

# W A T E R W I S E

South Florida  
Landscapes



Landscaping to Promote Water Conservation  
Using the Principles of Xeriscape™

## BEFORE YOU DIG...CHECK YOUR TEMP

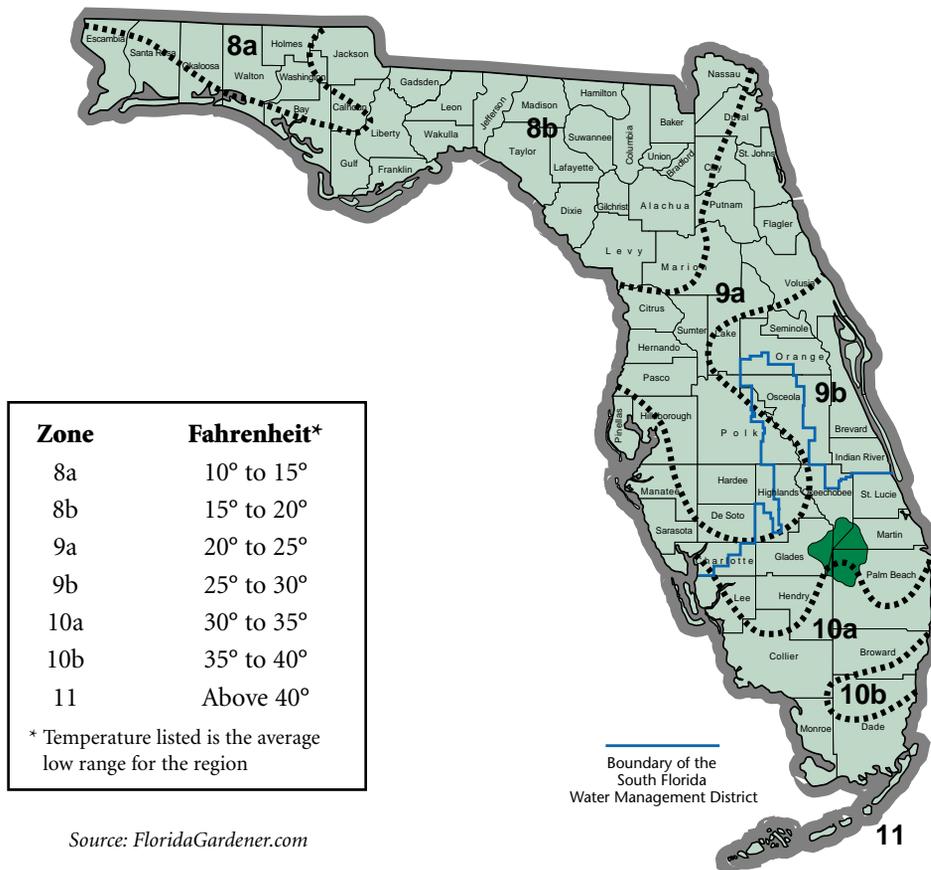
Before beginning any waterwise landscape, one of the most important considerations in determining what plants you can grow in your yard or garden is whether or not they will survive the climate and temperature in your area. Plant hardiness zones are a general guide to help you know which plants will grow where you live because plants can vary in the temperature extremes they can endure.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zone Map is the standard measure of plant hardiness throughout the United States. In South Florida, there are seven delineations between temperature zones ranging from 9a (20 to 25° F) to 11 (40° F and up).

Keep in mind that plant hardiness zones are only a general guide. Other conditions influence whether a plant will survive in your garden or yard. You must also consider soil types, rainfall, daytime temperatures, day length, wind, humidity and heat. Within your own yard, block and county, there are microclimates that affect how plants grow. One part of your yard may be hotter, colder, wetter, drier, shadier or sunnier; therefore, certain plants may do better in one spot than another.

Starting on page 18, you will find easy-to-read plant lists that will help you determine what plants will thrive in your yard or garden. The lists include the Florida temperature hardiness zone range, watering needs, salt tolerance, light range, plant type, size, growth rate and helpful comments from plant experts. South Florida landscapes are more than just queen palm trees and impatiens. You can select from dozens of beautiful waterwise trees, shrubs, flowers, vines, and groundcover suitable for South Florida. Get creative and enjoy your waterwise landscape!

### Plant Hardiness Zones for Florida



Source: FloridaGardener.com

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### Landscaping to Promote Water Conservation Using the Principles of Xeriscape™

from the South Florida Water Management District



### Contents

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Introduction.....                                | 2                 |
| What Is Xeriscape Landscaping? .....             | 2                 |
| The Seven Steps of Xeriscape .....               | 3                 |
| <i>Plan and Design – Step 1</i> .....            | 4                 |
| <i>Obtain a Soil Analysis – Step 2</i> .....     | 6                 |
| <i>Choose Proper Plants – Step 3</i> .....       | 7                 |
| <i>Use Turf Wisely – Step 4</i> .....            | 10                |
| <i>Irrigate Efficiently – Step 5</i> .....       | 10                |
| <i>Use Mulch – Step 6</i> .....                  | 12                |
| <i>Perform Proper Maintenance – Step 7</i> ..... | 13                |
| Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping .....     | 15                |
| List of Florida’s Most Invasive Species.....     | 16                |
| Plant Lists and Photographs.....                 | 18                |
| Glossary .....                                   | 76                |
| Bibliography .....                               | inside back cover |



## INTRODUCTION

Florida is surrounded on three sides by water and its interior is filled with wetlands, thousands of lakes, and many rivers and streams. With all this water around, many people may not realize the need to **conserve** water. Despite Florida's apparent watery bounty, 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 South Florida Water Management District in order to help you work with nature in our region'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.

