater system refills, or recharges, from rain is far less. On average, Florida receives 54 inches of rainfall yearly.

Taking too much water out of the aquifers, known as overpumping, threatens **potable** water supplies, but it also increases the occurrence of **sinkhole** formations. Because the aquifer system is connected to surface water bodies in some areas, overpumping the aquifers causes lowered water levels — or **drawdowns** — of our vital **wetlands** and lakes.

Likewise, fresh groundwater sources can be threatened by **saltwater intrusion**. Saltwater intrusion occurs when too much freshwater is pumped from an aquifer, allowing salt water to move into voids in the aquifer from the ocean or the Gulf of Mexico; ancient **brackish** seawater below the freshwater level of the aquifer can also move into these voids.

Florida’s water management districts have declared **water resource caution areas** throughout the state in areas where overpumping or saltwater intrusion has occurred. A water resource caution area is an area where the current source of public water supply is not adequate or may not be adequate to meet public water supply demands in 20 years.



Floridan  
Aquifer System

## The Seven Principles of Xeriscape



The seven simple principles of Xeriscape landscaping have been used by landscape professionals for years. Here is an overview of the seven principles; details of each principle are given in the following pages.



**1. PLAN AND DESIGN** — Make a sketch of the landscape site. Base the plan on site conditions, existing vegetation and **topography** — the natural features of the land. Assess the area's growing conditions and think through intended uses of the landscape. Landscapes are dynamic, so include elements of growth, time and change in your plan.



**2. OBTAIN A SOIL ANALYSIS** — Determine the soil's composition, from sandy to clay, and test for the pH of the soil — its level of acidity or alkalinity. This information will help you decide which plants are best suited to the conditions of your yard.

**3. CHOOSE PROPER PLANTS** —

When choosing new plants, match each spot in your landscape with plants that thrive in the specific conditions of that spot. Look for plants known to be resistant to disease and pests. Consider each plant's mature height and width, its need for sun, shade, soil and water, and its tolerance to cold or salt. Preserve as many existing trees and shrubs as possible, if they're healthy and if the root systems are not significantly impacted by construction. Native vegetation appropriately placed will remain healthy with minimal supplemental irrigation and care once established.

**4. USE TURF WISELY** — Grass is often a yard's largest water user, but it can still play a role in a water-conserving landscape. Use turf where it is most functional in the landscape plan, such as where children or pets will play, or for erosion control. In other areas, consider more water-thrifty alternatives such as groundcovers or mulched walkways.

**5. IRRIGATE EFFICIENTLY** — Group plants based on their water needs. Put moisture-loving plants in moist areas and plants that prefer well-drained sites in drier areas. Group together plants that may need irrigation so that water is only used in limited areas. Only irrigate when plants need water or when rain has been inadequate, and use the right irrigation system and proper sprinkler head for each area.

**6. USE MULCHES** — Mulches help hold moisture in the soil, moderate temperature, slowly release nutrients, reduce weed growth and slow erosion. Spread mulch around shrubs and trees and on flower beds, 2 to 4 inches thick, keeping mulch from coming into direct contact with plant stems.

**7. PERFORM PROPER MAINTENANCE** — Keep plants healthy. Too much water and fertilizer promote weak growth, as well as increase pruning and mowing requirements. Remove weeds by hand before they get established and crowd out the plants you want. Watch for pests and make sure they're truly a problem before waging war, then do it organically whenever possible.

### 1. Plan and Design

The first step of design is to identify growing conditions and any vegetation or structures already in place. Next, decide how the property will be used. Be sure to check city and county landscaping codes for restrictions in your community. Also, some neighborhood associations have landscape specifications in the deed restrictions.

### Inventory the site, identifying

- Growing conditions
  - Hardiness zone (for cold and heat)
  - Direction/aspect (north, south, east, west)
  - Areas that are sunny or shady throughout the day and the seasons
  - Areas that drain well or that collect water
- Existing vegetation (Is it healthy? Is it native? Is it appropriate for site conditions?)
- Hardscape (walkway, driveway, pool, fence)
- Views and adjacent features (Frame a pleasing view, or screen an undesirable view. Watch out for underground utilities and overhead power lines.)

### KNOW HOW IT GROWS

Understanding a site's growing conditions is the most important factor in choosing plants. Regional growing zones in Florida range from 8a to 11.

Within a regional growing zone, climatic variations can be influenced by specific site conditions such as shade or direct sun. These specific site conditions are referred to as **microclimates**. There may be dry areas and moist or wet areas on the same property. All of these conditions must be assessed to match them with the plants that will do well in each.

Sunny and shady areas will vary, depending on the time of day and the season. For example, a plant may get more sun in winter than in summer due to the changed angle of the sun or because a **deciduous** tree has lost its leaves and no longer provides shade. The south side of a building has more sun than the north side, so heat-sensitive plants can be placed on the north side of a building where it's cooler. More cold-sensitive plants can be placed on the south side of a building for protection from winter's north wind.

### HOW WILL YOU USE IT?

The next step in the planning process is to determine what functions you want the landscape to serve.

Answer these questions:

- How will you use your yard?
- What are the best places for entries, walkways, sitting areas and play areas?
- Where do you want to frame existing views or to establish privacy?
- Where do you want to create views or accent areas?

Start with the **plat** (map, or plan) of your property, or draw your site to scale (e.g., 1 half inch = 1 foot). Put existing plants and site conditions on the master drawing. Make multiple copies so you can sketch in different ideas, or lay tracing paper over your master drawing to try out different ideas.

On your drawing, arrange plants to create and define spaces, direct or screen views, and influence direction of movement. Plants can modify climate — a shade tree cools and protects, creating microclimates that determine the kinds of plants that can live in that shade. Take out the tree and you change the microclimate — different plants can now live in that space.

Your plant choices can also attract and support wildlife and beneficial insects. Plants can be specifically selected as nectar and larval food plants for butterflies and caterpillars or as food and nesting habitat for birds, or to add vibrant beauty to the landscape.



Take your time and learn as much as possible about the area to be landscaped. A year of observation is recommended to study, reflect on and tune in to seasonal changes and other variables that exist in the area.

### THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

When combining plants, the most important considerations are mature size and how the plants look and exist together. Experiment with how different combinations look together, considering color, shape, texture and mature size.

Plants combined in groups of odd numbers often look better than plants combined in groups of even numbers. Use repetitive elements — the same color in different shapes, for example. Other aesthetic uses for plants are to complement, soften, frame or emphasize elements within the landscape or architectural features of a building.

Plan for different seasons of the year to ensure year-round interest through blooms, color, foliage and shapes in the landscape. And, because landscapes are forever changing, plan accordingly. While waiting for that young live oak to grow into a dominant landscape element, plant sunny areas with annuals or perennials that will eventually be shaded out by the growing oak.

## 2. Obtain a Soil Analysis

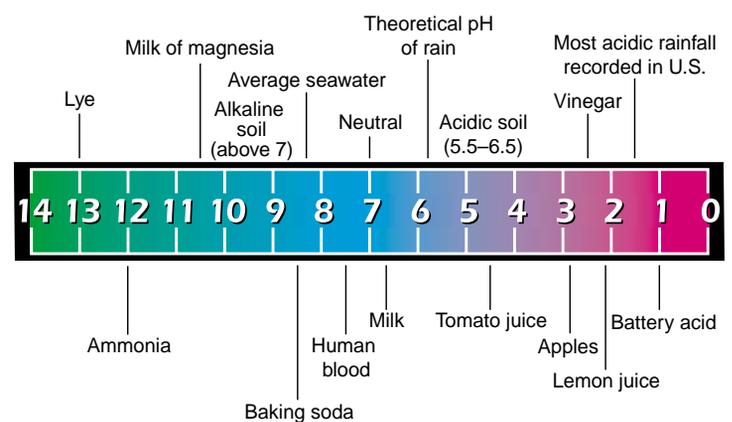
Florida soils have varying textures, colors, water-holding capabilities and nutrient levels for plants. It is important to examine and analyze your soil at the beginning of a landscaping project. Most Florida soils typically do a good job of supporting plant life — just look around at the variety of plants growing naturally in Florida. When choosing plants, be aware that some may require a lot of feeding and then may still have deficiency problems. It's best to choose plants suited to existing soil conditions.

A soil's pH level — **acid**, neutral or **alkaline** — is

one factor to analyze before selecting plants. Most plants grow best in soil that has a pH that is somewhat acidic (pH 5.5–6.5). Some plants, such as beach sunflower, will tolerate alkaline soils (high pH, above 7), while other plants simply can't. Coastal areas frequently have alkaline conditions — the presence of salt and shell fragments can be an indication of alkalinity.

Some plants can tolerate acidic soils (lower than pH 5.5), and there are some plants that require acidic soil to thrive, for example, camellia, blueberry, gardenia and azalea.

### pH Scale



If your landscape is in a low-lying area such as pine flatwoods, different kinds of soils may have been brought in as fill material to raise the building's foundation. Thus, soil samples will need to be taken from several areas around the yard.

Soil can be improved in planting beds with amendments such as peat or compost, added several weeks before planting and then again periodically. But because amendments break down, it is difficult to significantly change soil over the long term. Adding organic matter does improve nutrient levels and basic soil conditions, but will not drastically change extreme conditions permanently. For more information about mulches and the rates at which they break down, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service office.

## WHAT'S IN THE SOIL?

The County Cooperative Extension Service can test pH in soil or irrigation water for a small fee. The address and the telephone number of your local extension office are listed in the telephone book under county offices.

A wealth of information about soils for each county in Florida can be found in your county's soil survey, published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service (listed in the telephone book under federal government offices). Soil surveys are frequently in the reference section of local libraries.

In a county soil survey, exact properties can be pinpointed on aerial photographs. Specific soil types are described as being good for certain kinds of plants, for residential development, for septic tanks, etc. A survey also includes information such as depth of the **water table** throughout the year; water table depth can be key in determining growing conditions for trees and other plants.

Remember to take into account any fill material that may have been brought in. Try to learn from the builder if local soils were used. It is common to dig retention pond areas and use that dirt for the foundation fill. But remember that even then, soils that are altered through disturbances can't necessarily be equated to undisturbed soils from the same area. Also be aware that substances may have been spilled or buried during construction. If there's an apparently unplantable area in the landscape, dig for debris or excavate the problem area and replace with topsoil.

Knowing the following about your soil conditions is fundamental to matching the right plants to your site:

- pH
- Sand, clay or rich soil
- Drainage

To determine drainability, fill a hole with water and note how quickly it drains. Knowing the water table level can also be important; a high water table (close



*Salt marsh*

to the surface) could influence growing conditions. The highest water table level of the year is generally in August.

To determine a high water table, dig a hole and see if water seeps into it.

Once you have the results of your soil analysis, the fun really begins — looking for plants!

## 3. Choose Proper Plants

Try to keep as much of the existing vegetation as possible. If a plant grew in an area without your help, then conditions there are obviously right for it. Choose plants that can survive on normal rainfall in your area or that require minimal irrigation. Existing native-plant communities are an example of the “right plant in the right place.” There are also nonnative plants cultivated specifically for Florida conditions that are water-efficient and resistant to disease and pests here. However, there are also some plants that do too well because they don't have any natural balances in the Florida environment, and they become highly invasive.

And remember, the success of your Xeriscape landscape depends as much on where you locate plants as on what plants you use. Plant it smart!

*Learn each plant's*

- Mature size (height and width)
- Sun and shade requirements
- Soil needs
- Water needs
- Salt and cold tolerances

Match these factors with your soil and climatic conditions.

#### DO YOU NEED SALT-TOLERANT PLANTS?

Many areas in Florida have salt prevalent in the air and the water; this is particularly true near the coast and salt marshes. Salt can even find its way into wells. Exposure to salt may severely damage or kill some plants, so if necessary, choose plants that can tolerate such exposure. Salt is alkaline, so a plant's tolerance for salt indicates its tolerance to alkalinity.

Where does this salt originate? Homes near the beach experience salt spray, with stiff winds blowing fine particles of salt and sand onto plants. Different plants can take varying degrees of this salt exposure. Some can't tolerate it at all. Consult the Cooperative Extension Service for a list of salt-tolerant plants.

Irrigation water may also be salty, or **saline**. In some areas, the water taken from the ground is naturally high in salt. Other areas suffer from

saltwater intrusion, where salt water moves underground into freshwater aquifers due to overpumping of the aquifer. If the salinity level in irrigation water is too high, the water can kill plants. Also, be aware that some household water treatment systems add salt to the water to remove iron or other minerals. Don't use this water for plants.

Use this guide and consult a plant specialist to determine if a plant is salt-tolerant. If you suspect salt problems, have your water tested for salt content. Contact your County Cooperative Extension Service for more information about testing water for salt.

The general vegetation map of Florida in this guide indicates the original native-plant communities throughout the state. Different plant communities often converge gradually in what is called **ecotones** — regions where one ecosystem blends into another. Sometimes pockets of one community are surrounded by another.

Observing the differences in ecotones can help determine differences in the landscape, helping to identify the best plants for the microclimates throughout the landscape.

#### FLORIDA'S PLANT COMMUNITIES

##### *Coastal Uplands*

**BEACH DUNE SYSTEMS** — Alkaline to neutral soils of coarse sand and shell; well drained, with some salt; low fertility; dry, hot, sunny and windy conditions. Common species include Spanish bayonet, saw palmetto, seaside purslane, saltmeadow cordgrass, beach morning glory, blanket flower and beach dune sunflower.

**MARITIME FORESTS** — Soil pH moderately alkaline to neutral; sandy with some shell and periodic shell mounds. Retains some moisture though well drained, with humus fertility. Plants indigenous to this community will tolerate some salt, wind, shade and drought. Some common plants include southern red cedar and magnolia, redbay, sand live oak, cabbage palm, American holly, Hercules'-club, saltbush and coontie.



*Coastal upland*



*Pine flatwoods*

### *Pine Flatwoods*

The most common plant community in Florida. Acidic, sandy soil with a hardpan layer 1–3 feet below the surface. Moisture levels vary from dry to nearly saturated during the wet season. Fires caused naturally by lightning occur every 5–10 years, leaving ash to fertilize new growth. In earlier decades, the pine flatwoods floor was cleared by fire. Now, without regular fires, a **shrub strata** dominates. In managed conservation areas, controlled burns are conducted to reduce the amount of fuel plants on the forest floor and to encourage growth of **herbaceous** species.

The most dominant species include longleaf pine, slash pine or pond pine (depending on hydric

conditions), saw palmetto, gallberry, fetterbush and tarflower. The forest floor has herbaceous species such as wiregrass, muhly grass, blazing star, violets and lilies — species adapted to both wet and dry conditions. Occasionally there are dahoon holly, persimmon, maple trees, loblolly bay and sweetbay.

### *Sandhills*

High pinelands of open longleaf pine with wiregrass and shrubs and turkey oaks, over rolling uplands and sand ridges, with deep, acidic sandy soil that is very well drained. Sandhills grade into pine flatwoods and are often adjacent to, or interspersed with, islands of scrub throughout Florida.

### *Hardwood Forests*

Hardwood hammocks occur in patches in temperate areas of Florida. The soils are acidic and sandy; the range is through the three moisture zones: **xeric**, **hydric** and **mesic**.

UPLAND MIXED FORESTS — Occur throughout Florida's northern panhandle region on upland clay soils over limestone bedrock. The canopy and **understory** are highly diverse, dominated by hardwoods, mostly oaks, with some pine species which are more prominent in earlier successional phases.

UPLAND MESIC HARDWOOD FORESTS — Oak-hickory to pine-oak-hickory; range is through central to west-central Florida on rich upland soils and clay hills.

### *Forests of Abundant Cabbage Palms*

Sand over **marl**; flat hammocks of cabbage palms and live oaks; rarely flooded.

### *Rocklands*

The uplands of southern peninsular Florida and the Keys; highly impacted by human development.

PINE ROCKLANDS — Porous limestone with sandy **humus** and marl; good drainage. Plant species include South Florida slash pine, cabbage palm and saw palmetto, with ferns, sedges and more than a hundred herbaceous species.



### *Oaks and palmettos*

TROPICAL HARDWOOD HAMMOCKS — Alkaline limestone with moist humus. The diverse canopy carries many **epiphytes**, such as bromeliads, orchids and ferns. The canopy includes live oak, gumbo limbo, black ironwood and mahogany. The understory ranges from temperate to tropical species and includes white, red and Spanish stoppers, spicewood, beautyberry and wild coffee.

### *Prairies*

DRY PRAIRIES — Similar to pine flatwoods without the pine overstory; dry prairies occur in central and southern Florida. Sandy, acidic soil is present, often with hardpan and a high water table, becoming inundated only after heavy rain. Dominant species are wiregrass and broomsedges.

WET PRAIRIES — Often intermingles in ecotones with pine flatwoods, with few sparse pines, if any, allowing the sun through to stimulate a flourishing of herbaceous flora. Wet prairies are inundated by water 50–150 days of the year.

### *Scrub*

Consists of Florida's rarest plants and animals. The land area of this endangered habitat was reduced by more than 90 percent during the 20th century, leaving fragments, often in degraded condition. Distinct plant and animal species have developed specifically to these unique conditions.

Infertile, sandy, excessively drained soils are high aquifer **recharge areas**, making scrub particularly important ecosystems. These forests consist of scrub sand pine, small scrub oaks, rosemary shrubs and scrub palmetto.

SCRUB CYPRESS — Occurs in south Florida with thin marl soils over limestone; scrub pond cypress with sedges and grasses. Adjacent to the Everglades; often flooded.

### *Cypress Swamp Forests*

Inundated by water most of the year. Can border rivers and lakes or be isolated; dominated by bald cypress in flowing systems and pond cypress in stagnant systems.

### *Wetland Forests*

SWAMP FORESTS — Flooded most of the year along rivers and basins; characterized by pond cypress, bald cypress, red maple, water hickory, ashes and tupelo.

HYDRIC HAMMOCKS — Moist sites flooded occasionally, with evergreen and deciduous hardwoods of red maple, loblolly bay, water oak, Florida elm and cabbage palm.

### *Coastal Saline Wetlands*

Water levels in coastal wetlands are under the constant influence of tides, thus the degree of salinity varies from salt water to brackish.

COASTAL SALTWATER MARSHES — Occur in north and west Florida; grasses and rushes.

MANGROVE SWAMPS — Occur in central and south Florida coastal areas that flood, then drain, creating thick nutritious muck.

### WHAT TO PLANT

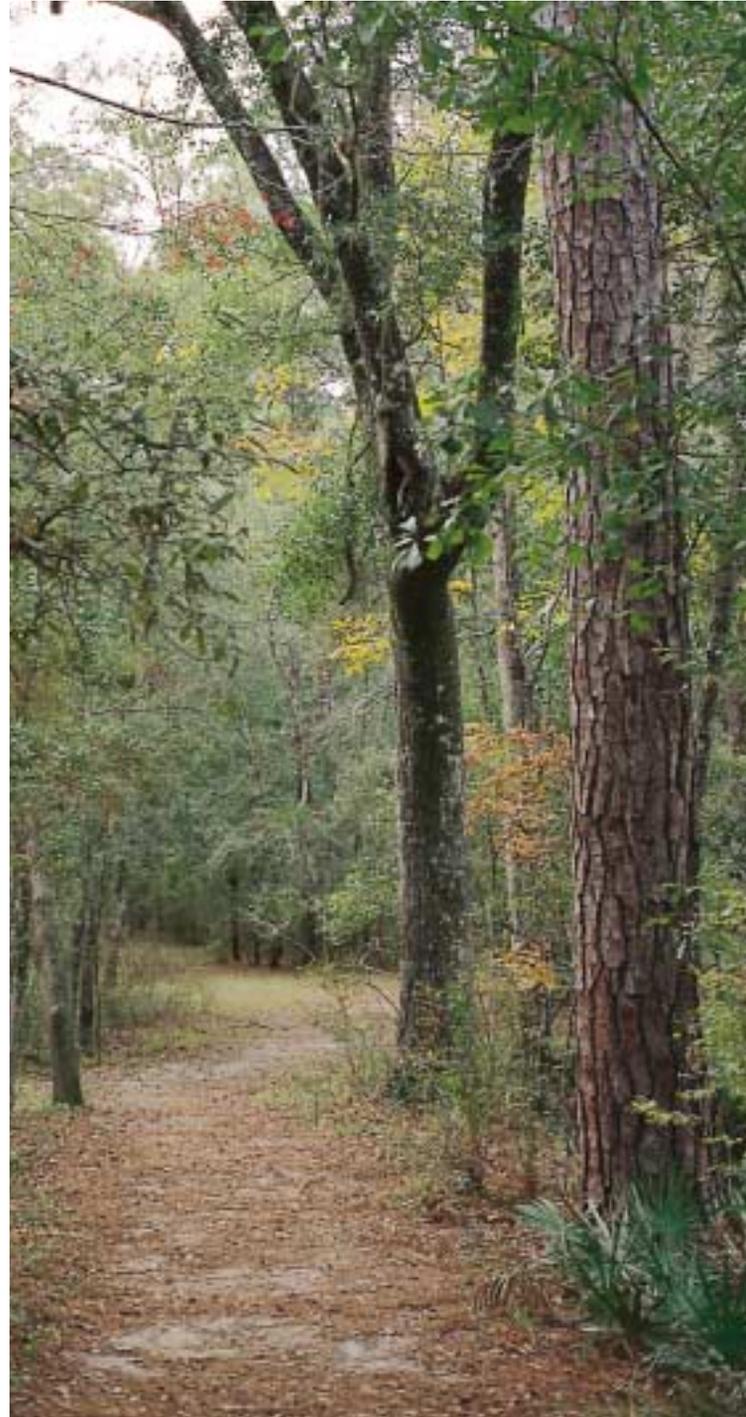
Plant lists should be generated for the different areas of the landscape based on growing conditions and desired characteristics.

Plantings should be placed with consideration for changes which will take place over time. In natural plant communities, these changes are called **succession**. Succession is the evolution of plants starting out, maturing, being replaced by other plants, and eventually developing to a climax, or a balanced, mature ecosystem.

In most landscapes, succession is halted by deliberate maintenance practices. Yet plants tend to strive toward succession. By planning for each plant's mature state, a dynamic landscape can be planned to include natural changes.

When plants are first put into a landscape, the area should look unfinished, as the landscape must be given space and time to grow. Plan to replace sun-loving plants with shade-tolerant plants as the larger elements in the landscape such as trees and shrubs grow and create shade.

Remember, many so-called shrub species are actually 20-foot multi-trunked trees. Select plant species that will mature to a height and width that will fit the planting location. If you want a shrub that only grows 2–4 feet tall, find a dwarf variety or use ornamental bunch grasses or flowering perennials like pentas and scarlet milkweed.



*Mixed hardwood*



*Cabbage palm, seagrapes and coontie fill this landscape.*

#### PLANTING FOR EFFICIENT WATER USE

Group plants in appropriate conditions according to their water needs. If plant placement is done correctly, once plants are established, little to no supplemental irrigation will be necessary.

When plantings do need supplemental watering, choose the right irrigation heads. Turf areas and planting beds should always be in separate irrigation zones. This separation allows for different irrigation schedules and different irrigation heads, such as pop-ups for turf or drip heads for individual specimen plants such as shrubs or perennials.

**NATURAL ZONE** — In this area, place plants that have adapted to the wet and dry extremes of Florida's climate so that regular watering (once plants are established) won't be necessary, except during prolonged drought.

**DROUGHT-TOLERANT ZONE** — In this area, place plants that can survive extended periods of time without rain or supplemental irrigation.

**OASIS ZONE** — In this area, place plants that may require some watering.

Plants native to Florida can play a very dependable role in the landscape. Many of Florida's plants have evolved through periods of extreme wet and then dry weather, so they survive through drought and don't get root rot standing in water. They have also developed defenses to the diseases, fungi and insects which originate in Florida. Many have proven wind tolerances in areas that experience tropical storms and hurricanes.

Strive to establish a yard that is largely sustained by existing conditions, then if specialty plantings such as vegetables or roses are desired, a more labor- and resource-intensive planting bed can be created in one or two areas.

Remember, the overriding guidance should be to put the right plant in the right place.

## 4. Use Turf Wisely

Grass can be a practical part of your landscape in the right place, for example, in a play area for children. Follow these simple tips for a healthy lawn and to reduce maintenance:

- **GO LIGHT ON THE FERTILIZER.** Fertilization stimulates growth and increases water needs. If you do fertilize, use a slow-release nitrogen product. Water-insoluble products won't be washed away like liquid or fast-release fertilizers, which can contaminate waterways through stormwater or irrigation runoff. The slow-release products stay in the soil to supply nutrients to plants on a gradual basis, over a longer period of time.
- **LEAVE SHORT GRASS CLIPPINGS WHERE THEY FALL WHEN YOU MOW.** This reduces the lawn's need for both water and fertilizer. However, remove thick patches of clippings, which will decay and kill the grass.
- **RISE TO NEW HEIGHTS.** That is, raise the height of your lawnmower blades to the highest setting. When you mow the grass, remove no more than one-third of the leaf blade. Cutting grass shorter than this may stress the grass and may also decrease the depth to which roots will grow, increasing the need for water. Most St. Augustine grass and bahia grass varieties should not be mowed below 3 inches in height.
- **KEEP A SHARP CUTTING EDGE.** When your lawnmower blades are sharp, they give a clean cut. Grass torn and shredded by dull blades suffers stress and requires more water.
- **CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO GRASS.** Grass can be a useful plant. Use grass in areas where children or pets play, or for erosion control. In low-use areas, consider drought-tolerant-plant beds, **groundcovers**, mulch, walkways or other alternatives that require little or no water.

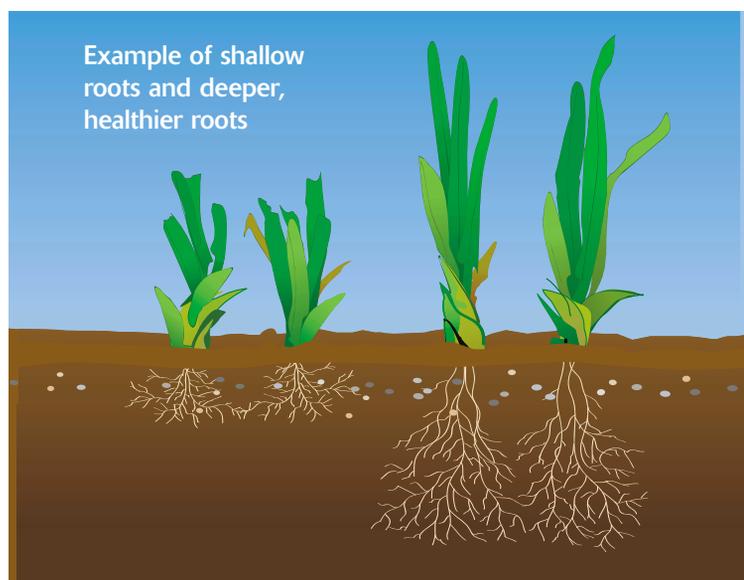
## 5. Irrigate Efficiently

In many yards, the major oasis area is the grass. In some Florida locations, grass will need extra help from irrigation; in other areas, rainfall may be adequate.

If an irrigation system is needed, choose each device based on what will most efficiently water each group of plants. Pop-up sprinklers work well for the lawn, but planting beds or **specimen plantings** are more effectively irrigated using a drip, bubbler or micro-irrigation spray head. An example of micro-irrigation is a low-volume irrigation emitter, a device that applies water directly to the root zone of plants.

Florida law requires that all automatic irrigation systems installed after May 1991 have a rain sensor shut-off switch that overrides the irrigation cycle when adequate rainfall has occurred (Chapter 373.62, *Florida Statutes*).

- **USE A RAIN GAUGE.** Keep track of how much rain has fallen in your yard. Do not adhere to a rigid irrigation schedule. When it rains, you probably don't need to water. During periods of extended rainy weather, irrigation systems should be turned off.
- **IRRIGATE ONLY WHEN PLANTS OR GRASS NEED IT.** Water plants that begin to show signs of stress. Signs of stress for grass include leaves wilting or grass blades folding in half, or soil from the root zone feeling dry. Your





### *Shasta daisies*

lawn needs watering if grass blades start turning a bluish-gray color or if footprints linger after being made. Overwatering is often the cause of many common problems, such as dollar weed and fungal growth.

- **WATER IF IT HASN'T RAINED.** St. Augustine grass only needs rain or watering once or twice a week in summer and once every 8–14 days from December through February. Bahia grass needs water less often.

- **GIVE YOUR LAWN AN AVERAGE OF HALF AN INCH OF WATER.** To determine how long it takes your system to put out half an inch of water, place cans or other containers around the yard and measure the water collected in half an hour. Measure the amount in each can, add together, then divide for the average. Turf should not receive more than 1 inch of water per week.

- **HELP GRASS AND PLANTS DEVELOP DEEP ROOT SYSTEMS.** It is better to water your lawn and plants well once a week than it is to water lightly each day, but apply water only as quickly as the soil can absorb it. Thorough watering encourages roots to establish themselves deeper in the soil, which makes them more drought-tolerant. Frequent light watering causes roots to stay too close to the surface, where they are dependent on regularly recurring precipitation or irrigation and are more likely to suffer in dry times. The exception to deep watering is for newly installed plants, where the roots are still closer to the surface. These plants need light, more-frequent waterings until they adjust to the new location, generally about 30 to 60 days. Other plants, shrubs and trees may need longer to become established.

- **WATER EARLY IN THE DAY.** To minimize loss of water through evaporation, water early in the morning, before sunrise. When the sun rises, it will dry plants, reducing the potential for fungal growth or diseases. Leaving plants wet overnight creates conditions for fungal growth. Watering in the heat of the day is prohibited in some areas of Florida under rules established by the water management districts. In addition, watering in the middle of the day results in water loss through evaporation.

## OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

- **Observe water restrictions in your area.** Under Florida law, the water management districts have established water conservation rules. Where there is a year-round watering rule, it applies to everyone who uses water outdoors — homes, businesses, nurseries, golf courses — regardless of the water source, whether private well, public utility or surface water. There are some exceptions to the water restrictions, such as when reclaimed or reuse water is being used. Any local water restrictions that are more strict than the water management districts' must be followed. Violating Florida's water restrictions is punishable with penalties of up to \$500, with additional fees as applicable.

- **Conserve water by installing a rain sensor or rain shut-off switch.** State law (Chapter 373.62, FS) requires these devices on automatic sprinkler systems installed after May 1991. These devices automatically turn off the irrigation system after adequate rainfall. There are some local ordinances that also require older systems to be retrofitted with shut-off switches.

- **Inspect your irrigation system regularly.** Check all hoses, pipes and fittings for leaks, which can waste hundreds or thousands of gallons of water every week. Repair broken or clogged spray heads and emitters and adjust them to keep from watering the pavement. Also, using a rain gauge in the yard is a good way to make sure the rain shut-off switch is working.

- **Use filters in micro-irrigation systems.** Filters can help reduce clogging. Filters should be cleaned regularly.

- **Use an automatic shut-off nozzle at the end of a hand-held hose.** Sweep sidewalks or driveways instead of hosing them down.

## 6. Use Mulches

If you already use mulches in your yard, you're ahead of the game. Placing a layer of mulch directly around shrubs and trees and on flower beds helps to conserve water. In fact, mulch:

- Helps retain moisture in the soil
- Decomposes slowly, adding nutrients to the soil
- Provides habitat or cover for beneficial soil organisms
- Shades soil from the baking sun, reducing the need for water
- Protects against soil erosion and compaction caused by rain
- Reduces weed growth
- Reduces maintenance chores; keeps lawn mowers and weed trimmers from damaging trees and other plants
- Looks good in the landscape



Mulch can include bark chips, pine needles or leaves. Using leaves for mulch eliminates having to burn or bag the leaves for landfill disposal. Cypress mulch, although widely available, is not a good environmental choice because cypress are slow-growing native wetland trees that are often taken as whole, mature trees and chipped into mulch just to help meet market demand. Cypress are far more valuable to us in their environment than as mulch in the landscape. Alternative sources of mulch, such as melaleuca, eucalyptus, Australian pine and recycled matter from yard cuttings, are suggested instead. Some of these environmentally friendly alternatives are obtained from nonnative pest trees and are becoming increasingly available.

For best results, spread 2–4 inches of mulch on plant beds. Keep the mulch several inches away from the plant stems to protect the stems from rotting. Gradually increase the thickness of the mulch layer going out from the plant. Add new mulch as needed, stirring the old mulch to promote air and moisture circulation to avoid matting.

Don't use compost or mulch that has diseased material. Get mulches from a reputable dealer, as mulches can contain contaminants such as undesirable seeds or insect pests. Mulching holds moisture and may attract termites, so should not be piled up right next to a building's foundation.

Be aware that **inorganic** mulch such as gravel or colored rocks will not hold moisture. Moreover, white rock reflects heat, which is stressful to plants.

## 7. Perform Proper Maintenance

An environmentally balanced, low-maintenance landscape starts with the previous steps of analysis, planning and selecting the plants suitable for the site. A diverse array of plant species will attract a variety of insects to the area, helping to create a balanced food chain so that no one species can become dominant enough to become a major pest problem. This way, nature works for you to make landscaping and maintenance easy and rewarding.

## NATURAL PEST MANAGEMENT

Only a fraction of a percent of all insects known to humans are considered pests, and these species are generally herbivores, eating plants we want for ourselves — either for food or for ornamental value. A food chain always has carnivores looking to eat herbivores. Predators — including predatory insects — that eat our “pests” are called “beneficial” organisms. But it doesn't stop there. Birds, bats, lizards and frogs also eat insects. All part of the food chain, this diversity of life creates a living balance and will do so in the landscape if allowed.

If we try to eradicate an organism that is pestering us, we risk poisoning not only the pest, but also the beneficial organisms that would decrease the pest populations. If broad-spectrum pesticides are applied to the landscape, many beneficial organisms could be killed.

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a proven concept for controlling pests. IPM is also a good way to protect water quality.

The basic premise is to use the least toxic method and to limit any treatments to affected areas, not the entire yard. Observation, or scouting, is the basis to understanding what the most effective method will be. First, determine if there really is a problem. Consider tolerating some plant damage as part of nature's process. For example, caterpillars that become butterflies can eat the leaves off certain plants before forming a cocoon, only to have the plant come back later as healthy as before.

If observation proves there is a problem, learn about the pest organism's life process so you can disrupt that process. For example, mosquitoes need stagnant water to lay eggs. During mosquito season, removal of even the smallest standing pools of water — in pots, or even in bromeliads — will help decrease mosquito population in an area.

When using chemicals, spot-treat the affected area only, at a time when the pest is most vulnerable. Mole crickets, for example, are mostly affected by pesticides when they are young. Verify their level of development by flushing them out of the turf with a



### *Seagrapes and palms*

biodegradable soap solution — the mole crickets will climb out of the turf to escape the soap.

Rather than routinely applying chemicals to the entire lawn, spot-treat pests and problem areas while problem areas are small and localized. This will minimize pesticide use and avoid killing beneficial organisms.

### **WEEDS**

Weeds are often the hardy annuals and perennials that lead succession. Soil left bare will soon be growing something. To minimize the growth of unwanted plants, mulch and/or keep areas planted. Remove any weeds as they emerge, before they develop seed heads or extensive root systems that compete for moisture and nutrients.

### **COMPOSTING**

Plant leaves manufacture sugar from sunlight, water and carbon dioxide. Other nutrients and minerals are drawn from the soil where they have built up from decayed leaves and other material that falls in natural settings. Frequently, cultivated areas are stripped clean of these wastes, then petroleum-based fertilizers are applied to replace the natural food source.

Compost is the cheapest and most nutritious fertilizer available. Leaves and pine needles piled or left as mulch to decay under plants and trees slowly return essential elements to the soil, while helping retain moisture.

Mulch and compost help soil maintain a healthy balance of microorganisms and other soil builders, such as earthworms. Petroleum-based fertilizers can be totally replaced with lots of compost and mulch.

## FERTILIZING

Once established, your water-conserving yard may require only moderate amounts of supplemental fertilizer. Overfertilizing aggravates pest problems, stimulates excessive growth and requires frequent watering. Fertilizers mobilized by irrigation water or rain can **leach** into **groundwater** and be carried by stormwater runoff into waterways.

When needed, the best choice for plants and the environment is slow-release fertilizer. The package label on the fertilizer will say organic, slow-release or controlled release, water-insoluble nitrogen, sulfur-coated, IBDU, or resin-coated. Also look at the label for inclusion of trace minerals.

Fertilization should be used when specific nutrient deficiency symptoms are evident. Natural sources of these nutrients are available and inexpensive.

*Nitrogen* — grass clippings, compost, cottonseed meal

*Phosphorus* — compost, rock phosphate (many Florida soils are already phosphorus-rich)

*Potassium* — compost, aged manure, fireplace wood ashes (raises soil pH)

Some plants can make nutrients available in the soil for the benefit of other plants. Clover, for example, “fixes” nitrogen (takes in nitrogen from the air), making it available for grass. Thus, leaving clover mixed in with lawn grasses is actually healthier than trying to eliminate it.

## PRUNING

If a plant is placed in the right location and given enough room to mature, pruning should be minimal. Prune to retain the natural shape, or structure, of trees and shrubs and to promote or maintain strong structure. Less pruning is usually better because pruning is stressful to a tree or shrub, which causes it to require more water. Also, pruning at the wrong time of the year can stress plants.

Your County Cooperative Extension Service office has brochures with simple graphics showing how to make proper pruning cuts.

- *Trees* — Prune carefully to promote strong development in the trunk and main branches. Don't prune the first year after transplanting. Never cut off the top of a tree to control height.

- *Palms* — Only dead and diseased fronds should be removed. If a palm frond is living and green, it is producing energy for the plant and should not be cut.

- *Shrubs* — Shearing shrubs results in foliage forming only at the outer, sheared surface, with no internal foliage. By selectively thinning branches following the natural shape of a shrub, you can open the shrub foliage to permit light penetration while retaining some control over its size.

*An example of “hat racking,” a pruning practice that stresses a plant and increases the plant’s water needs.*



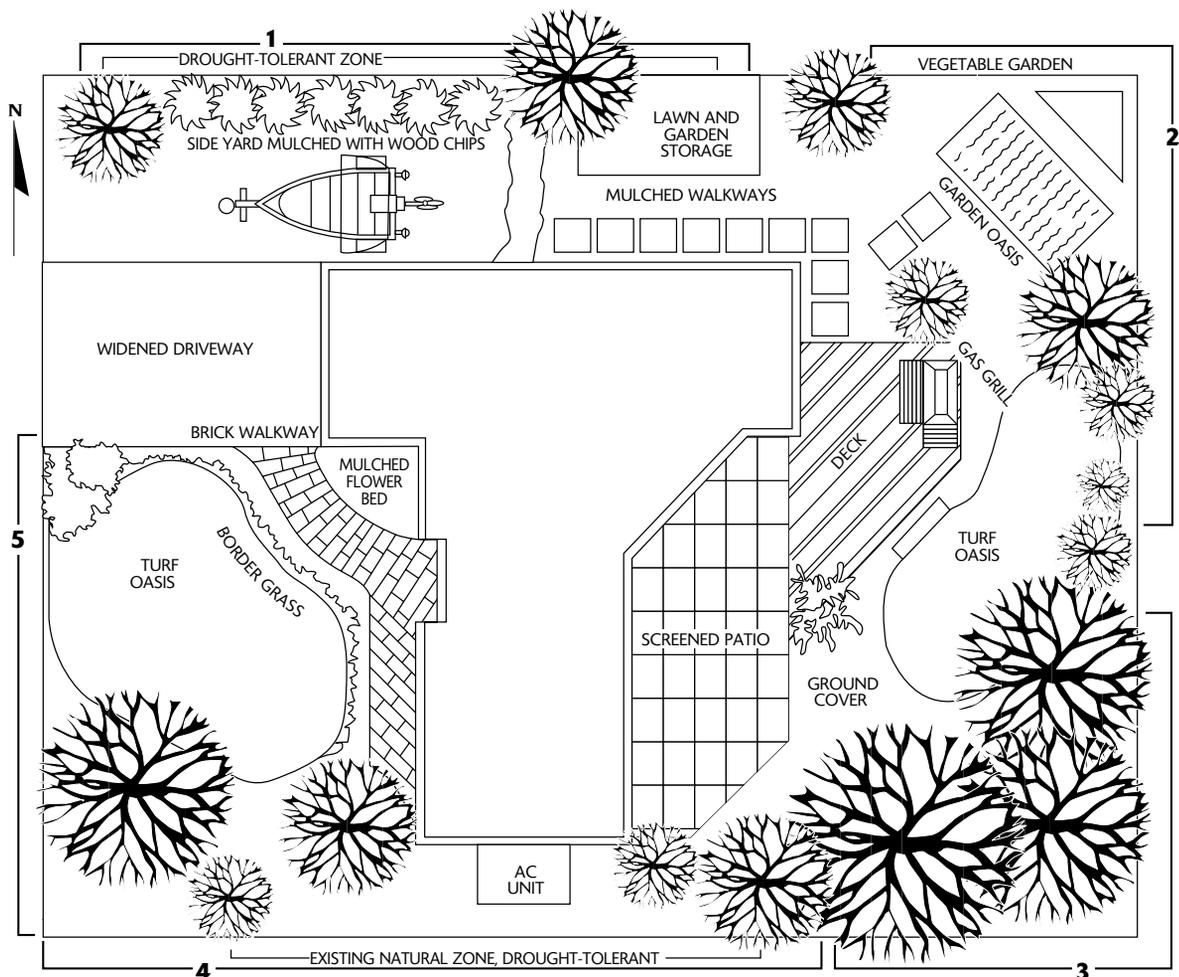
## A Landscape Example

1. Our drought-tolerant natural zone next to the driveway has mulch and low-water shrubs instead of grass. This zone continues along the length of the house and eliminates watering, mowing and edging chores in low-use areas. Notice how the shrubs serve as a buffer to our northern neighbor and as camouflage for the storage area.
2. Our turf area in the backyard is located in the landscape's lowest spot, which is where there is plenty of naturally occurring moisture. Alternatives to grass include a garden, a deck or a screened patio. These additions don't need water and reduce landscape maintenance chores.
3. More drought-tolerant groundcovers and shrubs hug the back of our **practical turf area**. These plants

give privacy to our patio and deck while providing shade, and they are water-efficient.

4. Native vegetation, including drought-tolerant shrubbery, is used in the side yard. We selected plants appropriate for an area seldom seen or used. This decision further reduces watering and maintenance chores.

5. Our practical turf area in the front yard, like that in the back, is round in shape to reduce its perimeter, making it easier to irrigate and maintain. Long, narrow strips of grass are hard to irrigate efficiently. A brick walkway, border grass and a mulched flower bed further reduce watering and edging chores and add colorful accents.



# TREES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)**	Growth Rate	Comments
Acacia, sweet	<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	9b–11	☹️ – 🌊	☀️	15x20	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Small thorny, bushy tree; fragrant flowers; subject to wind damage, will suffer frost damage; likes sandy to clay soil; evergreen; salt-tolerant; native
African tulip tree	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	10b–11	🌊 – ☹️	☀️	50	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Low-maintenance, messy tree; orange and yellow flowers during winter and spring; evergreen; medium salt
Allspice	<i>Pimenta dioica</i>	10b–11	🌊	☀️	40	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Beautiful small tree with exfoliating bark; source of allspice; evergreen; low salt
Apple, Anna	<i>Malus domestica</i> 'Anna'	8a–9b	🌊	☀️	18–20	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Cross-pollination required; few fruits produced in south Florida; low salt
Ash, green	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	8a–8b	🌊🌊🌊 – 🌊	☀️	30x75	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Deciduous; medium salt; native
Ash, pop	<i>Fraxinus caroliniana</i>	8a–10a	🌊🌊🌊 – 🌊	☀️	20x40	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Crooked, multi-trunked tree; deciduous; low salt; native
Atemoya	<i>Annona x 'Atemoya'</i>	10a–10b	☹️ – 🌊	☀️ ☁️	30	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Hybrid; likes well-drained, alkaline soil; evergreen; medium salt
Avocado	<i>Persea americana</i>	10a	🌊	☀️	20–60	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Easily cold-damaged; Brogdon is a hardier variety; many varieties available; evergreen; medium salt
Banana, Cavendish	<i>Musa acuminata</i> 'Cavendish'	10b–11	🌊	☀️	5-7	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Needs heavy mulching; spectacularly large flowers; will die back with freeze; low salt
Bangar nut	<i>Sterculia foetida</i>	10a	🌊	☀️	75	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Stinky flowers; deciduous; low salt
Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	8a–9b	🌊	☀️ ☁️	35x80	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Leaves similar to mulberry without lobes; likes acidic soil; deciduous; low salt; native
Beech, American	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	8a–8b	🌊	☀️ ☁️	60x90	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Smooth bark; likes acidic soil; deciduous; wildlife value; native
Birch, river	<i>Betula nigra</i>	8a–9a	🌊 – ☹️	☀️	25x50	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Attractive peeling bark; likes acidic soil; deciduous; low salt; native
Black olive	<i>Bucida buceras</i>	10a–11	☹️	☀️	30x45	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Overpopular; spiny; leaves will stain surfaces; subject to freeze damage; evergreen; high salt
Black sapote, chocolate pudding fruit	<i>Diospyros digyna</i>	10a–11	🌊	☀️	25	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Can't tolerate drought; evergreen; low salt
Blackgum	<i>Nyssa biflora</i>	8a–9a	🌊🌊🌊 – 🌊	☀️ ☁️	80	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Dark blue fruit in pairs on stalk; likes acidic soil; deciduous; low salt; native
Blackhaw viburnum or Rusty blackhaw	<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	8a–9a	🌊 – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	15x20	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Shrub or small tree with irregular crown, white flowers, purple fruits; reddish underleaf and buds; wildlife value; deciduous; low salt; native
Blolly	<i>Guapira discolor</i>	9b–11	🌊	☀️	30x40	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Drought-tolerant; smooth gray bark, attractive leaves, purple fruit; wildlife food; evergreen; high salt; native
Bradford pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	8a–9a	☹️ – 🌊	☀️	20x30	🌱🌱🌱🌱	White spring flowers, colorful fall foliage; lives about 30 years; evergreen; high salt
Buckthorn, Carolina	<i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i>	8a–9b	🌊	☀️	20x25	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Native
Bulnesia	<i>Bulnesia arborea</i>	10b	🌊 – ☹️	☀️	20x30	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Beautiful flowering tree; pot-bound plants produce weak-rooted trees; evergreen; high salt
Buttonwood	<i>Conocarpus erectus</i>	10a	🌊🌊🌊🌊 – ☹️	☀️	15–25	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Good seaside plant; silver-leaved variety widely grown, native variety available; high salt; evergreen; native
Carambola	<i>Averrhoa carambola</i>	10b	🌊	☀️ ☁️	25	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Edible orange star-shaped fruits produced year-round; can't tolerate flooding; evergreen; low salt
Cedar, southern red	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> (≠ <i>J. silicicola</i> )	8a–9b	☹️ – 🌊	☀️	25x60	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Adaptable, long-lived; don't plant near hawthorns — apples cause cedar apple rust disease; evergreen; high salt; wildlife value; native
Cherry laurel	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	8a–9b	🌊	☀️ ☁️	35	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Tolerates some dryness, does better in moist, well-drained areas; poisonous to livestock; hardy to about 10°F; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Chinquapin	<i>Castanea pumila</i>	8a–9a	🌊 – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	15x40	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Spiny fruit encloses sweet, edible nut; white spiked blooms on males; likes alkaline soil; deciduous; moderate salt; native
Colville's glory	<i>Colvillea racemosa</i>	10a+	🌊	☀️	45	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Beautiful late fall flowers; deciduous; low salt
Common persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	8a–10	☹️ – 🌊	☀️ ☁️	15x50	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Edible fruit; grows best in central and north Florida; deciduous; low salt; native
Copperpod	<i>Peltophorum pterocarpum</i>	10a–11	☹️ – 🌊	☀️	25x50	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Shallow-rooted; blows over in windstorms; well-drained soil; deciduous; high salt
Crabwood	<i>Gymnanthes lucida</i>	10a+	☹️ – 🌊	☀️	20	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Small, densely branched; not readily available; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Crape myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	8a–11	🌊 – ☹️	☀️	15x25	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Attractive bark, showy summer flowers; don't prune branches larger than 1/2-inch diameter; deciduous; moderate salt
Cuban tamarind	<i>Lysiloma sabicu</i>	10b–11	🌊 – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	25x50	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Deciduous; high salt
Custard apple	<i>Annona reticulata</i>	10a	🌊	☀️	40x15	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Selected varieties available; deciduous; low salt
Cypress, bald	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	8a–11	🌊🌊🌊 – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	25x80	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Needles turn brown in winter; knees emerge aboveground in root zone; evergreen; high salt; native

SOIL MOISTURE ☹️ Dry 🌊 Moist 🌊🌊 Wet

LIGHT ☀️ Full Sun ☀️☁️ Partial Sun ☁️ Shade

GROWTH RATE 🌱🌱🌱🌱 Slow 🌱🌱🌱🌱 Medium 🌱🌱🌱🌱 Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference  
\*\* Mature size = width x height

# TREES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)**	Growth Rate	Comments
Cypress, pond	<i>Taxodium ascendens</i>	8b-11	☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔	☁☀	15x75	☐☐☐☐	Needles turn brown in winter; knees emerge aboveground in root zone; evergreen; high salt; native
Dawn redwood	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	8a	☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔☔☔	☀	20x90	☐☐☐☐	Evergreen; low salt
Dogwood, flowering	<i>Cornus florida</i>	8a-9a	☔☔ - ☔	☁☀	20-25	☐☐☐☐	Best in rich soils, likes acidic to neutral soils; deciduous; low salt; native
Dogwood, Japanese	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	8a	☔☔	☁☀	20x25	☐☐☐☐	Deciduous; moderate salt
Dragon tree	<i>Dracaena draco</i>	10a	☔☔ - ☔☔	☀	45	☐☐☐☐	Tree-like fern; lance-shaped foliage, red sap; evergreen; high salt
Eastern hop hornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	8a-9a	☔☔☔ - ☔☔	☁☀	40	☐☐☐☐	Common to woodlands with good drainage; deciduous; low salt; wildlife value; native
Eggfruit, Canistel	<i>Pouteria campechiana</i>	10b-11	☔☔	☀	20	☐☐☐☐	Sweet-tasting yellow fruit; requires minimal care; evergreen; high salt
Elm, American	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	8a-9b	☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔☔☔☔☔	☀☁	30x40	☐☐☐☐	Vase-shaped; deciduous; low salt; native
Elm, Chinese	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	8a-10a	☔☔	☁☀☀	35x65	☐☐☐☐	Weeping growth habit; cold-hardy, but foliage drops at 25°F; likes fertile, moist conditions; deciduous; low salt
Elm, winged	<i>Ulmus alata</i>	8a-9a	☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔☔☔	☀☁	5x40	☐☐☐☐	Small with oval crown; interesting corky, winged bark; deciduous; low salt; native
Fiddlewood	<i>Citharexylum spinosum</i> (= <i>C. fruticosum</i> )	10a-11	☔☔ - ☔☔	☁☀☀	10x35	☐☐☐☐	Small fragrant flowers, spring through autumn; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Fig, edible	<i>Ficus carica</i>	8a-10b	☔☔	☀	12	☐☐☐☐	Tolerant of widely varying soils; low salt
Firewheel tree	<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i>	10a-11	☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔	☁☀☀	25x60	☐☐☐☐	Attractive glossy leaves; columnar growth habit; evergreen; low salt
Florida soapberry	<i>Sapindus marginatus</i>	8a-9b	☔☔	☀	25x50	☐☐☐☐	Small tree or shrub; high salt; native
Floss-silk tree	<i>Chorisia speciosa</i>	10a	☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔	☀	45	☐☐☐☐	Spiny green trunk, spectacular flowers; deciduous; high salt
Frangipani	<i>Plumeria</i> spp.	10b-11	☔☔	☁☀☀	15x25	☐☐☐☐	White, yellow or orange flowers in spring, summer and fall; evergreen; moderate salt
Fringe tree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	8a-9a	☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔	☁☀☀	10x25	☐☐☐☐	Drought-tolerant; likes acidic soil; wildlife food; deciduous; low salt; native
Geiger tree	<i>Cordia sebestena</i>	10b-11	☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔	☁☀☀	15x25	☐☐☐☐	Round crown, showy orange blossoms; attracts caterpillars; likes sandy soil; evergreen; high salt
Golden shower	<i>Cassia fistula</i>	10a-10b	☔☔	☀	25x50	☐☐☐☐	Very attractive flower; deciduous; moderate salt
Grapefruit	<i>Citrus x paradisi</i>	9a-11	☔☔	☀	20	☐☐☐☐	Swallowtail butterfly host plant; needs good mulching; likes acidic soil; evergreen; low salt
Gumbo limbo	<i>Bursera simaruba</i>	10a-11	☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔	☀☁	35x60	☐☐☐☐	Large branches will root directly; attractive copper and green peeling bark; easily freeze-damaged; deciduous; high salt; native
Hercules'-club	<i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>	8a-10b	☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔	☁☀☀	15x45	☐☐☐☐	Round crown, interesting compound leaves, tall clusters of greenish flowers; thorny; deciduous; high salt; native
Hickory, mockernut	<i>Carya alba</i> (= <i>C. tomentosa</i> )	8a-9b	☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔	☀☁	35x60	☐☐☐☐	Yellow autumn leaves; deciduous; low salt; native
Hickory, pignut	<i>Carya glabra</i>	8a-9a	☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔	☀	25x75	☐☐☐☐	Likes clay soil; deciduous; low salt; native
Hickory, scrub	<i>Carya floridana</i>	9a-10a	☔☔	☀	25	☐☐☐☐	Rarely cultivated; likes sandy soil; deciduous; low salt; native
Holly, American	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	8a-9b	☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔	☁☀☀	15x45	☐☐☐☐	Very spiny, stiff leaves, gray to white bark; prefers acidic soil; wildlife food and shelter, evergreen; moderate salt; native
Holly, Carolina	<i>Ilex ambigua</i>	8a-9b	☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔	☁☀☀	15	☐☐☐☐	Shrubby; bright-red 1/3-inch fruits; tolerant of varying conditions and sites; evergreen; native
Holly, dahoon	<i>Ilex cassine</i>	8a-10b	☔☔☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔☔☔☔☔	☀☁	10x50	☐☐☐☐	Red berries; grows in boggy sites; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Holly, East Palatka	<i>Ilex x attenuata</i> 'East Palatka'	8a-9b	☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔	☀☁	10x30	☐☐☐☐	Red berries; cross between American and dahoon hollies; prefers acidic soil; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Holly, myrtle-leaved	<i>Ilex myrtifolia</i>	8a-8b	☔☔☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔☔☔☔☔	☁☀☀	10x25	☐☐☐☐	Shrubby; small narrow leaves, 1/4-inch fruits; evergreen; wildlife food; moderate salt; native
Holly, yaupon	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	8a-9b	☔☔☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔☔☔☔☔	☁☀☀	15x20	☐☐☐☐	Small, bushy, with many branches; red fruits, small leaves; evergreen; high salt; native
Hong Kong orchid tree	<i>Bauhinia x blakeana</i>	9b-11	☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔	☁☀☀	15x40	☐☐☐☐	Evergreen; moderate salt
Hornbeam, American or ironwood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	8a-9a	☔☔☔☔☔☔ - ☔☔☔☔☔☔	☁☀☀	15x50	☐☐☐☐	Also called ironwood; deciduous; low salt; native
Jaboticaba	<i>Myrciaria cauliflora</i>	10b-11	☔☔	☀☁	15x25	☐☐☐☐	Large shrub size; attractive bark, delicious fruit; likes moist but well-drained soil; evergreen; low salt

SOIL MOISTURE ☔ Dry ☔☔ Moist ☔☔☔☔ Wet

LIGHT ☀ Full Sun ☁☀ Partial Sun ☁☁☁ Shade

GROWTH RATE ☐☐☐☐ Slow ☐☐☐☐ Medium ☐☐☐☐ Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference  
\*\* Mature size = width x height

# TREES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)**	Growth Rate	Comments
Jacaranda	<i>Jacaranda acutifolia</i>	9b–11	☹️ – 😊	☀️	40x50	█████	Fragrant lavender flowers in spring and summer; young trees damaged at 25°F, older trees slightly more tolerant of cold; prefers loose, sandy soil; deciduous; low salt
Jamaican dogwood	<i>Piscidia piscipula</i>	10b–11	😊 – 😊	☀️ ☁️	25x45	█████	Bluish-purple flowers; deciduous; high salt; native
Jerusalem thorn	<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	8b–11	😊	☀️	15x25	█████	Open-growth habit; small, spiny; young trees damaged at 18°F, older trees slightly more cold-tolerant; gets root rot on wet soil; prefers sandy soil; deciduous; high salt
Joewood	<i>Jacquinia keyensis</i>	10a–11	😊	☀️ ☁️	6x15	█████	Round, compact; wonderfully fragrant flowers, blue-gray bark; tolerant of dry soil; evergreen; high salt; native
Key lime	<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	10b–11	😊	☀️	10–15	█████	Fruit very acid; swallowtail butterfly host plant; evergreen; medium salt; wildlife value
Lancewood	<i>Ocotea coriacea</i>	10b–11	😊 – 😊	☁️ ☁️	25	█████	Small; evergreen; low salt; native
Lemon	<i>Citrus limon</i>	9a–11	😊	☀️	15	█████	Don't mulch around base; swallowtail butterfly host plant; evergreen; low salt; wildlife value
Lignum vitae	<i>Guajacum sanctum</i>	10b–11	☹️☹️☹️ – 😊	☁️ ☀️	20x30	█████	Drought-tolerant, but responds well to moist conditions; blue flowers, attractive foliage; gnarled, white bark; evergreen; high salt; native
Loblolly bay	<i>Gordonia lasianthus</i>	8a–9b	☹️☹️☹️ – 😊	☀️ ☁️	15x60	█████	Good for wet areas; evergreen; low salt; native
Loquat	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	7–11	😊	☀️	25–30	█████	Edible orange fruit may be infested with Caribbean fruit fly; evergreen; high salt
Lychee	<i>Litchi chinensis</i>	10a–11	😊	☀️	35	█████	Beautiful shade tree with delicious fruit; prefers somewhat acidic soil; evergreen; low salt
Madagascar olive	<i>Noronhia emarginata</i>	10b–11	😊	☀️	15x25	█████	Excellent small tree for coastal areas; evergreen; high salt
Magnolia, southern	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	8a–10a	😊 – 😊	☀️ ☁️	35x80	█████	Hardy; large glossy leaves with fuzzy brown undersides, large showy white flowers, red 4-inch seed pods; drought-tolerant; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Mahogany	<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>	10a–11	😊 – 😊	☀️ ☁️	35x50	█████	Mahogany webworm often defoliates tree briefly; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Mango	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	10b–11	😊 – 😊	☀️	60	█████	Many varieties available; excellent fruit; butterfly host plant; may cause skin or food allergies; prefers sandy soil; evergreen; medium salt
Mangrove, black	<i>Avicennia germinans</i>	9b–11	☹️☹️☹️	☀️	25	█████	Grows in warm coastal areas in brackish water; restrictions on pruning; evergreen; salt-tolerant; native
Mangrove, red	<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>	9b–11	☹️☹️☹️	☀️	15x40	█████	Grows in warm coastal areas in brackish water; stilt-like roots; restrictions on pruning; evergreen; salt-tolerant; native
Mangrove, white	<i>Laguncularia racemosa</i>	9b–11	☹️☹️☹️	☀️	30	█████	Grows in warm coastal areas; restrictions on pruning; evergreen; salt-tolerant; native
Maple, Florida sugar	<i>Acer saccharum</i> subsp. <i>floridanum</i>	8a–9a	😊 – ☹️☹️☹️	☀️ ☁️	15x30	█████	Squarish lobed leaves, bell-shaped flowers; former scientific name, <i>A. barbatum</i> ; deciduous; low salt; native
Maple, red	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	8a–10a	☹️☹️☹️ – 😊	☀️ ☁️	30x60	█████	Excellent red fall color; red male flowers, winged fruit on female; likes moist to wet soil, tolerates acidic soil; deciduous; low salt; native
Maple, silver	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	8a	☹️☹️☹️ – 😊	☀️ ☁️	25x50	█████	Underside of leaves silvery; deciduous; low salt; native
Mastic	<i>Sideroxylon foetidissimum</i> (= <i>Mastichodendron foetidissimum</i> )	9b–11	😊 – 😊	☀️	25x60	█████	Female trees have messy fruit; wildlife food; evergreen; high salt; native
May haw	<i>Crataegus aestivalis</i>	8a–9a	☹️☹️☹️ – 😊	☁️ ☀️	15x15	█████	Highly disease-resistant; spreading, dense symmetrical crown; deciduous; low salt; native
Mimusops	<i>Manilkara roxburghiana</i>	10a	😊 – 😊	☀️	30x20	█████	Good for coastal landscapes; evergreen; high salt
Mulberry, red	<i>Morus rubra</i>	8a–10a	😊	☀️	30x70	█████	Berries stain; large showy leaves; may be damaged by freezes; deciduous; moderate salt; native
Oak, bluejack	<i>Quercus incana</i>	8a–9b	😊	☀️	20x35	█████	Likes sandy soil; deciduous; low salt; native
Oak, Chapman	<i>Quercus chapmanii</i>	9a–10a	😊	☀️	20	█████	Shrubby; likes sandy soil; deciduous; moderate salt; native
Oak, diamond leaf	<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	8a–10b	😊 – ☹️☹️☹️	☀️	45x80	█████	Fast-growing, well-shaped; evergreen; low salt; native
Oak, laurel	<i>Quercus hemisphaerica</i>	8a–10a	😊 – 😊	☀️ ☁️	40x80	█████	Round crown; dislikes alkaline soil; small and short-lived; evergreen; low salt; native
Oak, live	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	8a–11	😊 – 😊	☀️	40x60	█████	Wind-resistant; long-lived; when mature, wider than tall; hardy to 0°F; evergreen; high salt; native
Oak, myrtle	<i>Quercus myrtifolia</i>	8a–10a	😊	☀️	15x35	█████	Good for dry, sandy sites; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Oak, overcup	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	8a–8b	☹️ – ☹️☹️☹️	☁️ ☀️	35x70	█████	Likes acidic soil; deciduous; low salt; native
Oak, sand live	<i>Quercus geminata</i>	8a–10b	😊	☀️ ☁️	20x40	█████	Smaller version of live oak; likes sandy soil; evergreen; high salt; native
Oak, Shumard	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	8a–9a	😊 – 😊	☀️ ☁️	25x80	█████	Handsome lobed leaves turn bright red in fall; does well in sandy or acidic soil; deciduous; low salt; native

SOIL MOISTURE ☹️ Dry ☹️☹️ Moist ☹️☹️☹️ Wet

LIGHT ☀️ Full Sun ☁️☀️ Partial Sun ☁️☁️ Shade

GROWTH RATE █████ Slow █████ Medium █████ Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference  
\*\* Mature size = width x height

# TREES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)**	Growth Rate	Comments
Oak, swamp chestnut	<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	8a-9a	☔	☀️☁️	35x80	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Can grow to 100 feet; large acorns, 1 to 1 1/2 inches; tolerates brief floods; prefers moist woodland soil; deciduous; low salt; native
Oak, turkey	<i>Quercus laevis</i>	8a-9b	☔☔	☀️	20x50	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Brilliant scarlet leaves in fall; does well in dry, sandy soil; deciduous; moderate salt; native
Oak, water	<i>Quercus nigra</i>	8a-9a	☔☔☔☔	☀️	50x80	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Smooth, slightly furrowed bark; prefers moist sites, but can survive dry periods; evergreen; low salt; native
Oak, white	<i>Quercus alba</i>	8a-8b	☔☔	☀️	50x70	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Well-drained acidic soil; bird food; deciduous; low salt; native
Oak, willow	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	8a-8b	☔☔☔☔	☀️☁️	35x75	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Willow-like linear leaves; wildlife food; deciduous; high salt; native
Orange, sweet	<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	9b-11	☔☔	☀️	15	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Needs to be grafted for best fruit; swallowtail butterfly host plant; needs fertile soil; evergreen; low salt
Osage orange	<i>Maclura pomifera</i>	8a-9a	☔	☀️	25x50	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Nice ornamental with edible fruit; deciduous; moderate salt
Paradise tree	<i>Simarouba glauca</i>	9b-11	☔☔	☀️☁️	35	🌱🌱🌱🌱	New red foliage, attractive compound leaves, yellow spring flowers; wildlife food; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Peach and nectarine	<i>Prunus persica</i>	8a-8b	☔☔	☀️	12-20	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Some varieties available for central and north Florida; needs cold; poisonous parts; vulnerable to pests; prefers well-drained soil; deciduous; low salt
Pear, Hood	<i>Pyrus communis</i> 'Hood'	8a-9a	☔☔☔☔	☀️	20	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Needs rich, well-drained soil; prefers pH 5.0 to 7.0; deciduous; low salt
Pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	8a-9b	☔	☀️	50	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Prefers well-drained soil; deciduous; low salt
Persimmon, Japanese	<i>Diospyros kaki</i>	8a-10b	☔☔	☀️	25	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Many varieties available; only female produces fruit; deciduous; medium salt
Pigeon plum	<i>Coccoloba diversifolia</i>	10a-11	☔☔☔☔	☀️☁️	15x30	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Attractive bark, variable leaf shape and size, edible purple fruit, white spring flowers; evergreen; high salt; native
Pine, loblolly	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	8a-9b	☔☔☔☔☔	☀️	25x100	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Prefers wetter areas; evergreen; low salt; native
Pine, long-leaf	<i>Pinus palustris</i>	8a-10a	☔☔☔☔	☀️	35x90	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Slow-growing; long needles, very large cones; prefers sandy, dry sites; evergreen; low salt; native
Pine, sand	<i>Pinus clausa</i>	8a-10a	☔	☀️☁️	25x30	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Smaller pine; short needles, small cones; prefers well-drained, sandy sites; evergreen; high salt; native
Pine, slash	<i>Pinus elliotii</i>	8a-10a	☔☔☔☔	☀️	25x120	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Intolerant of root compaction or grade changes; needs little fertilizing; prefers acidic sandy soil; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Pine, South Florida slash	<i>Pinus elliotii</i> var. <i>densa</i>	10a-11	☔☔☔☔	☀️	25x100	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Intolerant of grade changes, traffic above root system; needs little or no fertilizing; prefers acidic, sandy soil; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Pine, spruce	<i>Pinus glabra</i>	8a-8b	☔☔☔☔☔	☀️	25x60	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Long, narrow crown; cones, 15 to 25 inches; dark gray bark; does poorly in south Florida; evergreen; low salt; native
Pink-and-white shower	<i>Cassia javanica</i>	10a	☔	☀️	25x40	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Very showy blooms; deciduous; moderate salt
Pitch apple	<i>Clusia rosea</i>	10a-11	☔☔☔☔	☀️☁️	15x25	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Leathery, tough leaves, showy pink and white spring flowers; evergreen; high salt; native
Plum, Chickasaw	<i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	8a-9a	☔☔☔☔	☀️☁️	15x25	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Early bloomer with fragrant white flowers; deciduous; high salt; native
Plum, flatwoods	<i>Prunus umbellata</i>	9a-9b	☔☔☔☔	☀️☁️	10x25	🌱🌱🌱🌱	White flowers bloom before leaves appear; crooked trunk, purple fruit; deciduous; low salt; native
Pond apple	<i>Annona glabra</i>	10a-11	☔☔☔☔☔	☀️	15x30	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Dense, upturned branches, apple-shaped fall fruits; prefers wet or swampy sites; deciduous; moderate salt; native
Red bay	<i>Persea borbonia</i>	8a-11	☔☔☔☔	☀️☁️	35x50	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Fragrant leaves, good in cooking; lower leaf surface grayish white; prefers sandy, acidic, moist sites; evergreen; high salt; wildlife value; native
Red buckeye	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	8a-9a	☔☔☔☔☔	☀️☁️	15-25	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Seeds poisonous; red flowers attract hummingbirds; wildlife value; deciduous; low salt; native
Red stopper	<i>Eugenia rhombea</i>	9b-11	☔☔☔☔	☀️☁️	10x20	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Endangered; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Redberry stopper	<i>Eugenia confusa</i>	10a-11	☔☔☔☔	☀️☁️	10x30	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Evergreen; high salt; native
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	8a-9b	☔☔☔☔	☀️☁️	15x25	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Purple spring flowers, heart-shaped leaves; deciduous; low salt; native
Royal poinciana	<i>Delonix regia</i>	10a-11	☔	☀️	50x50	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Large spreading tree, brilliant flowers, messy; subject to freeze damage; deciduous; moderate salt
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	8a-9a	☔	☀️☁️	20x45	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Different-shaped leaves; bark smells like root beer; deciduous; low salt; native
Satinleaf	<i>Chrysophyllum oliviforme</i>	10b-11	☔☔☔☔	☀️	15x40	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Dark glossy green leaves with bronzy fuzz on bottom side; subject to freeze damage; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Seagrape	<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	9b-11	☔☔☔☔	☀️☁️	25x30	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Edible fruits used for jelly; broad, spreading seaside plant; dinner plate-sized leaves; subject to freeze damage; evergreen; wildlife value; high salt; native
Silk bay	<i>Persea humilis</i>	9a-9b	☔	☀️	30	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Black bark; likes sandy soil; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Sour gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	8a-9a	☔☔☔☔☔	☀️☁️	80	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Likes wet sites and acidic soil; deciduous; low salt; native

SOIL MOISTURE ☔ Dry ☔☔ Moist ☔☔☔☔ Wet

LIGHT ☀️ Full Sun ☀️☁️ Partial Sun ☁️ Shade

GROWTH RATE 🌱🌱🌱🌱 Slow 🌱🌱🌱🌱 Medium 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱 Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference  
\*\* Mature size = width x height

# TREES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)**	Growth Rate	Comments
Soursop	<i>Annona muricata</i>	10b–11	☹️	☀️	15x25	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Grows in warmest parts of Florida; edible fruit; evergreen; moderate salt
Sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	8a–8b	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	15x50	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Fragrant white bell-shaped flowers in spring and summer; gray bark has touch of red; deciduous; moderate salt; native
Southern catalpa or Indian bean	<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	8b–9b	☹️	☀️ ☁️	35x40	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Large, velvet, heart-shaped leaves; abundant clusters of slightly fragrant bell-shaped flowers, white with orange stripes and purple spots; fruit, 6- to 12-inch capsules; deciduous; low salt; native
Southern crabapple	<i>Malus angustifolia</i>	8a–8b	☹️ – ☹️☹️	☀️ ☁️	25x25	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Shrub or small thorny tree; fragrant pink spring flowers, sour fruit; wildlife value; deciduous; low salt; native
Spanish stopper	<i>Eugenia foetida</i>	9b–11	☹️ – ☹️☹️	☁️ ☀️	10x15	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Mildly fragrant flowers; evergreen; high salt; native
Spiny black olive	<i>Bucida spinosa</i>	10b–11	☹️ – ☹️	☁️ ☀️	15x25	🟢🟢🟢🟢	A small, spiny cousin of the black olive; evergreen; wildlife value; moderate salt; native
Star-apple	<i>Chrysophyllum cainito</i>	10a–11	☹️	☀️	35	🟢🟢🟢🟢	No serious pests; evergreen; low salt
Sugarberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	8a–10b	☹️	☀️ ☁️	35x50	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Best for central and north Florida; fruits; wildlife value; deciduous; low salt; native
Summer haw	<i>Crataegus flava</i>	9a–9b	☹️	☁️ ☀️	15	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Fragrant flowers; wildlife value; deciduous; native
Swamp bay	<i>Persea palustris</i>	8a–10b	☹️ – ☹️☹️	☀️ ☁️	35x40	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Hairy brown underleaf; likes moist areas; evergreen; high salt; native
Sweetbay	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	8a–9b	☹️☹️ – ☹️☹️	☀️ ☁️	60x90	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Tall cylinder shape, white summer flowers; evergreen; low salt; native
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	8a–9b	☹️☹️ – ☹️☹️☹️	☀️ ☁️	80	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Pyramidal shape, attractive fall color; spiny brown seeds, star-shaped leaves; fast-growing; does well in sandy or acidic soil; wildlife value; deciduous; low salt; native
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	8a–9a	☹️	☀️	70x100	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Large leaves, exfoliating bark; tolerates wet and dry conditions; deciduous; moderate salt; native
Tamarind	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	10a	☹️	☀️	50x65	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Extremely wind-resistant; evergreen; moderate salt
Tangelo	<i>Citrus x tangelo</i>	9a–11	☹️	☀️	15	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Swallowtail butterfly host plant; evergreen; low salt; native
Tangerine	<i>Citrus reticulata</i>	9b–11	☹️	☀️	15	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Swallowtail butterfly host plant; evergreen; low salt
Trumpet tree	<i>Tabebuia</i> spp.	10a–11	☹️	☀️	10x25	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Asymmetrical growth habit; corky bark, spectacular yellow spring flowers; deciduous; moderate salt
Tulip tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	9a–9b	☹️	☀️	35x90	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Fragrant yellow flowers, oval crown; deciduous; low salt; native
Velvet-apple, Mabolo	<i>Diospyros discolor</i>	10a–11	☹️	☀️	25	🟢🟢🟢🟢	No serious pests; evergreen; low salt
Water tupelo	<i>Nyssa aquatica</i>	8a–8b	☹️☹️ – ☹️☹️	☀️	25x100	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Blue to purple fruit on long stalks; likes moist to wet sites; deciduous; moderate salt; native
White sapote	<i>Casimiroa edulis</i>	10a–11	☹️	☀️	40	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Prefers acidic soil; evergreen; medium salt
Wild dilly	<i>Manilkara bahamensis</i>	10a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️	25	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Small tree or shrub; drooping clusters of yellow flowers; evergreen; high salt; native
Wild lime	<i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>	9b–11	☹️ – ☹️	☁️ ☀️	15x25	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Has recurved thorns, lime-scented foliage; larval food plant for giant swallowtail butterfly; suffers from freeze damage; wildlife value; evergreen; high salt; native
Wild tamarind	<i>Lysiloma latisiliqua</i>	10b–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	25x50	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Small weeping tree; deciduous; high salt; native
Willow, weeping	<i>Salix babylonica</i>	8a–9b	☹️☹️ – ☹️☹️	☀️	40x50	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Aggressive roots — avoid sewer and water lines; deciduous; low salt
Ylang-ylang	<i>Cananga odorata</i>	10a–11	☹️	☀️	25x40	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Very fragrant flowers used in perfume; open-growth habit; evergreen; low salt

SOIL MOISTURE ☹️ Dry ☹️☹️ Moist ☹️☹️☹️ Wet

LIGHT ☀️ Full Sun ☁️ Partial Sun ☁️☁️ Shade

GROWTH RATE 🟢🟢🟢🟢 Slow 🟢🟢🟢🟢 Medium 🟢🟢🟢🟢 Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference  
\*\* Mature size = width x height



Sweetbay  
*Magnolia virginiana*



Tulip tree  
*Liriodendron tulipifera*



Elm, winged  
*Ulmus alata*



Maple, Florida sugar  
*Acer saccharum* subsp. *floridanum*



Wild lime  
*Zanthoxylum fagara*



Southern catalpa  
*Catalpa bignonioides*

# TREES



Dogwood, flowering  
*Cornus florida*



Plum, flatwoods  
*Prunus umbellata*



Jerusalem thorn tree  
*Parkinsonia aculeata*



Fiddlewood  
*Citharexylum fruticosum*



Cypress, pond  
*Taxodium ascendens*



Oak, live  
*Quercus virginiana*



Cypress, bald  
*Taxodium distichum*



Maple, silver  
*Acer saccharinum*



Paradise tree  
*Simarouba glauca*



Sweetgum  
*Liquidambar styraciflua*

# PALM-LIKE

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)	Growth Rate	Comments
Alexandra palm	<i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i>	10b–11	☹️	☀️ ☁️	40	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Also called king palm; new leaves may be bronze; doesn't transplant well; low salt
Bird-of-paradise tree	<i>Strelitzia nicolai</i>	9a–11	☹️	☀️ ☁️	20	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Banana-like leaves easily tattered by wind; purple or white flowers; suckers will form large clump; likes acidic soil; low salt
Bismarck palm	<i>Bismarckia nobilis</i>	10a–11	☹️ – 🌧️	☀️ ☀️	60	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Massive fan palm with large silver-blue leaves; slow to form trunk, moderate growth after trunk development; likes sandy soil; moderate salt
Buccaneer palm	<i>Pseudophoenix sargentii</i>	10b–11	🌧️ – 🌧️	☀️ ☀️	10	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Also called cherry palm; bright red fruit; very slow-growing; endangered; likes sandy soil; high salt; native
Cabbage palm	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	8a–11	🌧️ – 🌧️🌧️	☀️ ☀️	40	🟢🟢🟢🟢	State tree; also called sabal palm; very wind-resistant; fronds removed when transplanted; high salt; native
Canary Island date palm	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	9a–11	🌧️ – 🌧️	☀️ ☀️	40	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Sharp spines; overwatering causes fungal disease; stressed plants invaded by palmetto weevil; susceptible to lethal yellowing; heavily damaged at 20°F; large; moderate salt
Cardboard palm	<i>Zamia furfuracea</i>	10a–11	🌧️ – 🌧️	☀️ ☀️	4	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Sturdy, slightly fuzzy stiff leaves; red seeds in female plants are poisonous; suffers heavy freeze damage
Cat palm	<i>Chamaedorea cataractarum</i>	10b–11	☹️	☁️ ☀️	5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Moderate drought tolerance in shade; virtually trunkless; clumping palm; likes sandy soil; low salt
Chinese fan palm	<i>Livistona chinensis</i>	9a–11	☹️ – 🌧️	☀️ ☀️	25	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Long leaflet segments droop gracefully; spiny; slightly susceptible to lethal yellowing; survives 20°F with some leaf damage; other Livistona species available
Cliff date palm	<i>Phoenix rupicola</i>	10a–11	🌧️ – 🌧️	☀️	25	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Graceful, moderately sized palm; bright-green arching pinnate leaves; spiny; moderate salt
Clustering fishtail palm	<i>Caryota mitis</i>	10a–11	☹️ – 🌧️	☀️ ☀️	18	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Stems die after fruiting, are replaced by suckers; fruit contains irritating crystals; low salt
Coconut palm	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	10b–11	🌧️ – 🌧️	☀️	60	🟢🟢🟢🟢	"Malayan" and "Maypan" are only lethal-yellowing-resistant varieties; high salt
Cycad, Dioon	<i>Dioon edule</i>	8b–11	🌧️	☀️	10	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Sharp, stiff, shiny, dark-green leaflets; long-lived; very slow-growing; trunk forms only after many years; low salt
Dwarf palmetto	<i>Sabal minor</i>	8a–10b	🌧️ – 🌧️	☀️ ☀️	6	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Shade-tolerant; widely adaptable to most soils; moderate salt; native
European fan palm	<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	8a–11	🌧️ – 🌧️	☀️ ☀️	10	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Cold-tolerant to 12°F; spiny; much variation in leaf color; moderate salt
Florida royal palm	<i>Roystonea regia</i>	10a–11	☹️	☀️	80	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Grows tall; has uniform trunk diameter; tolerant of wet conditions; moderate salt; native
Hurricane palm	<i>Dictyosperma album</i>	10b–11	☹️	☀️	30	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Also called princess palm; moderately susceptible to lethal yellowing; drying winds can burn foliage; likes sandy soil; moderate salt
King sago	<i>Cycas revoluta</i>	8b–11	🌧️ – 🌧️	☀️ ☀️	8	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Stiff, dark-green foliage; prone to magnesium deficiency; cold-tolerant to 10°F; small, confined root system; low salt
Lady palm	<i>Rhapis excelsa</i>	10a–11	☹️	☁️ ☀️	7	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Palmate leaves yellow in sun; forms dense clusters; manganese deficiency on alkaline soil; moderate salt
Licuala palm	<i>Licuala grandis</i>	10b–11	☹️	☀️ ☀️	8	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Small; unique corrugated, circular leaves need protection from drying winds; likes wet, sandy soils; low salt
Macarthur palm	<i>Ptychosperma macarthurii</i>	10b–11	☹️	☀️ ☀️	25	🟢🟢🟢🟢	A slender, multiple-trunked palm; small leaves and thin trunk; lethal-yellowing-resistant; low salt
Needle palm	<i>Rhapidophyllum hystrix</i>	8a–10b	☹️ – 🌧️🌧️	☁️ ☀️	5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Trunkless; fiber-matted crown with sharp needle-like fibers; moderate salt
Parlor palm	<i>Chamaedorea elegans</i>	10b–11	☹️	☁️	6	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Densely clustering trunked palm; low salt
Paurotis palm	<i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i>	9b–11	🌧️🌧️ – 🌧️	☀️ ☀️	20	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Spiny, multi-trunked; manganese deficiency in alkaline soil; moderate salt; native
Pindo palm	<i>Butia capitata</i>	8a–10b	🌧️	☀️ ☀️	15	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Also called jelly palm; stiff, blue-green pinnate leaves; cold-hardy to 15°F; does best in central and north Florida; moderate salt
Ponytail palm	<i>Nolina recurvata</i>	10a–11	🌧️ – 🌧️	☀️ ☀️	10	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Tree-like fern; large swollen base; micro-nutrient deficiencies are common; low salt
Queen palm	<i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i>	10a–11	☹️	☀️ ☀️	40	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Cold-sensitive; large, messy fruits; weak-rooted; poor wind resistance; prefers acidic soil or manganese deficiency develops; low salt
Queen sago	<i>Cycas rumphii</i>	9b–11	🌧️ – 🌧️	☀️ ☀️	15	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Upright, soft, fern-like leaves; forms visible trunk; cold-tolerant to 28°F; moderate salt
Saw palmetto	<i>Serenoa repens</i>	8a–11	🌧️ – 🌧️🌧️	☀️ ☀️	6	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Very adaptable; striking silver-blue form available; berries; excellent drought tolerance; difficult to transplant; wildlife value; high salt; native
Scrub palmetto	<i>Sabal etonia</i>	8a–10b	🌧️	☀️ ☀️	4	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Occurs only on Florida peninsula, on drier soil than dwarf palmetto; likes sandy soil; moderate salt; native
Silver palm	<i>Coccothrinax argentata</i>	10b–11	🌧️ – 🌧️	☀️ ☀️	10	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Dark fruit, palmate leaves with striking silver undersides; endangered; likes sandy soil; wildlife value; high salt; native
Solitaire palm	<i>Ptychosperma elegans</i>	10b–11	☹️ – 🌧️	☀️ ☀️	20	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Solitary, small, slender; lethal-yellowing-resistant; needs protection from cold and drying winds; low salt
Spanish bayonet	<i>Yucca aloifolia</i>	8a–11	🌧️	☀️ ☀️	15	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Often planted to deter unwanted foot traffic; sharp-tipped leaves, edible flowers; good drought tolerance; needs good drainage; likes sandy soil; high salt
Thatch palm, Florida	<i>Thrinax radiata</i>	10b–11	🌧️	☀️ ☀️	20	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Tolerant of high alkalinity; does best in full sun; high salt; native
Thatch palm, Key	<i>Thrinax morrisii</i>	10b–11	🌧️	☀️ ☀️	20	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Tolerant of high alkalinity and coastal conditions; slow-growing; other species of Thrinax are cultivated; high salt; native
Triangle palm	<i>Neodypsis decaryi</i>	10b–11	☹️ – 🌧️	☀️ ☀️	25	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Blue-green leaves uniquely arranged in three planes; low salt
Washington palm	<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	8a–11	🌧️ – 🌧️	☀️	80	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Very tall, slender; spiny leaves damaged at 20°F; overwatering causes root rot; moderate salt
Wild date palm	<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i>	9a–11	🌧️	☀️	40	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Also called toddy palm or India date palm; variable blue-green cast to leaves; moderate salt
Windmill palm	<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>	8a–10b	🌧️	☀️ ☀️	25	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Very cold-hardy palm; does not thrive in hot, tropical conditions; soft, disorganized brown fiber on trunk; moderate salt
Yucca, spineless	<i>Yucca elaphantipes</i>	9b–11	🌧️ – 🌧️	☀️ ☀️	20	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Harmless, soft leaflets, variegated forms available; moderate salt

SOIL MOISTURE 🌧️ Dry ☹️ Moist 🌧️🌧️ Wet

LIGHT ☀️ Full Sun ☀️☁️ Partial Sun ☁️ Shade

GROWTH RATE 🟢🟢🟢🟢 Slow 🟢🟢🟢 Medium 🟢🟢🟢 Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference

# PALM-LIKE



Saw palmetto  
*Serenoa repens*



Cardboard palm  
*Zamia furfuracea*



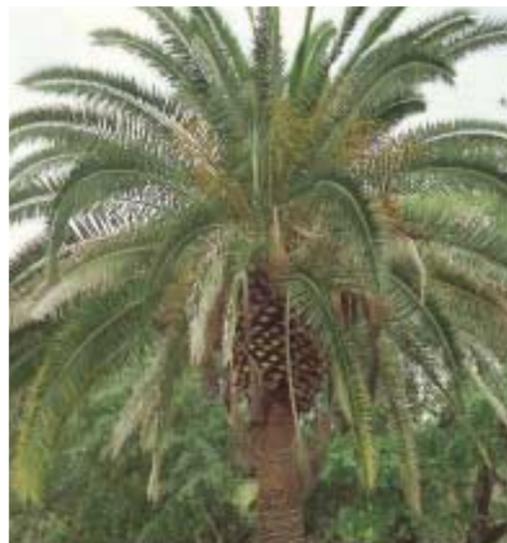
European fan palm  
*Chamaerops humilis*



Pindo palm  
*Butia capitata*



Thatch palm, Florida  
*Thrinax radiata*



Canary Island date palm  
*Phoenix canariensis*



King sago  
*Cycas revoluta*



Cabbage palm  
*Sabal palmetto*

# SHRUBS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)	Growth Rate	Comments
Adam's needle	<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	8a–9b			6		Spine-tipped leaves with filamentous edges, white spring flowers; prefers sandy soil; evergreen; low salt; wildlife value; native
Alder, yellow	<i>Turnera ulmifolia</i>	10b–11			3		Shrub or groundcover; showy yellow flowers; evergreen; high salt
American beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	8a–11	–		6–9		Pink spring flowers, stunning purple berries; one variety has white berries; wildlife value; deciduous; low salt; native
Angel's-trumpet	<i>Brugmansia x candida</i>	10b–11			14		Showy fragrant flowers; poisonous; evergreen; low salt
Anise-tree	<i>Illicium anisatum</i>	8a–10b			20		Needs good, moist soil; green spring flowers; evergreen; low salt
Apple, seven-year	<i>Genipa clusiifolia</i> (= <i>Casasia clusiifolia</i> )	10a–11	–		10		Fragrant white flowers, large glossy leaves; good seaside plant; prefers sandy soil; evergreen; high salt; native
Aralia, lacy-lady	<i>Evodia suaveolens</i> var. <i>ridleyi</i>	10b–11			6		Good hedge material; yellow summer flowers; evergreen; low salt
Arbor-vitae, Oriental	<i>Platycladus orientalis</i>	8a–10b			20		Can be small tree; evergreen; low salt
Arrow-wood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	8a–8b			10		Good hedge material; showy white flowers in spring and summer, blue-black fruit; tolerates a wide range of soil; deciduous; low salt; wildlife value; native
Azalea hybrids	<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.	8a–10a			10		Showy spring and fall flowers, wide variety of colors; dwarf variety less than 3 feet tall; needs acidic soil; evergreen; low salt
Bahama coffee	<i>Psychotria ligustrifolia</i>	10b–11			4		Rare white flowers in spring and summer; wildlife value; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Barberry, 'crimson pygmy'	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> 'Atropurpurea Nana'	8a–9b			4		Showy yellow spring flowers, spiny leaves, green and red foliage; deciduous; moderate salt
Barberry, wintergreen	<i>Berberis julianae</i>	8a–9b			5		Spiny; yellow spring flowers; evergreen; moderate salt
Bay cedar	<i>Suriana maritima</i>	10b–11			10		Good coastal plant; endangered; evergreen; high salt; native
Beach elder	<i>Iva imbricata</i>	9a–10b			3		Perennial; fleshy leaves; both male and female flowers on plant; prefers sandy, alkaline soil; high salt; native
Black torch	<i>Erithalis fruticosa</i>	10a–11			8		Black fruit, white flowers; prefers sandy soil; rounded shape becomes dense in sun; evergreen; high salt; native
Blackberry, Brazos	<i>Rubus</i> cultivar Brazos	8a–9a			4		Sprawling, vining, thorny; white summer flowers; wildlife value; low salt
Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium</i> cultivars	8a–10b			8		Likes acidic soil; wildlife value; low salt; native
Blueberry, evergreen	<i>Vaccinium darrowii</i>	8a–11			2		Edible fruit, white spring flowers; spreads by runners; needs acidic soil; wildlife value; evergreen; low salt; native
Blueberry, highbush	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	8a–11	–		10		Blueberry-like fruit in early fall, white spring flowers; likes acidic soil; wildlife value; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Blueberry, shiny	<i>Vaccinium myrsinites</i>	8a–11	–		2		Edible fruit, white or pink spring flowers; spreads by runners; needs acidic soil; wildlife value; evergreen; low salt; native
Bottlebrush, lemon	<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	9a–11			20		Showy red flowers in spring; can become small tree; evergreen; moderate salt
Bottlebrush, stiff	<i>Callistemon rigidus</i>	9a–11			15		Showy red flowers in spring; can become small tree; evergreen; moderate salt
Bougainvillea, paper flower	<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>	10b–11	–		8		Thorny; very drought-tolerant; showy flowers in variety of colors; grows well in sandy soil; evergreen; high salt
Boxthorn	<i>Severinia buxifolia</i>	9a–10b			6		Spiny; good hedge material; white spring flowers; evergreen; moderate salt
Buckthorn, tough	<i>Sideroxylon tenax</i> (= <i>Bumelia tenax</i> )	8b–9b			20		Thorny; white spring flowers; prefers sandy soil; evergreen; high salt; native
Bush clock vine	<i>Thunbergia erecta</i>	10b–11			5		Can be hedge with pruning; purple or white flowers; evergreen; moderate salt
Butterfly-bush	<i>Buddleja asiatica</i>	9b			10		Showy fragrant flower clusters, variety of colors; blooms in winter and spring; wildlife value; evergreen; low salt
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	8a–10a	–		15		Survives in standing water; white spring flowers; deciduous; low salt; native
Calamondin orange	<i>x Citrofortunella microcarpa</i>	10b–11			10–25		Needs well-drained soil; evergreen; low salt
Caper, Jamaican	<i>Capparis cynophallophora</i>	10b–11	–		9		Rusty leaf undersides; showy pink or white flowers in spring; grows on shellrock; evergreen; high salt; native
Caricature plant	<i>Graptophyllum pictum</i>	10b–11			5		Showy red flowers in spring, variety of leaf colors and shapes; vulnerable to nematodes; evergreen; low salt
Carolina silverbell	<i>Halesia carolina</i>	8a–9b			25		Flowering shrub for partial shade; yellow winter flowers; grows on lime areas; deciduous; low salt; native
Cassia, Bahama	<i>Senna mexicana</i> var. <i>chapmanii</i>	10a	–		8		Showy yellow flowers in fall and winter; evergreen; low salt; wildlife value; native
Century plant, maguey	<i>Agave americana</i>	9a–11			6+		Spiny succulent; takes years to mature; yellow flower; blooms sporadically; very drought-tolerant; likes sandy soil; evergreen; high salt

SOIL MOISTURE Dry Moist Wet

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference

# SHRUBS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)	Growth Rate	Comments
Chapman's rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron minus</i> var. <i>chapmanii</i>	8a–9b	☵☵	☀☁	5	☐☐☐☐	Rare; needs acidic soil; evergreen; low salt; native
Chaste-tree	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	8a–10b	☵☵	☀	12	☐☐☐☐	Needs mulching and pruning; showy blue flowers in spring; deciduous; moderate salt
Chenille plant, red hot cattail	<i>Acalypha hispida</i>	10b–11	☵☵	☀	5	☐☐☐☐	Long pendulous spikes, white or red flowers in summer and fall; evergreen; low salt
Chinese spiraea	<i>Spiraea cantoniensis</i>	8a–9b	☵☵	☀	5	☐☐☐☐	Showy flowering shrub; does best in Panhandle; white spring flowers; deciduous; low salt
Christmas berry	<i>Lycium carolinianum</i>	8a–11	☵	☀☁☀	7	☐☐☐☐	Grows in salt marshes; bright red berries, unusual foliage, lavender or white flowers in summer and fall; evergreen; high salt; native
Cleyera	<i>Ternstroemia gymnanthera</i>	10a–11	☵☵	☁	15	☐☐☐☐	Flowering shrub, small tree, or hedge; evergreen; low salt
Cocoplum	<i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i>	10b–11	☵☵	☀	20	☐☐☐☐	Good hedge material; coastal plant; "red tip" inland variety not salt-tolerant; dark fruit, small white flowers; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Coontie	<i>Zamia pumila</i>	8b–11	☵☵ – ☵	☁☀	2	☐☐☐☐	Grows on shell areas; wildlife value; evergreen; high salt; native
Copperleaf	<i>Acalypha wilkesiana</i>	10b–11	☵☵	☀	8	☐☐☐☐	Good coastal plant; white flowers in spring and fall, edible purple fruit; evergreen; moderate salt
Coral bean	<i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	8a–11	☵☵ – ☵	☀☁☀	15	☐☐☐☐	Colorful fruits, poisonous beans, red spring flowers; thorny; wildlife value; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Crabapple	<i>Malus angustifolia</i>	8a–9b	☵☵ – ☵	☀	20	☐☐☐☐	Pretty pink flowers followed by edible fruit; low salt; native
Crape jasmine	<i>Tabernaemontana divaricata</i>	10b–11	☵☵	☀☁☀	7	☐☐☐☐	Showy fragrant white flowers in spring and fall; evergreen; moderate salt
Crape myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	8a–10b	☵☵ – ☵	☀	20	☐☐☐☐	Small tree; attractive bark, showy flowers in variety of colors; blooms in spring, summer and fall; deciduous; low salt
Croton	<i>Codiaeum variegatum</i>	10a–11	☵☵	☀☁☀	8	☐☐☐☐	Showy multicolored leaves; sap is an irritant and stains clothes; evergreen; moderate salt
Daisy, African bush	<i>Euryops chrysanthemoides</i>	10b–11	☵☵	☀	3	☐☐☐☐	Showy yellow flowers; evergreen; low salt
Dracaena	<i>Dracaena</i> spp.	9a–11	☵☵ – ☵	☀☁	2–15	☐☐☐☐ – ☐☐☐☐☐☐	Can be tree, shrub or herbaceous perennial; white, yellow and green flowers in spring; evergreen; low salt
Eastern gamagrass	<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	8a–11	☵☵☵☵ – ☵	☀	8	☐☐☐☐	Large bunchgrass; perennial; interesting flowers and fruit; wildlife value; moderate salt; native
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus nigra</i> subsp. <i>canadensis</i>	8a–11	☵☵☵☵	☀	15	☐☐☐☐	Flowers and fruit edible; white spring flowers; wildlife value; evergreen; low salt; native
Fetterbush, swamp doghobble	<i>Leucothoe racemosa</i>	8a–9b	☵☵☵☵	☀☁☀	6	☐☐☐☐	Likes wet; evergreen; native
Fiddlewood	<i>Citharexylum spinosum</i> (= <i>C. fruticosum</i> )	10b–11	☵☵ – ☵	☀☁☀	25	☐☐☐☐	Small fragrant white flowers, orange fruit, glossy leaves; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Firebush	<i>Hamelia patens</i>	10a–11	☵☵	☀☁	3–10	☐☐☐☐	Reddish tubular flowers; winter dieback in cold areas; grows on shell areas; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Firecracker plant	<i>Russelia equisetiformis</i>	10b–11	☵☵ – ☵	☀	4	☐☐☐☐	Showy red flowers; evergreen; high salt
Firespike	<i>Odontonema tubiforme</i>	9a–9b	☵☵	☀	6	☐☐☐☐	Perennial; large red flower spikes in fall; needs fertile soil; low salt
Firethorn, red	<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	8a–10a	☵☵	☀	10–15	☐☐☐☐	Good hedge material; white flowers in spring and summer, showy orange-red berries; thorny; subject to fire blight; evergreen; moderate salt
Florida boxwood	<i>Schaefferia frutescens</i>	10b–11	☵	☀☁	25	☐☐☐☐	Good hedge material; rare species; likes alkaline soil; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Florida flame azalea	<i>Rhododendron austrinum</i>	8a–9b	☵☵	☀☁	6	☐☐☐☐	Showy yellow or orange flowers appear in spring before leaves; prefers acidic soil; deciduous; low salt; native
Florida gamagrass	<i>Tripsacum floridanum</i>	10a–11	☵☵☵☵ – ☵	☀	6	☐☐☐☐	Perennial; rare; moderate salt; native
Florida-anise	<i>Illicium floridanum</i>	8a–10a	☵☵☵☵ – ☵☵	☀☁☀	15	☐☐☐☐	Distinctive red or purple flowers in spring, fragrant foliage; grows on seepage slopes; threatened; evergreen; low salt; native
French hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	8a–9b	☵☵	☀☁☀	5	☐☐☐☐	Needs pruning; flowers change color with soil pH; needs fertile soil, likes acidic soil; deciduous; low salt
Gallberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	8a–10a	☵☵	☀☁☀	8	☐☐☐☐	White spring flowers, black fruit; high drought tolerance; likes acidic soil; evergreen; moderate salt; wildlife value; native
Garberia	<i>Garberia heterophylla</i>	9a–10a	☵	☀	6	☐☐☐☐	Showy fall flowers in pink or purple; prefers acidic, sandy soil; evergreen; wildlife value; native
Gardenia, Cape jasmine	<i>Gardenia augusta</i>	8a–10a	☵☵	☀	6	☐☐☐☐	Very fragrant, showy white flowers in spring; needs rich acid soil with mulch and good drainage; evergreen; low salt
Glorybush	<i>Tibouchina urvilleana</i>	9b–10b	☵☵	☀☁☀	10	☐☐☐☐	Purple flowers in spring and fall; prefers well-drained acid soil of central Florida; evergreen; low salt
Glossy abelia	<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i> ( <i>A. chinensis</i> x <i>A. uniflora</i> )	8a–9b	☵☵	☀	6	☐☐☐☐	Variety of flower colors in spring; prefers loamy, well-drained clay soil of northwestern Florida; low salt

SOIL MOISTURE ☵ Dry ☵☵ Moist ☵☵☵☵ Wet

LIGHT ☀ Full Sun ☀☁ Partial Sun ☁ Shade

GROWTH RATE ☐☐☐☐ Slow ☐☐☐☐ Medium ☐☐☐☐ Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference

# SHRUBS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)	Growth Rate	Comments
Golden dewdrop	<i>Duranta evecta</i> (= <i>Duranta repens</i> )	9b–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☀️	15	☐☐☐☐	Small blue or white flowers in spring and fall, showy golden fruit; poisonous; evergreen; moderate salt; wildlife value
Hawthorn, Indian	<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i>	8a–11	☹️	☀️ ☁️	5	☐☐☐☐	Showy pinkish-white flowers in spring and winter; high drought tolerance; evergreen; moderate salt
Hercules'-club	<i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>	8a–10b	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☀️	30	☐☐☐☐	Thorns grow out of trunk; white flowers in spring; deciduous; moderate salt; wildlife value; native
Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	10a–11	☹️	☀️	7	☐☐☐☐	Showy flowers, many varieties; needs very fertile soil; evergreen; moderate salt
Holly, Burford or Chinese	<i>Ilex cornuta</i> 'Burford'	8a	☹️	☀️ ☀️	5–20	☐☐☐☐	Shiny leaves with spines; good hedge material; white spring flowers, red berries; varieties "Burford" to 20 feet, "Rotunda" just 5 feet tall; evergreen; moderate salt
Holly, dwarf yaupon	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i> 'Nana'	8a–10a	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☀️	5	☐☐☐☐	Many varieties with varying sizes and structures; white flowers in spring and summer; female plants have berries; evergreen; low salt; native
Holly, Japanese	<i>Ilex crenata</i>	8a–9b	☹️	☀️ ☀️	6	☐☐☐☐	Good hedge material; prefers acidic soil; evergreen; low salt
Honeysuckle, cape	<i>Tecomaria capensis</i>	10b–11	☹️	☀️	6	☐☐☐☐	Needs good drainage; needs frequent pruning to make a shrub; yellow, orange and red flowers in summer and fall; evergreen; moderate salt
Inkberry	<i>Scaevola plumieri</i>	10a–11	☹️	☀️	4	☐☐☐☐	Groundcover for dunes; evergreen; high salt; native
Jasmine, downy	<i>Jasminum multiflorum</i>	10b–11	☹️	☀️ ☀️	5	☐☐☐☐	Shrub or vine; white flowers in spring and fall; evergreen; low salt
Jasmine, primrose	<i>Jasminum mesnyi</i>	8a–10a	☹️	☀️	8	☐☐☐☐	Showy yellow flowers in spring and winter; sprawling shrub for central and north Florida; evergreen; low salt
Juniper, Chinese	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i>	8a–10b	☹️	☀️	6	☐☐☐☐	Prefers fertile soil; evergreen; moderate salt
Kumquat	<i>Annona muricata</i>	10a	☹️	☀️	10	☐☐☐☐	Thorny shrub; low salt
Lady-of-the-night	<i>Brunfelsia americana</i>	10b–11	☹️	☀️	10	☐☐☐☐	Showy white flower in spring and fall; evergreen; moderate salt
Large flowered scrub mint	<i>Conradina grandiflora</i>	10a–10b	☹️	☀️	3	☐☐☐☐	Very drought-tolerant; blue flowers in spring and fall attract insects; needs sandy soil; evergreen; high salt; native
Licuala, spiny	<i>Licuala spinosa</i>	10b–11	☹️	☀️ ☁️	12	☐☐☐☐	Spiny palm; evergreen; low salt
Lyonia, rusty	<i>Lyonia ferruginea</i>	8a–10b	☹️	☀️	15	☐☐☐☐	Rusty pubescence on leaves; clusters of small urn-shaped white flowers in spring attract insects; likes acidic soil; evergreen; low salt; native
Lyonia, shiny	<i>Lyonia lucida</i>	8a	☹️ – ☹️☹️☹️	☀️	6	☐☐☐☐	Grows in swamps; can sucker; pink urn-shaped flowers in spring attract insects; likes acidic soil; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Maidenbush	<i>Savia bahamensis</i>	10b–11	☹️	☀️	9	☐☐☐☐	Good hedge material; evergreen; high salt; native
Marlberry	<i>Ardisia escallonioides</i>	10a–11	☹️☹️☹️ – ☹️☹️	☀️ ☀️	10–20	☐☐☐☐	Fragrant white flowers in spring and fall, black fruits; tolerates alkaline soil; wildlife value; evergreen; high salt; native
Mock orange	<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	8a–9b	☹️	☀️ ☀️	12	☐☐☐☐	Fragrant white spring flowers, exfoliating orange to red-brown bark; needs pruning; deciduous; low salt
Myrsine	<i>Rapanea punctata</i>	8b–11	☹️	☀️ ☁️	15	☐☐☐☐	Shrubby tree; small white spring flowers, small fruits; does well in coastal counties; wildlife value; evergreen; high salt; native
Natal plum	<i>Carissa macrocarpa</i>	10b–11	☹️	☀️ ☀️	10	☐☐☐☐	Spiny hedge plant; tolerates seashores; fragrant white flowers in spring and fall; large fruit, good for cooking; evergreen; high salt
Night-blooming jessamine	<i>Cestrum nocturnum</i>	10a–11	☹️	☀️	10	☐☐☐☐	Yellow flowers at night in spring and summer; white fruits and foliage poisonous; evergreen; moderate salt
Oakleaf hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	8a–9b	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☀️	8	☐☐☐☐	Large panicles of white spring flowers; fall foliage color; prefers acidic soil; deciduous; low salt; native
Oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	8a–11	☹️	☀️	15	☐☐☐☐	Highly poisonous; drought-tolerant; many flower colors; blooms in spring and fall; wildlife value; evergreen; high salt
Oregon grape-holly, Chinese hahonia	<i>Mahonia fortunei</i>	8a–9b	☹️	☀️ ☀️	5	☐☐☐☐	Spiny; good hedge material; blue-black fruit, yellow fall flowers; winter foliage turns bronze or purple; evergreen; moderate salt
Peregrina	<i>Jatropha integerrima</i>	10b–11	☹️	☀️	8	☐☐☐☐	Showy red flowers; poisonous; evergreen; moderate salt
Philodendron	<i>Philodendron speciosum</i>	10a–11	☹️	☀️ ☁️	10	☐☐☐☐	Enormous leaves; irritant; requires moist, sandy loam soil and shade; evergreen; low salt
Philodendron, giant-leaf	<i>Philodendron giganteum</i>	10a–11	☹️	☁️	10+	☐☐☐☐	Enormous leaves; irritant; requires moist, sandy loam soil and shade; evergreen; low salt
Photinia, red-tip	<i>Photinia glabra</i>	8a–9b	☹️	☀️	8	☐☐☐☐	Good hedge material; white spring flowers; new red growth; prefers rich soil, chilly winters; evergreen; low salt
Pineapple guava	<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i>	9a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☀️	14	☐☐☐☐	Can be hedge; white or red spring flowers; petals edible, fruit delicious; evergreen; moderate salt
Pinxter azalea	<i>Rhododendron canescens</i>	8a–10a	☹️	☀️ ☁️	10	☐☐☐☐	Showy fragrant spring flowers appear before leaves in spring; needs acidic soil; deciduous; low salt; native
Pipestem	<i>Agarista populifolia</i>	8b–9a	☹️ – ☹️☹️☹️	☀️ ☁️	10	☐☐☐☐	Showy white flowers in spring; likes acidic soil; evergreen; native

SOIL MOISTURE ☹️ Dry ☹️☹️ Moist ☹️☹️☹️ Wet

LIGHT ☀️ Full Sun ☀️☁️ Partial Sun ☁️ Shade

GROWTH RATE ☐☐☐☐ Slow ☐☐☐☐ Medium ☐☐☐☐ Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference

# SHRUBS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)	Growth Rate	Comments
Plumbago	<i>Plumbago auriculata</i>	10a–11	Moist	Full Sun	5	Medium	Showy fragrant blue or white flowers in spring and fall; irritant; mineral deficiency on alkaline soil; evergreen; moderate salt
Podocarpus, yew	<i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i>	8a–11	Moist	Partial Sun	35	Medium	Invasive; gets scales and sooty mold; needs pruning; evergreen; moderate salt
Poinsettia	<i>Poinsettia pulcherrima</i>	9b–11	Moist	Full Sun	12	Medium	Irritant; gets leggy; red, pink or white blooms in winter; needs well-drained, fertile soil; evergreen; low salt
Pomegranate	<i>Punica granatum</i>	8a	Moist	Full Sun	15	Medium	Does better in low humidity; may sucker; needs well-drained soil, pH 5.5 to 7.0; deciduous; low salt
Red ixora	<i>Ixora coccinea</i>	10b–11	Moist	Full Sun	5	Medium	Showy flowers in yellow, red or pink; requires well-drained, fertile soil, likes acidic soil; evergreen; moderate salt
Red powderpuff	<i>Calliandra haematocephala</i>	10a–11	Moist - Dry	Full Sun	15	Medium	Red or white flowers in winter; likes sandy soil; evergreen; low salt
Rose, Cherokee	<i>Rosa laevigata</i>	8a–10b	Moist	Full Sun	10+	Medium	Thorny stems, large fragrant spring flowers in pink or white; climbs; requires moist, well-drained soil, likes sandy soil; evergreen; low salt
Rose-of-Sharon	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	8a–9b	Moist	Partial Sun	10	Medium	Many colors; blooms in spring and fall; needs very fertile soil; deciduous; low salt
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	9a–11	Moist	Full Sun	3	Medium	Aromatic; high salt
Sasanqua camellia	<i>Camellia sasanqua</i>	8a–9b	Moist	Full Sun	15	Medium	Not finicky about drainage; showy fragrant flowers in fall; likes acidic soil; evergreen; low salt
Saw palmetto	<i>Serenoa repens</i>	8a–11	Very Moist - Dry	Partial Sun	8	Medium	Slow-growing; doesn't transplant; tolerates severe pruning; very drought-tolerant; wildlife value; evergreen; high salt; native
Schefflera, dwarf	<i>Schefflera arboricola</i>	10a–11	Moist	Partial Sun	10	Medium	Evergreen; moderate salt
Sea lavender	<i>Argusia gnaphalodes</i>	9b–11	Moist	Full Sun	6	Medium	Good coastal plant; endangered; white flowers in winter and spring, silvery-gray foliage; evergreen; high salt; native
Seagrape	<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	10b–11	Moist - Dry	Full Sun	20	Medium	Good coastal plant; edible fruit; dinner plate-sized leaves; spreading; evergreen; high salt; wildlife value; native
Silver buttonwood	<i>Conocarpus erectus var. sericeus</i>	10b–11	Very Moist - Dry	Full Sun	35	Medium	Good coastal plant; silver-blue or green foliage, purple or white flowers; evergreen; high salt; native
Silverthorn	<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>	8a	Moist	Full Sun	18	Medium	Thorny; fragrant brown flowers; doesn't like alkaline soil; evergreen; high salt
Simpson stopper	<i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i>	10a–11	Moist	Partial Sun	25	Medium	Interesting bark, white flowers; wildlife value; evergreen; high salt; native
Snail seed	<i>Cocculus laurifolius</i>	9a–10b	Moist	Partial Sun	13	Medium	Thorny hedge or shrub; tiny yellow flowers in spring; poisonous leaves; evergreen; low salt
Snow bush	<i>Breynia disticha</i>	10b–11	Moist	Partial Sun	6	Medium	White spring flowers; evergreen; low salt
Snowberry	<i>Chiococca alba</i>	9b–11	Moist - Dry	Full Sun	10	Medium	Grows in hammocks, woods and shell areas; fragrant yellow flowers; evergreen; high salt; native
Spanish bayonet	<i>Yucca aloifolia</i>	8a–10b	Moist	Full Sun	14	Medium	Spine-tipped leaves; white flowers in spring and fall; excellent drought tolerance; likes sandy soil; wildlife value; evergreen; high salt
Sparkleberry	<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i>	8a	Moist - Dry	Partial Sun	15	Medium	Seedy, blueberry-like fruit in early fall; likes acidic soil; wildlife value; deciduous; low salt; native
Spicewood	<i>Calypttranthes pallens</i>	10b–11	Moist	Partial Sun	15	Medium	Rare south Florida plant; white flowers in spring and fall; good hedge material; evergreen; moderate salt; native
St. John's wort	<i>Hypericum reductum</i>	8a–9b	Moist	Full Sun	1	Medium	Likes moist, sandy soil; evergreen
Swamp mallow, red hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>	8a–10b	Very Moist - Dry	Partial Sun	6–8	Medium	Perennial; large red flowers in spring and summer; likes wet soil; low salt; native
Sweet olive	<i>Osmanthus fragrans</i>	8a–9b	Moist	Partial Sun	20	Medium	Intensely fragrant white flowers in fall and winter; likes sandy soil; evergreen; low salt
Sweet pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	8a–9a	Very Moist - Dry	Partial Sun	20	Medium	Good hedge plant; showy white flowers in spring and summer; likes acidic soil; wildlife value; deciduous; low salt; native
Sweet shrub	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	8a–10a	Moist	Partial Sun	10	Medium	Showy fragrant flowers, aromatic leaves; deciduous; low salt; native
Sweetspire, Virginia	<i>Itea virginica</i>	8a–11	Moist - Very Moist	Partial Sun	7	Medium	Can sucker; fall color; tassels of tiny fragrant white flowers in spring; evergreen; low salt; native
Tallow-wood	<i>Ximenia americana</i>	9a–10b	Moist	Full Sun	8	Medium	Prefers sandy soil; evergreen; low salt; native
Tetrazygia	<i>Tetrazygia bicolor</i>	10b–11	Moist	Partial Sun	10	Medium	Good hedge material; white spring flowers and attractive foliage; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Texas sage	<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>	8a–10b	Moist	Full Sun	5	Medium	Hedge material; gray-green foliage, lavender spring flowers; will die if overwatered; evergreen; moderate salt
Thryallis	<i>Galphimia gracilis</i>	10b–11	Moist	Partial Sun	5	Medium	Showy yellow flowers in summer and fall; evergreen; moderate salt
Thunberg spiraea	<i>Spiraea thunbergii</i>	8a–8b	Moist	Partial Sun	5	Medium	White winter flowers; requires well-drained, loamy soil; evergreen; low salt
Thyme	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	8a–11	Moist	Full Sun	1.5	Medium	Plant in fall, winter or spring and re-plant every 3 or 4 years; low salt

SOIL MOISTURE Dry Moist Wet

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference

# SHRUBS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)	Growth Rate	Comments
Ti plant	<i>Cordyline terminalis</i>	10b–11	☹️	☀️ ☁️	5	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Showy fragrant white flowers in fall; shrub or tree; evergreen; moderate salt
Tibouchina	<i>Tibouchina clavata</i>	10b–11	☹️	☀️	6	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Showy purple flowers in spring and fall; hairy leaves; straggly growth; evergreen; low salt
Titi	<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>	8a–9a	☹️☹️☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	20	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Pendulous white flowers in spring and summer attract insects; likes acidic soil; evergreen; native
Torchwood	<i>Amyris elemifera</i>	10b–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	15	🌱🌱🌱🌱	White flowers; wildlife value; evergreen; high salt; native
Tropical sea oxeye daisy	<i>Borrchia arborescens</i>	10a–11	☹️	☀️	3	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Good coastal plant; showy yellow flowers in spring and summer; evergreen; high salt; native
Tropical snowflake	<i>Trevesia palmata</i>	10b	☹️	☀️ ☁️	15	🌱🌱🌱🌱	New leaves resemble snowflakes; white spring flowers; needs fertile, slightly acidic soil; evergreen; low salt
Turk's-cap	<i>Malvaviscus arboreus</i>	9a–11	☹️	☀️	7	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Red flowers in spring and fall; wildlife value; evergreen; low salt
Two-winged silverbell	<i>Halesia diptera</i>	8a–8b	☹️	☀️ ☁️	30	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Showy white flowers in fall; deciduous; native
Varnish leaf	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	9a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	6	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Shiny leaves, white spring flowers; showy, winged fruit; evergreen; high salt; native
Viburnum, sandankwa	<i>Viburnum suspensum</i>	8a–10b	☹️	☀️ ☁️	6	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Hedge material; white or pink flowers in spring; vulnerable to nematodes; evergreen; low salt
Viburnum, sweet	<i>Viburnum odoratissimum</i>	8a–10b	☹️	☀️ ☁️	8	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Hedge material; white spring flowers; evergreen; low salt
Viburnum, Walter's	<i>Viburnum obovatum</i>	8a–10a	☹️☹️☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	20	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Informal hedges, may form thickets; upright or spreading forms; showy white flowers in spring, red to black edible berries; wildlife value; deciduous; low salt; native
Wax myrtle, southern bayberry	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	8a–11	☹️☹️☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	20	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Good hedge material in full sun; can root-sucker; berries; likes moisture; wildlife value; evergreen; high salt; native
White indigo berry	<i>Randia aculeata</i>	10a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️	8	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Spiny, dense plant; fragrant small white flowers; female has white berries; evergreen; high salt; native
Wild coffee	<i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	10a	☹️	☁️ ☀️	5	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Needs moisture; white flowers in spring and summer, small fruits; evergreen; wildlife value; moderate salt; native
Wild hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	8a	☹️	☁️ ☀️	5	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Rare; low salt
Wild rosemary	<i>Conradina canescens</i>	9a–9b	☹️	☀️	4	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Aromatic foliage; small lavender flowers in spring; excellent drought tolerance; likes sandy soil; wildlife value; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Wild sage, buttonsage	<i>Lantana involucrata</i>	10a	☹️	☀️	6	🌱🌱🌱🌱	White flowers; needs sandy soil; wildlife value; evergreen; moderate salt; native
Yellow anise	<i>Illicium parviflorum</i>	9a–9b	☹️☹️☹️	☀️ ☁️	15	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Distinctive yellow flowers in spring, fragrant foliage; rare; evergreen; low salt; native
Yellow necklace pod	<i>Sophora tomentosa var. truncata</i>	10a–11	☹️	☀️	8	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Showy yellow flowers; poisonous; evergreen; high salt; native
Yesterday-today-and-tomorrow, morning-noon-and-night	<i>Brunfelsia grandiflora</i>	10b–11	☹️	☀️	8	🌱🌱🌱🌱	Showy purple flowers with white centers; evergreen; moderate salt

SOIL MOISTURE ☹️ Dry ☹️☹️ Moist ☹️☹️☹️ Wet

LIGHT ☀️ Full Sun ☀️☁️ Partial Sun ☁️ Shade

GROWTH RATE 🌱🌱🌱🌱 Slow 🌱🌱🌱🌱 Medium 🌱🌱🌱🌱 Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



American beautyberry  
*Callicarpa americana*



Sweet olive  
*Osmanthus fragrans*

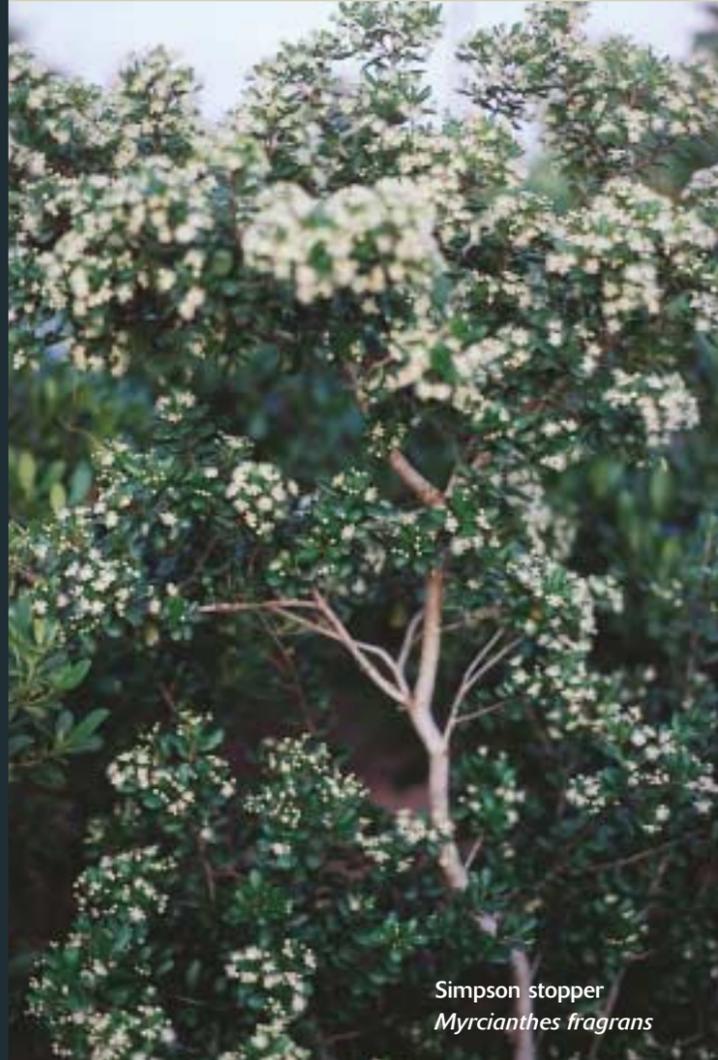


Florida-anise  
*Illicium floridanum*



Plumbago  
*Plumbago auriculata*

# SHRUBS



Simpson stopper  
*Myrcianthes fragrans*



Florida flame azalea  
*Rhododendron austrinum*



Gallberry  
*Ilex glabra*



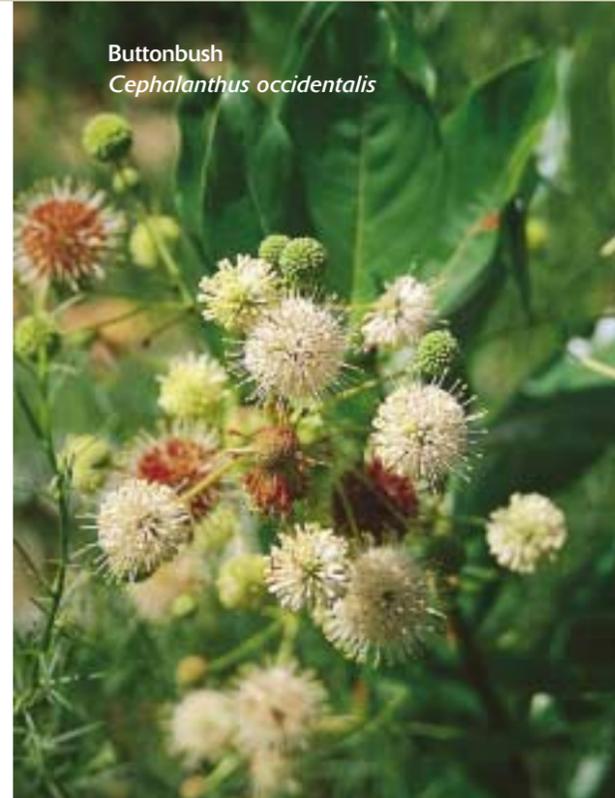
Firebush  
*Hamelia patens*



Seagrape  
*Coccoloba uvifera*



Coral bean  
*Erythrina herbacea*



Buttonbush  
*Cephalanthus occidentalis*



Firecracker plant  
*Ruellia equisetiformis*



Marlberry  
*Ardisia escallonioides*



Arbor-vitae, Oriental  
*Platycladus orientalis*

# GROUNDCOVERS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)	Growth Rate	Comments
Adam's needle	<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	8a-9b	☾	☀	3	■■■■	Leaf margins fray; large showy white flower spikes every few years; depends on yucca moth for pollination; likes sandy soil; moderate salt; native
Agapanthus	<i>Agapanthus africanus</i>	9a-11	☾ - ☹	☀	2	■■■■	Herbaceous; short-lived in south Florida; showy blue and white flowers; low salt
Aloe	<i>Aloe vera</i> (= <i>A. barbadensis</i> )	10a-11	☾	☀ ☀	1.5	■■■■	Succulent, fleshy leaves; yellow winter flowers; sap soothes burns and cuts; looks good in rock gardens; high salt
Artillery plant	<i>Pilea microphylla</i>	10b-11	☹☹☹ - ☹	☁ ☀	1	■■■■	Herbaceous; 'Stoplight' most colorful cultivar; can escape cultivation; low salt; native
Asparagus-fern, 'Myers'	<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> 'Myers'	10a-11	☹☹	☁ ☀	2	■■■■	Herbaceous; red berries, spine-tipped leaves; moderate salt
Bahia grass	<i>Paspalum notatum</i>	8a-11	☾ - ☹	☀	2	■■■■	Low-maintenance turf grass
Beach morning glory	<i>Ipomoea imperati</i> (= <i>I. stolonifera</i> )	8-10b	☾	☀	0.5	■■■■	Showy flowering vine; purple or white flowers; good coastal herbaceous plant; poisonous; good drought tolerance; likes sandy soil; moderate salt; native
Bean, beach	<i>Canavalia maritima</i> (= <i>C. rosea</i> )	10b-11	☾	☀	0.5	■■■■	Herbaceous perennial; a widespread, vining dune plant; purple flowers; needs sandy soil; high salt; native
Begonia	<i>Begonia</i> spp.	10b-11	☾ - ☹	☀	2	■■■■	Perennial; needs good drainage; succulent star-shaped leaves, pink flowers, green and purple foliage; low salt
Bermuda grass	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	8a-11	☾	☀	0.5	■■■■	Drought-tolerant turf grass; good for sandy soil; wildlife value; high salt
Bird's nest fern	<i>Asplenium nidus</i>	10b-11	☹☹	☁ ☀	2.5	■■■■	Can be epiphytic; likes acidic soil; low salt
Bitter panicgrass	<i>Panicum amarum</i>	8a-9b	☾	☀	3.5	■■■■	Bluish leaves; good for stabilizing dunes; bunchgrass; high salt; native
Blue porterweed	<i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>	9a-11	☹☹☹ - ☹	☀ ☀	1.5	■■■■	Herbaceous; blue flowers; wildlife value; high salt; native
Blue-eyed grass	<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	8a-11	☹☹☹ - ☹☹	☀	0.5	■■■■	Herbaceous; lovely blue flowers; native
Broomsedge	<i>Andropogon virginicus</i> var. <i>glaucus</i>	8a-10a	☹☹	☀	3-5	■■■■	Bunchgrass; good drought tolerance; grows in moist, acidic to neutral sandy soil; moderate salt; native
Cast-iron plant	<i>Aspidistra elatior</i>	9a-11	☾ - ☹	☁ ☀	2	■■■■	Herbaceous; deep-shade- and drought-tolerant; likes sandy soil; moderate salt
Centipede grass	<i>Eremochloa ophiuroides</i>	8a-8b	☹☹ - ☹	☀	0.5	■■■■	Turf grass; likes acidic soil; wildlife value; low salt
Cinnamon fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	8a-11	☹☹☹ - ☹☹	☁ ☀	4	■■■■	Cinnamon-colored spike bloom; native
Coleus	<i>Coleus x hybridus</i>	10b-11	☹☹	☀	2	■■■■	Herbaceous; multicolored leaves; not drought-tolerant; likes fertile, well-drained soil; low salt
Coontie	<i>Zamia pumila</i>	8b-11	☾ - ☹	☁ ☀	2	■■■■	Cycad; produces a red cone; highly toxic fruit and leaves; wildlife value; high salt; native
Daylily	<i>Hemerocallis hybrids</i>	8a-10b	☾ - ☹	☀	2	■■■■	Herbaceous; showy colorful flowers; yellow, pink, orange flowers in spring, summer and fall; high salt
False heather	<i>Cuphea hyssopifolia</i>	9b-11	☹☹ - ☹	☀ ☀	1.5	■■■■	Woody shrub; winter diebacks in north Florida; white and pink flowers; low salt
Fancyleaved caladium	<i>Caladium x hortulanum</i>	9a-11	☹☹	☁ ☀	1.5	■■■■	Herbaceous; arrowhead-shaped multicolored leaves, green spring flower; low salt
Fig, creeping	<i>Ficus pumila</i>	10a-11	☹☹ - ☹	☀	NA	■■■■	Vine attaches to masonry and climbs trees; irritant; green spring blooms; moderate salt
Fountain grass	<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	8-11	☹☹	☀	3	■■■■	Bunchgrass; green and purple foliage, pink and purple flowers; can escape; low salt
Giant leather fern	<i>Acrostichum danaeifolium</i>	9a-11	☹☹☹ - ☹☹	☀	8	■■■■	Huge leaves; good in wet areas; high salt; native
Giant sword fern	<i>Nephrolepis biserrata</i>	10b-11	☹☹ - ☹☹☹	☀ ☁	4	■■■■	Can form a dense groundcover in shady, moist areas; low salt; native
Ginger, butterfly	<i>Hedychium coronarium</i>	9a-11	☹☹☹ - ☹☹	☁ ☀	5	■■■■	Perennial herb; fragrant white flowers in spring; moderate salt
Ginger, peacock	<i>Kaempferia</i> spp.	10b-11	☹☹	☁ ☀	0.5	■■■■	Herbaceous; green to purple leaves, spotted or striped; dies back November-December; white, pink and purple flowers; low salt
Ginger, shell	<i>Alpinia zerumbet</i>	10a-11	☹☹	☀	8	■■■■	Herbaceous; dark green foliage, white and yellow flowers on canes; blooms in spring and winter; moderate salt
Golden creeper	<i>Ernodea littoralis</i>	10b-11	☾	☀	2	■■■■	Rare; likes sandy soil; evergreen; high salt; native
Gopher apple	<i>Licania michauxii</i>	8a-11	☾	☀	1	■■■■	Woody; edible fruits, white flowers; thrives in very well drained soil; high salt; evergreen; native
Holly fern	<i>Cyrtomium falcatum</i>	9a-11	☹☹	☁ ☀	1.5	■■■■	Prefers moist, shady area; glossy green foliage; likes acidic soil; moderate salt
Holly, dwarf yaupon	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i> 'Shellings'	8a-10a	☹☹☹ - ☹	☀	2-5	■■■■	Woody shrub; dwarf variety forms smooth, rounded bushes; white spring flowers; likes sandy soil; high salt; wildlife value; evergreen; native
Ivy, Algerian	<i>Hedera canariensis</i>	8-10b	☾ - ☹	☁ ☀	NA	■■■■	Vine; can be invasive; irritant, poisonous; white spring and summer flowers; moderate salt

SOIL MOISTURE ☾ Dry ☹☹ Moist ☹☹☹ Wet

LIGHT ☀ Full Sun ☀☁ Partial Sun ☁ Shade

GROWTH RATE ■■■■ Slow ■■■■ Medium ■■■■ Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference

# GROUNDCOVERS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)	Growth Rate	Comments
Ivy, English	<i>Hedera helix</i>	8a–9b	☾ – ☼	☁ ☀	NA	■■■■	Vine; takes over; rootlets scar masonry; moderate salt
Jasmine, dwarf Confederate	<i>Trachelospermum asiaticum</i>	8a–10b	☼	☀ ☀	0.5	■■■■	Vine; forms a thick mat; invades surrounding areas; yellow or white flowers; evergreen; moderate salt
Juniper, Japanese garden	<i>Juniperus procumbens</i>	8a–10b	☼ – ☾	☀	2	■■■■	Conifer; 'Nana' is a slow-growing dwarf cultivar, 'Variegata' has yellow and green foliage; good in sandy soil; moderate salt
Juniper, Parson	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Parsonii'	8–10b	☾ – ☼	☀	2	■■■■	Low-growing conifer; gray-green foliage; needs well-drained soil conditions; moderate salt
Juniper, Pftizer	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Pftizeriana'	8a–10b	☼ – ☾	☀	6	■■■■	Conifer; grows best in north Florida; looks best on fertile, well-drained soil, likes sandy soil; moderate salt
Juniper, shore	<i>Juniperus conferta</i>	8a–10a	☾ – ☼	☀	2	■■■■	Blue-green conifer; high salt
Leather leaf fern	<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i>	10a–11	☼	☁ ☀	2	■■■■	Dark green, leathery leaves used for cut foliage; moderate salt
Lily turf	<i>Liriope</i> spp.	8a–10b	☾ – ☼	☀ ☁	1	■■■■	Herbaceous; forms dense clumps; intolerant of foot traffic; foliage yellows in sun, tips may burn from soil salts; many cultivars available; purple, white, pink or blue flowers; moderate salt
Lopsided Indiangrass	<i>Sorghastrum secundum</i>	8a–11	☼ – ☾	☀	4	■■■■	Tall bunchgrass; likes sandy soil; wildlife value; moderate salt; native
Maidencane	<i>Panicum hemitomon</i>	8a–11	☼☼☼ – ☾	☀	2	■■■■	Spreading grass; excellent drought tolerance; dune stabilizer and lawngrass; high salt; native
Mangrove spider lily	<i>Hymenocallis latifolia</i>	8a–10b	☼ – ☼☼☼	☀ ☁	3	■■■■	Herbaceous; showy fragrant flowers attractive to large hawkmoths; white spring flowers; native
Mondo grass	<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>	8–10b	☾ – ☼	☁ ☀	0.5	■■■■	Herbaceous; damaged by foot traffic; white or purple flowers; avoid alkaline soil; moderate salt
Muhly grass	<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	8a–11	☼☼☼ – ☾	☀ ☁	4	■■■■	Bunchgrass; mixes well with wildflowers; lovely purple plumes in fall; good in alkaline to neutral soil; wildlife value; high salt; native
Pampas grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	8a–11	☾ – ☼	☀ ☀	6	■■■■	Bunchgrass; likes dry conditions; sharp serrations on leaves; grows in large clumps; tolerates a wide soil range; moderate salt
Periwinkle	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	10b–11	☼ – ☾	☀	1.5	■■■■	Herbaceous; can be invasive; freezes back in north Florida; white, purple or pink flowers; good in dry sandy or coastal sites; high salt
Porcupine grass	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	8a–9a	☼ – ☾	☀	6	■■■■	Variiegated leaves; gets rust but it goes away; silvery gold flowers in spring and fall; likes sandy soil
Powderpuff	<i>Mimosa strigillosa</i>	8a–9b	☼	☀	0.5	■■■■	Herbaceous; fern-like leaves, sensitive to touch; lovely, interesting, similar to exotic <i>Schrankia microphylla</i> ; has thorns; pink flowers in spring and summer; native
Purple lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	8a–9b	☾ – ☼☼☼	☀	2.5	■■■■	Bunchgrass; purple flowers in spring and fall, purple fall plumes; likes dry areas with high pH; wildlife value; low salt; native
Purple queen	<i>Tradescantia pallida</i>	8a–10a	☼ – ☾	☀ ☀	1	■■■■	Herbaceous; sprawling, open growth; invasive; will tolerate poor sites; high salt
Quailberry	<i>Crossopetalum ilicifolium</i>	10b–11	☾	☀	2	■■■■	Shrublike, spiny; red fruit, rare red flowers; evergreen; wildlife value; low salt; native
Railroad vine	<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>	9a–11	☾	☀	0.5	■■■■	Creeping, flowering dune vine; poisonous; purple flowers in spring and fall; likes sandy soil; high salt; native
River oats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	8a	☼ – ☼☼☼	☁ ☀	2	■■■■	Bunchgrass; fruits as lovely as sea oats; wildlife value; low salt; native
Royal fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	8a–10b	☼☼☼	☀ ☁	5	■■■■	Large leaves; likes acidic soil; low salt; native
Saltgrass	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	8–11	☼☼☼ – ☼	☀	1.5	■■■■	Warm-season perennial grass; likes sandy soil; high salt; native
Saltmeadow cord grass	<i>Spartina patens</i>	8a–9b	☾ – ☼☼☼	☀	2	■■■■	Spreading grass; likes sandy soil; moderate salt; native
Sand cord grass, switchgrass	<i>Spartina bakeri</i>	8a–11	☾ – ☼☼☼	☀	3–6	■■■■	Robust perennial bunchgrass of salt marshes and dunes; high salt; native
Sea oats	<i>Uniola paniculata</i>	8a–11	☾	☀	4	■■■■	Protected grass species; excellent for dunes; flower and seed heads are distinctive; high salt; wildlife value; native
Sea purslane	<i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i>	9–10b	☾	☀	1–3	■■■■	Herbaceous; succulent beach wildflower; pink flowers; likes sandy soil; high salt; native
Seashore dropseed	<i>Sporobolus virginicus</i>	8a–11	☾ – ☼☼☼	☀	1	■■■■	Bunchgrass; coastal plant; wildlife value; high salt; native
Seashore paspalum	<i>Paspalum vaginatum</i>	8–11	☼☼☼	☀	2	■■■■	Coastal grass; dune stabilizer; makes a thin lawn; high salt; native
Shrubverbena	<i>Lantana depressa</i>	10b–11	☼ – ☾	☀	1.5	■■■■	Perennial; excellent drought tolerance; hybridizes freely with <i>Lantana camara</i> ; yellow flowers; prefers sandy soil; high salt; native
Smooth cord grass	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	8a–11	☼☼☼ – ☾	☀	4	■■■■	Herbaceous; coastal, salt-tolerant spreading grass; wildlife value; high salt; native
Smooth water-hyssop	<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>	8a–11	☼☼☼	☀	0.5	■■■■	Herbaceous; flowering groundcover for wet areas; white or pink flowers; high salt; native
Snowberry, pineland	<i>Chiococca alba</i> (= <i>C. pinetorum</i> )	10b–11	☼ – ☾	☀	2.5	■■■■	Vining shrub with attractive white flowers; grows on shell areas; evergreen; low salt; native
Society garlic	<i>Tulbaghia violacea</i>	10a–11	☼	☀ ☀	1.5	■■■■	Herbaceous; garlic-scented purple flowers in spring, summer and fall; doesn't bloom well in shade; moderate salt

SOIL MOISTURE ☾ Dry ☼ Moist ☼☼☼ Wet

LIGHT ☀ Full Sun ☀☁ Partial Sun ☁ Shade

GROWTH RATE ■■■■ Slow ■■■■ Medium ■■■■ Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference

# GROUNDCOVERS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)	Growth Rate	Comments
Southern shield fern	<i>Thelypteris kunthii</i>	8a–10b	☔☔☔ – ☔☔	☁☀ ☁☀	2.5	☐☐☐☐	Grows on rocks and in shade; likes alkaline soil; low salt; native
St. Augustine grass	<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>	8a–11	☔☔ – ☔	☀☀ ☀☀	0.5	☐☐☐☐	Turf grass; high salt; native
St. John's wort, Atlantic	<i>Hypericum reductum</i>	8a–9b	☔	☀☀	1.5	☐☐☐☐	Also called scrubwort; herbaceous; reclining, bushy-branched flowering shrub; likes sandy soil; small yellow flowers in spring and summer; high salt; evergreen; native
Strawberry	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	8a–9b	☔☔	☀☀	1	☐☐☐☐	Vulnerable to pests; low salt
String-lily	<i>Crinum americanum</i>	8a–11	☔☔☔☔ – ☔☔☔	☀☁	1.5	☐☐☐☐	Herbaceous; forms solid cover in wet areas; fragrant white flower in spring and summer; poisonous; likes sandy soil; high salt; native
Sunflower, beach	<i>Helianthus debilis</i>	8a–10b	☔ – ☔☔	☀☀	1.5	☐☐☐☐	Herbaceous annual or perennial in south Florida; showy yellow flowers; very drought-tolerant; good for dunes and sunny spots; likes sandy soil; high salt; native
Swamp fern	<i>Blechnum serrulatum</i>	9a–11	☔☔☔☔	☁☀ ☀☁	2	☐☐☐☐	Likes shady, moist areas and acidic soil; low salt; native
Walking iris	<i>Neomarica</i> spp.	10b–11	☔☔ – ☔☔☔☔	☀☁	3	☐☐☐☐	Herbaceous; blue, yellow or white flowers in spring; flower lasts one day; low salt
Wandering Jew	<i>Tradescantia pendula</i>	8a–10a	☔☔ – ☔	☁☀ ☀☁	0.5	☐☐☐☐	Herbaceous; doesn't tolerate foot traffic; invasive; low salt
Wild petunia	<i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i>	8a–11	☔☔ – ☔	☀☀	1–3	☐☐☐☐	Semi-woody; good for shady areas; pale blue flowers in spring and summer; low salt; native
Wiregrass	<i>Aristida beyrichiana</i>	8a–10a	☔☔ – ☔	☀☀	2–3	☐☐☐☐	Bunchgrass; flowers following fire; ideal for mixing with wildflowers in dry areas; wildlife value; native
Zoysiagrass	<i>Zoysia japonica</i>	8a–11	☔☔ – ☔	☀☁ ☀☀	0.5	☐☐☐☐	Grass; high salt

SOIL MOISTURE ☔ Dry ☔☔ Moist ☔☔☔ Wet

LIGHT ☀ Full Sun ☀☁ Partial Sun ☁ Shade

GROWTH RATE ☐☐☐☐ Slow ☐☐☐☐ Medium ☐☐☐☐ Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Periwinkle  
*Catharanthus roseus*



Saltmeadow cord grass  
*Spartina patens*



Lily turf  
*Liriope* spp.



Society garlic  
*Tulbaghia violacea*



Powderpuff  
*Mimosa strigillosa*

Sea oats  
*Uniola paniculata*

Juniper  
*Juniperus* spp.



# VINES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Growth Rate	Comments
Allamanda, yellow	<i>Allamanda cathartica</i>	9b–11	☾	☀	████	Requires support; can get leggy; poisonous milky sap; fragrant large flowers; susceptible to magnesium deficiency; low salt; evergreen
Bleeding heart	<i>Clerodendrum thomsoniae</i>	8a–11	☾ – ☹	☀ ☀	████	Named for its flowers; susceptible to nematode damage; killed to ground by freezes; low salt; evergreen
Bougainvillea	<i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i>	9b–11	☾	☀	████	Rambling; very drought-resistant; blooms on new growth; thorny; medium salt; evergreen
Bower vine	<i>Pandorea jasminoides</i>	10b–11	☹	☀	████	White flowers with pink throats; protect from wind; prefers rich, fertile soil; medium salt; evergreen
Brazilian golden vine	<i>Stigmaphyllon littorale</i>	9b–11	☹	☀ ☀	████	Small flower clusters; requires support to climb; needs little care once established; low salt; evergreen
Bridal bouquet	<i>Stephanotis floribunda</i>	10b–11	☹	☀ ☀	███	Fragrant, waxy flowers; low salt; evergreen
Ceriman	<i>Monstera deliciosa</i>	10a–11	☹	☀ ☀	███	Edible fruit with pineapple-banana taste; large leaves, variegated varieties available; not frost-tolerant; low salt; evergreen
Coral honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	8a–10	☹ – ☾	☀ ☀	████	Also known as trumpet honeysuckle; tubular flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds; red fall berries; wildlife value; medium salt; evergreen; native
Corky-stem passion flower	<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	9b–11	☾ – ☹	☀ ☀	████	Older vines have deeply grooved, corky stems; tiny flowers, small purple fruits; great variation in leaf shape; wildlife value; medium salt; evergreen; native
Crossvine	<i>Bignonia carpeolata</i>	8a–11	☹ – ☾	☀ ☀	████	Climbs by tendrils and adhesive disks; large, long-throated flowers; cross sections of stems are cross-shaped; low salt; evergreen; native
Grape, Blue Lake	<i>Vitis smalliana labrusca</i>	8a–11	☹	☀	███ – █████	Grows slowly at first; many varieties; disease-resistant; blue fruit in mid-July; deciduous; low salt
Grape, Lake Emerald	<i>Vitis simpsoni labrusca</i>	8a–11	☹	☀	███ – █████	Grows slowly at first; many varieties; disease-resistant; blue fruit in mid-July; deciduous; low salt
Grape, muscadine	<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>	8a–11	☹	☀	███ – █████	Grows slowly at first; many varieties; disease-resistant; self-fertile; purple fruit in August; deciduous; low salt; native
Herald's-trumpet	<i>Beaumontia grandiflora</i>	10a–11	☹	☀ ☀	████	Large, heavy vine requires strong support; low salt; evergreen
Incense passion flower	<i>Passiflora x 'incense'</i>	9a–11	☹ – ☾	☀	████	Showy flowers are self-sterile; low salt; wildlife value; evergreen
Mandevilla	<i>Mandevilla spp.</i>	9b–11	☹	☀	████	Trumpet-shaped flowers with darker throats; cold-sensitive; medium salt; evergreen
Mangrove rubber vine	<i>Rhabdadenia biflora</i>	10a–11	☹ – ☾	☀	███	White flower with yellow throat; related to oleander; high salt; evergreen; native
Morning glory	<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>	9b–11	☾	☀	████	Beach dune pioneer; can be trained over a trellis; high salt; evergreen; native
Passion flower	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	8a–10	☾ – ☹	☀ ☀	████	Also called may pop and apricot vine; will sucker some distance away; dies back to ground after freeze; large showy flowers, large edible fruit; wildlife value; low salt; deciduous; native
Purple passion flower	<i>Passiflora edulis</i>	9b–11	☹ – ☾	☀	████	Subtropical species; tolerates cool periods and slight frosts for short time; many varieties available; edible fruit; wildlife value; low salt; evergreen
Queens wreath	<i>Petrea volubilis</i>	10a–11	☹	☀ ☀	███	Woody vine; persistent showy flower; used in south Florida as wisteria substitute; prefers rich, sandy soil; low salt; evergreen
Scarlet passion flower	<i>Passiflora coccinea</i>	10a–11	☹ – ☾	☀	████	Exotic bright flowers; more tropical than <i>P. edulis</i> ; heavily damaged by nematodes; vigorous vine requires strong support; low salt; wildlife value; evergreen
Trumpet vine	<i>Campsis radicans</i>	8a–9	☹ – ☾	☀ ☀	████	Also known as cow itch vine; mild skin irritant; may become invasive; low salt; deciduous; native
Virginia creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	8a–11	☹ – ☾	☀ ☀	████	Also called woodbine; 5 leaflets distinguish it from poison ivy; purple fruit; climbs by adhesive pads which may mark painted or wooden surfaces; low salt; wildlife value; deciduous; native
White thunbergia	<i>Thunbergia fragrans</i>	9b–11	☹	☀ ☀	████	Also known as sky flower and Bengal clock vine; large flowers with white throats; vigorously aggressive; low salt; evergreen
Wisteria, American	<i>Wisteria frutescens</i>	8a–9a	☹	☀	███	Small leaves and flowers; suited to small areas; grows best in north Florida; low salt; deciduous; native
Yellow jessamine	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	8a–11	☹ – ☾	☀ ☀	████	All parts are poisonous; can be trained to grow on trellis or fence; low salt; evergreen; native

SOIL MOISTURE ☾ Dry ☹ Moist ☹☹ Wet

LIGHT ☀ Full Sun ☀☀ Partial Sun ☁ Shade

GROWTH RATE ███ Slow █████ Medium ██████ Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Incense passion flower  
*Passiflora x 'incense'*



Coral honeysuckle  
*Lonicera sempervirens*



Coral honeysuckle  
*Lonicera sempervirens*



Virginia creeper  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

Passion flower  
*Passiflora incarnata*



# FLOWERS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)	Growth Rate	Comments
Agapanthus	<i>Agapanthus africanus</i>	9b–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; strap-like basal leaves, 2-foot flower spikes with large round flower clusters on top; blue or white spring flowers; problem with chewing insects; medium salt
Ageratum	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	8a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☁️ ☀️	1	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Also called floss flower; not very heat-resistant; cold-tender; problems with aphids, red spiders and leafhoppers; varied spring and summer flowers; requires well-drained soil
Amaryllis	<i>Hippeastrum hybrids</i>	8a–9b	☹️	☀️ ☁️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; varied spring flowers; may require winter rest to flower well; medium salt
Annual garden phlox	<i>Phlox drummondii</i>	8a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	0.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; clusters of 1-inch flowers of varied colors; used along roadways; reseeds; cold-hardy; low salt
Aster, golden	<i>Pityopsis graminifolia</i>	8a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☁️ ☀️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also called silkgrass; often occurs in groups; grass-like, narrow linear leaves with silvery pubescence; yellow spring, summer and fall flowers; likes acidic soil; low salt; native
Aster, Stokes	<i>Stokesia laevis</i>	8a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	1	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; cold-hardy; prone to root rot and aphids; blue spring flowers; requires well-drained soil; medium salt; native
Atamasco-lily	<i>Zephyranthes atamascao</i>	8b–11	☹️ – ☹️☹️	☁️ ☀️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also called rain-lily; erect white flowers atop grass-like foliage; amaryllis family; bulb is toxic; threatened in Florida; high salt; native
Beardtongue, white	<i>Penstemon multiflorus</i>	8a–11	☹️	☀️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also called pineland penstemon; basal rosette; snapdragon family; white spring, summer and fall flowers; likes sandy soil; low salt; native
Begonia, wax	<i>Begonia x semperflorens-cultorum</i>	8a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☁️ ☀️	1	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Cold-tender; sun-adapted cultivars available; leaves can be green, bronze or mahogany red; damaged by nematodes; does best during cooler months; likes acidic soil; low salt
Bird-of-paradise	<i>Strelitzia reginae</i>	9a–11	☹️	☀️ ☁️	4	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; plant in protected locations in central Florida; spreads laterally with age; old clumps may be 10 feet across; orange or blue flowers; likes acidic soil; low salt
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	8a–11	☹️	☀️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; not damaged by root-knot nematodes; yellow petals with brown centers; spring, summer and fall flowers; native
Blanket flower	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	8a–11	☹️	☀️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual or perennial; does well in sand; reseeds readily; bi-color rayed flowers; great color variation; few insect problems; high salt; native
Blazing star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	8a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also called dense gayfeather; dramatic spikes of small, thread-like clusters of purple or white flowers in spring, summer and fall; low salt; native
Blue curls	<i>Trichostema dichotomum</i>	8a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; blue flowers in summer and fall; likes sandy soil; high salt; native
Blue porterweed	<i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>	9b–11	☹️	☀️	1.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; low mounding form; Asian import <i>Stachytarpheta urticifolia</i> has an upright habit; lavender flowers; likes sandy soil; high salt; native
Blue twinflower	<i>Dyschoriste oblongifolia</i>	8b–11	☹️	☀️	0.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also called oblongleaf twinflower; likes sandy soil; low salt; native
Butterfly weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	8a–9b	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also known as pleurisy root; important nectar and larval plant; orange or red spring, summer and fall flowers; likes acidic soil; medium salt; wildlife value; native
Canna x generalis	<i>Canna x generalis</i>	8a–11	☹️☹️ – ☹️☹️	☀️ ☁️	5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; colors can be striped or splashed; dwarf cultivars available; problems with canna leaf roller; frost-sensitive; low salt
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	8a–11	☹️ – ☹️☹️	☀️ ☁️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; stalks of intensely red flowers in spring, summer and fall; low salt; wildlife value; native
Chrysanthemum, garden	<i>Chrysanthemum morifolium</i>	8a–9b	☹️	☀️ ☁️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; hardiness varies with cultivar; divide in spring; pinching increases bushiness and flowering; problems with nematodes, mites, thrips and aphids; not recommended for south Florida; fall blooms; low salt
Cigar flower	<i>Cuphea ignea</i>	10a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; long tubular red flower tipped with black and white, resembling ash on a cigar; spring and summer blooms; low salt
Cigar plant	<i>Cuphea micropetala</i>	9a–11	☹️	☀️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; upright bedding plant; yellow or orange fall blooms; likes sand; low salt; wildlife value
Climbing aster	<i>Aster carolinianus</i>	8a–11	☹️ – ☹️☹️	☀️ ☁️	1.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; sprawling; flower color varies; fall blooms; likes sand; low salt; wildlife value; native
Cockscomb	<i>Celosia argentea</i> (= <i>C. cristata</i> )	8a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; many cultivars available; damaged by root-knot nematodes; cold-tender; spring flowers; likes sandy soil; low salt
Common tickseed	<i>Coreopsis leavenworthii</i>	8a–11	☹️	☀️	5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; found on disturbed sites; yellow petals with brown centers; likes sandy soil; low salt; native
Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>	8a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also called tick-seed; not damaged by root-knot nematode; remove faded flowers to prolong bloom; reseeds; yellow spring and summer flowers; tolerant of well-drained, poor soil; low salt
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>	8a–11	☹️	☀️	4	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; cold-tender; may need staking; reseeds; varied spring and summer blooms; prefers dry, infertile soil; low salt
Cream narcissus	<i>Narcissus tazetta</i>	8a–9a	☹️	☀️	1.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; cold-hardy; amaryllis family; white or yellow flowers in winter and spring; prefers clay or alkaline soil; low salt
Crinum lily	<i>Crinum spp.</i>	8a–10b	☹️	☀️ ☁️	4	🟢🟢🟢🟢	White, pink and red forms available, some striped or multi-colored; problem with chewing insects and caterpillars; prone to leaf spot in south Florida; blooms in spring and summer; likes sandy soil; medium salt
Dotted horsemint	<i>Monarda punctata</i>	8a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️	4	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also called spotted bee balm; aromatic foliage; likes sandy soil; high salt; wildlife value; native
Dusty miller	<i>Senecio cineraria</i>	8a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	1	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; tolerates heat; versatile border plant; silver/gray foliage, yellow spring blooms; must be re-planted every few years; does well in dry or sandy soil; low salt
Florida violet	<i>Viola sororia</i>	8a–11	☹️	☀️ ☁️	0.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also known as common blue violet; blue spring blooms; likes sandy soil; low salt; native
Four o'clock	<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>	8a–11	☹️ – ☹️	☀️ ☁️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also called marvel-of-Peru; funnel-shaped flowers open in late afternoon and close in morning; often reseeds; blooms in spring, summer and fall; low salt

SOIL MOISTURE ☹️ Dry ☹️☹️ Moist ☹️☹️☹️ Wet

LIGHT ☀️ Full Sun ☁️☀️ Partial Sun ☁️☁️ Shade

GROWTH RATE 🟢🟢🟢🟢 Slow 🟢🟢🟢🟢 Medium 🟢🟢🟢🟢 Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference

# FLOWERS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)	Growth Rate	Comments
Geranium	<i>Pelargonium x hortorum</i>	8b–11	☹️ – 😊	☀️ ☁️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Won't flower in shade or if overwatered; blooms in fall, winter and spring; cool-weather annual; likes sandy soil; low salt
Gerbera daisy	<i>Gerbera jamesonii</i>	8b–11	😊	☀️ ☁️	1.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; daisy-type flowers, single and double flowers available; don't plant too deep; sand in crown rots plant; low salt
Globe amaranth	<i>Gomphrena globosa</i>	8a–11	😊 – 😊	☀️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; showy, clover-like flower heads; cold-tender; blooms in spring and summer; likes sandy soil; low salt
Green eyes	<i>Berlandiera subacaulis</i>	8a–11	😊	☀️	1.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; greenish-yellow flower; likes sandy soil; low salt; native
Impatiens	<i>Impatiens</i> spp.	9a–11	😊	☁️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; reseeds in moist areas; not frost-hardy; may require watering during hottest months; likes sandy soil; low salt
Iris, African	<i>Dietes iridioides</i>	9b–10b	😊 – 😊	☀️ ☁️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; spreads by rhizomes; white spring flowers; likes sandy soil; low salt
Iris, blue flag	<i>Iris hexagona</i>	8a–11	😊	☁️ ☀️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also called Dixie or prairie iris; found in swamps and wet prairies in north and central Florida; blue spring flowers; likes acidic or sandy soil; low salt; native
Iris, spuria hybrids	<i>Iris</i> spp.	8a–9a	😊 – 😊	☀️ ☁️	2	Depends on species	Perennial; 150+ cultivars available; different species have different cultural requirements; low salt
Iris, Virginia	<i>Iris virginica</i>	8a–11	😊 – 😊	☀️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also called Virginia iris; flowers in spring in south Florida and in summer in north Florida; purple, lavender and yellow blooms; low salt; native
Iris, yellow African	<i>Dietes bicolor</i>	9b–11	😊 – 😊	☀️ ☁️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also called fortnight lily; yellow flowers bloom on a two-week cycle in spring and summer; likes sandy soil; low salt
Kalanchoe	<i>Kalanchoe blossfeldina</i>	9b–11	😊	☀️ ☁️	1.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; succulent, often invasive; other species have different forms; common potted plant; spring and summer blooms; prefers sandy soil; medium salt
Lantana, gold mound	<i>Lantana camara</i> 'Gold Mound'	9b–11	😊	☀️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; gold mound is sterile variety; too much water and fertilizer reduce blooming; foliage damaged at 25°F, freezes to ground at 20°F; does well in sandy, dry sites; high salt; evergreen
Lantana, trailing	<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>	9a–11	😊	☀️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; won't tolerate foot traffic or mowing; foliage damaged at 25°F, freezes to ground around 20°F; purple flowers; does well in sandy, dry sites; high salt; evergreen
Lizards tail	<i>Saururus cernuus</i>	8b–11	😊 – 😊	☁️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; nodding spikes of white flowers; rhizomatous; forms extensive colonies; likes sandy soil; low salt; native
Marigold, French	<i>Tagetes patula</i>	8a–11	😊	☀️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; summer heat causes temporary decline in flowering; not damaged by root-knot nematodes; yellow or orange flowers in spring, summer and fall; tolerates dry soil; low salt
Marigold, sweet	<i>Tagetes lucida</i>	8b–11	😊	☀️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; long-lasting cut flower; prone to scale; yellow spring, summer and fall blooms; low salt
Mexican sunflower	<i>Tithonia diversifolia</i>	9b–11	😊 – 😊	☀️	6	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; can be invasive; roots easily; heat- and drought-resistant; yellow spring and summer flowers smell like honey; likes sandy soil; medium salt; wildlife value
Mistflower	<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	8a–11	😊 – 😊	☀️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; fluffy blue flowers on stalks; hardy, adaptable; plant in north Florida April-May, in central Florida March-April and September-October, in south Florida November-February; likes sandy soil; low salt; native
Moss rose	<i>Portulaca grandiflora</i>	8a–11	😊 – 😊	☀️	0.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; low-growing succulent; excellent groundcover; fleshy, often reddish, stems; flowers short-lived but prolific; cold-tender; likes sandy soil; medium salt
Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	8a–9b	😊	☀️	1	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; also called Indian cress; quits flowering during prolonged heat; winter blooms; heavily damaged by root-knot nematodes; tolerates poor, sandy soil; low salt
Paint brush	<i>Carphephorus corymbosus</i>	8a–11	😊	☀️	4	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; aster family with flattish heads of tubular rose-colored flowers; fall blooms; prefers acidic soil; low salt; native
Pentas	<i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	8a–11	😊 – 😊	☀️ ☁️	4	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; sprawling shrub; likes sandy soil; low salt; wildlife value
Petunia	<i>Petunia x hybrida</i>	8a–11	😊	☀️	1.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Popular annual; cold-hardy to 20°F, can't tolerate heat; bi-colors available; problems with crown rot, aphids and nematodes; fall, winter and spring flowers; low salt
Phlox	<i>Phlox subulata</i>	8a–9b	😊 – 😊	☀️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; spreading; cold-hardy; blue, purple or lavender spring flowers; likes sandy soil; low salt
Pineland heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium polyphyllum</i>	9b–11	😊 – 😊	☀️	2.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; occurs from Flagler County to Keys; white flowers; likes sandy soil; low salt; native
Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	8a–11	😊 – 😊	☀️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; clumping; long-lasting cut flowers; purple flowers in spring and summer; prefers well-drained soil; medium salt; native
Rain-lily	<i>Zephyranthes simpsonii</i>	8a–11	😊 – 😊	☁️ ☀️	1	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; herbaceous; grass-like foliage; purple, white and pink flowers; blooms after rains during warm weather; high salt; native
Rattlesnake master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	8a–11	😊 – 😊	☀️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also called button snakeroot; branched stalks of white, button-like flowers from weakly spiny yucca-like leaves; blooms in spring, summer and fall; likes sandy soil; low salt; native
Sage	<i>Salvia</i> spp.	8a–11	😊 – 😊	☀️	2–5	Depends on species	Perennial; bushy and upright; many species available; flowering species-dependent; likes sandy soil; low salt
Sage, lyre-leaved	<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	8a–11	😊 – 😊	☀️ ☁️	1.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; basal rosette with lyre-shaped red markings on leaves; slender stalks, purple spring flowers; mint family; likes sandy soil; low salt; native
Sage, scarlet	<i>Salvia splendens</i>	8a–11	😊	☀️ ☁️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; attracts hummingbirds; cut back for multiple flowering; red spring and summer blooms; likes sandy soil; low salt; wildlife value
Sage, tropical red	<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	8a–11	😊 – 😊	☀️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; reseeds profusely; likes sandy soil; medium salt; wildlife value; native
Scarlet milkweed	<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	9b–11	😊 – 😊	☀️	4	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also called blood flower and tropical milkweed; orange, red or yellow flowers in spring, summer and fall; likes sandy soil; low salt; wildlife value

SOIL MOISTURE ☹️ Dry 😊 Moist 😊 – 😊 Wet

LIGHT ☀️ Full Sun ☁️ Partial Sun ☁️ Shade

GROWTH RATE 🟢🟢🟢🟢 Slow 🟢🟢🟢 Medium 🟢🟢🟢🟢 Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference

# FLOWERS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Hardiness Range	Soil Moisture Range*	Light Range*	Mature Size (feet)	Growth Rate	Comments
Scorpion tail	<i>Heliotropium angiospermum</i>	9a–11	☹️	☀️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; seaside heliotrope, <i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i> , does well on coastal sites; white flowers; prefers sandy soil; native
Sea oxeye daisy	<i>Borrchia frutescens</i>	8b–11	☹️ – 🟰	☀️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; forms extensive colonies; silvery foliage, yellow flowers; in southwest Florida, <i>Borrchia arborescens</i> has dark green leaves; likes sandy soil; high salt; native
Seaside goldenrod	<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	8a–11	🟰 – ☹️	☀️	6	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; doesn't cause allergies; yellow spring and fall blooms; likes sandy soil; high salt; native
Shasta daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum x superbum</i>	8b–11	🟰	☀️ ☁️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; white with yellow center, white winter flowers; dwarf varieties available; divide clumps in fall for new plantings; excellent cut flower; low salt
Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	8a–11	🟰	☀️ ☁️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; many cultivars available; grows from 6 inches to 6 feet; remove spent flowers for re-bloom; damaged by root-knot nematodes; winter and spring flowers
Spider lily	<i>Hymenocallis latifolia</i>	9a–11	☹️ – 🟰	☀️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; fragrant white flowers in spring, summer and fall; stalks grow from strap-like leaves; thin white membrane in center of flower; likes sandy soil; high salt; native
Spiderwort, blue	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	8a–11	🟰	☀️ ☁️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; rhizomatous; forms clumps; blue flowers; native
Spiral ginger	<i>Costus barbatus</i>	8a–11	☹️ – 🟰	☀️ ☁️	5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also called red torch ginger; showy, waxy red flowers atop tall stalks in spring, summer and fall; large spiral-arranged leaves; sprawling, spreading clump; likes sandy soil; medium salt
String-lily	<i>Crinum americanum</i>	8a–11	🟰🟰🟰 – 🟰🟰	☀️ ☁️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also called swamp lily; tall, fragrant, stringy white flower; blooms in spring, summer and fall; stalks grow from strap-like leaves; amaryllis family; likes acidic soil; low salt; native
Sunflower, beach	<i>Helianthus debilis</i>	8a–11	☹️	☀️	1.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; yellow rayed flower with maroon; reseeds readily; may form extensive colonies; likes sandy soil; high salt; native
Sunflower, narrow-leaved	<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	8a–9b	🟰 – 🟰🟰🟰	☀️	6	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; bright-yellow rayed flowers in summer and fall; prefers acidic and sandy soil; low salt; native
Sweet alyssum	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	8a–11	🟰	☀️ ☁️	1	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; grows low to ground; often used for borders or edges; cold-hardy; lavender, purple, pink or white flowers in fall, winter and spring; low salt
Sweet William	<i>Dianthus barbatus</i>	8a–9b	☹️ – 🟰	☀️ ☁️	1.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; also known as sweet William; hardy, grows in north Florida winter; lightly damaged by root-knot nematodes; purple or red flowers in spring, fall and winter; likes sandy soil; low salt
Verbena, beach	<i>Glandularia maritima</i>	9b–11	☹️	☀️	1.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also called coastal mock vervain; reseeds in sandy disturbed areas; doesn't like mulch; uncommon, threatened; purple flower; prefers sandy soil; high salt; native
Verbena, garden	<i>Verbena x hybrida</i>	9a–11	🟰	☀️	1.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; many varieties of cultivars available; problems with scale, mealybug and chewing insects; freezes to ground but will re-grow from roots; needs good air circulation; spring, fall and winter blooms; likes sandy soil; low salt
Verbena, moss	<i>Glandularia pulchella</i>	8a–11	☹️ – 🟰	☀️	0.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; finely divided leaves; prostrate growth habit; drought-tolerant; can sustain itself with infrequent mowing; purple spring, summer and fall flowers; likes sandy soil; low salt
Verbena, purpletop	<i>Verbena bonariensis</i>	8a–9b	☹️	☀️ ☁️	4	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; upright; attracts butterflies; purple flowers in spring and summer; low salt; wildlife value
Verbena, Tampa	<i>Glandularia tampensis</i>	9b–11	🟰 – ☹️	☀️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; purple flowers cluster atop long stalks; blooms in spring, summer and fall; likes sandy soil; high salt; wildlife value; native
Wild columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	8a–9b	☹️ – 🟰	☁️ ☀️	3	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; dainty plant with nodding blooms; red or yellow spring flowers; endangered in Florida; prefers alkaline soil; low salt; wildlife value; native
Wild petunia	<i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i>	8a–11	☹️ – 🟰	☀️ ☁️	1.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Herbaceous; large variety of form and color; red or yellow flowers in spring; likes sandy soil; low salt; native
Wishbone flower	<i>Torenia fournieri</i>	9a–11	🟰	☀️ ☁️	1	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Annual; also called bluewings; escaped cultivation is found on disturbed sites; blooms in spring, fall and winter
Woodland pinkroot	<i>Spigelia marilandica</i>	8a–9a	🟰	☁️ ☀️	2	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; also known as Indian pink; blooms spring and summer; prefers acidic and sandy soil; low salt; wildlife value; native
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	8a–11	🟰 – ☹️	☀️	1.5	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; clumping growth habit; cold-hardy; white or pink flowers in spring; low salt; native
Yellow canna	<i>Canna flaccida</i>	8a–11	🟰 – 🟰🟰🟰	☀️ ☁️	4	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; good all-around groundcover; comes back from freezes; yellow spring and summer flowers; prefers wet sites and sandy soil; low salt; native
Yellowtop	<i>Flaveria linearis</i>	8b–11	🟰 – ☹️	☀️	4	🟢🟢🟢🟢	Perennial; goldenrod relative with flat-topped clusters of small yellow flowers; likes sandy soil; high salt; native

SOIL MOISTURE ☹️ Dry 🟰 Moist 🟰🟰 Wet

LIGHT ☀️ Full Sun ☀️☁️ Partial Sun ☁️ Shade

GROWTH RATE 🟢🟢🟢🟢 Slow 🟢🟢🟢 Medium 🟢🟢🟢 Fast

\* Soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Verbena, moss  
*Glandularia pulchella*



Blanket flower  
*Gaillardia pulchella*



Spiderwort  
*Tradescantia ohiensis*



Purple coneflower  
*Echinacea purpurea*



Crinum lily  
*Crinum* spp.

Aster, Stokes  
*Stokesia laevis*





Iris, blue flag  
*Iris hexagona*



Beach sunflower  
*Helianthus debilis*



Mistflower  
*Conoclinium coelestinum*



Sage, tropical red  
*Salvia coccinea*



Wild petunia  
*Ruellia caroliniensis*



Butterfly weed  
*Asclepias tuberosa*



Wild columbine  
*Aquilegia canadensis*



Rain-lily  
*Zephyranthes simpsonii*



Scarlet milkweed  
*Asclepias curassavica*

## Glossary

**acid** — A condition which is derived by partial exchange of replaceable hydrogen; an element that is sour; on the pH scale, acid conditions are any pH below 7.0 which is neutral.

**alkaline** — The condition of water or soil that contains an amount of alkali substances (various soluble salts) to raise the pH above 7.0; when extreme, alkalinity is caustic.

**aquifer** — A layer of underground rock or sand which stores and carries water.

**brackish** — Somewhat salty.

**conserve** — To use only what is needed.

**deciduous** — Losing foliage in autumn or winter.

**drawdowns** — Lowered water levels.

**ecotones** — Regions where one ecosystem blends into another.

**epiphyte** — A plant that gets its moisture and nutrients from the air and rain.

**groundcovers** — Small plants that live close to the ground.

**groundwater** — Water below the earth's surface.

**herbaceous** — Having the texture, color or appearance of a leaf, with little or no woody tissue.

**humus** — Decomposed plant or animal matter; the organic portion of soil.

**hydric** — Characterized by abundant moisture.

**inorganic** — Composed of matter other than plant or animal.

**leach** — To pass through by percolation.

**marl** — A loose earthy deposit containing a substantial amount of calcium carbonate; used for soils deficient in lime.

**mesic** — Moist conditions; characterized by a moderate amount of moisture.

**microclimate** — A small-scale site of special conditions within a larger climate.

**plat** — A plan or map of a piece of land.

**potable** — Water suitable for human consumption.

**practical turf area** — A place where grass serves a function, such as a child's or pet's play area.

**recharge area** — A place where water is able to seep into the ground and replenish an aquifer because no confining layer is present.

**saline** — Containing salt.

**saltwater intrusion** — When salt water moves into the freshwater zone of an aquifer, making the water unfit for drinking.

**shrub strata** — The shrub layer of a forest community, under the canopy and understory tree species.

**sinkhole** — A hole in the ground caused by erosion of underground limestone.

**specimen planting** — A plant located as a stand-alone highlight in a landscape design.

**stormwater runoff** — Rainwater that runs off surfaces into water bodies.

**succession** — A series of ecosystem changes where plants compete, succeeding and displacing each other as they respond to, and so modify, their environment.

**topography** — Natural features of land.

**understory** — The vegetative layer under a forest canopy, but above the shrub and groundcover layers.

**water resource caution areas** — Areas identified by the water management districts where existing sources of water may not be adequate to supply water for future human needs while maintaining water resources and related natural systems.

**water table** — The upper limit of where groundwater permeates the ground.

**wetlands** — Areas containing much soil moisture.

**xeric** — Characterized by dry conditions; requiring only a small amount of moisture.

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