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 comprehensive plant list is included to help you choose the best plants for your landscape. Resources and references for more specific information about gardening techniques 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 quality landscaping 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. In many Florida homes, as much as half of household water is used outdoors, mostly for lawn and garden irrigation. 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.

## THE SEVEN STEPS OF XERISCAPE

The seven simple steps 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 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 salt or temperature. To find your plant temperature hardiness zone, please refer to the map on the inside front cover. Preserve as many existing trees and shrubs as possible, if they're healthy and if the root systems are not significantly impacted by construction. Appropriately placed Native vegetation

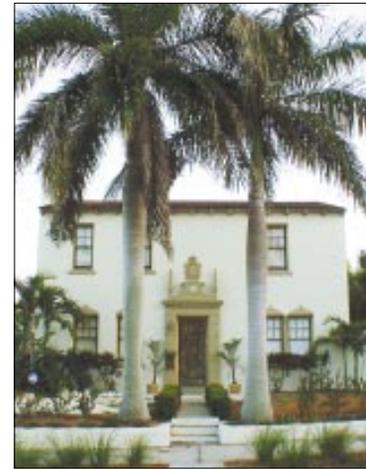
will remain healthy with minimal supplemental irrigation and care once established.

- 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. Plan **practical turf areas** where turf 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. Irrigate only when plants need water or when rain is inadequate. Use the right irrigation system, proper sprinkler head and spacing for each area.

- 6. USE MULCH** — Mulch helps hold moisture in the soil, moderate temperature, slowly release nutrients, reduce weed growth and slow erosion. Spread mulch 2 to 4 inches thick, around shrubs and trees and on flower beds, but be sure to keep 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.



## Plan and Design – Step 1

Whether you are developing a new Xeriscape landscape or renovating an existing landscape, proper planning and design are important. Think about the various areas of your landscape in terms of how they should be developed for different uses and how much space you should allot to each area.

As you plan each area, consider several different arrangements. For example, is a fence, wall or hedge more appropriate for screening and/or security? How much space is needed for active recreation, a garden or for patio entertaining? Only after these decisions are made should you begin thinking about what plants to use.

### BEGIN WITH A BASE MAP

A base map is a plan of your property drawn to scale on graph paper showing the location of the house, its orientation to the sun, other structures on the site, unusual features and existing vegetation. Accuracy in the base map will help you determine if your site will accommodate all of your plans. Later, it will help determine the quantity of any construction materials and plants needed.

Next, lay a sheet of tracing paper over the base map and label it “Site Analysis.” Use arrows to indicate the direction of desirable views you want to emphasize and any undesirable views you want to screen. Use arrows to indicate the drainage patterns of the property, including any low spots or eroded areas. Make plans to correct potential drainage problems before planting. This may require re-grading, bringing in additional soil, building retaining walls or shaping terraces. Any changes in the existing landscape should be subtle so that the natural character of the landscape is retained.

### PLAN FOR DIFFERENT USE AREAS

To begin your Xeriscape plan, overlay the base map of your property and site analysis sheet with another piece of tracing paper. On this sheet indicate the public, private and service areas of your landscape. See *figure 1*. Consider how these areas

will be developed based on space requirements for each activity.

The public area is the highly visible area that most visitors see, such as the entry to the home. In a traditional landscape, this area typically receives the most care, including the most water. Therefore, the careful design of this area is important for water conservation. It is possible to design this area to require minimal water and maintenance without sacrificing quality or appearance.

The private area of the landscape, usually the backyard, is where most outdoor activity occurs. It is generally the family gathering area. It may also include a vegetable garden or fruit trees. The landscape in this area needs to be functional, attractive and durable, but it also should be designed to require less water than the public area of the landscape.

The service area is the working or utility area of the landscape, an area usually screened from view and containing such items as garbage cans, outdoor equipment, air-conditioning units or doghouse. In terms of routine maintenance, this area would be designed to require the least care and water of the three areas.

### ESTABLISH WATER-USE ZONES

In addition to dividing the landscape into use areas, a Xeriscape plan further divides the landscape into three water-use zones: high or **oasis** (regular watering), moderate or drought-tolerant (occasional watering) and low or natural (rainfall watering). See *figure 2*. There may be several of these zones within an individual landscape. High water-use zones, or oasis zones, are highly visible, high maintenance areas of the landscape, such as the area around the patio where plants are watered regularly in the absence of rainfall. In the moderate water-use zones, established plants are watered only when they wilt or show other symptoms of moisture stress.

In the low water-use zones, plants are watered by natural rainfall and would not be irrigated. For greatest water conservation, design as much of your landscape as possible into low water-use zones. Most

people are surprised to learn that the majority of our woody ornamental trees and shrubs, turfgrasses, some herbaceous perennials and even some annuals grow well in low water-use zones where they need no irrigation once they are established.

Expect a slight loss of quality during extended dry periods, but don't be alarmed. Many plants will literally shut down during drought and cease growing. Bahia grass will go dormant and turn brown during drought, then bounce back with the first rains. Learning to accept this "less than perfect" appearance during dry periods is one of the most difficult concepts to overcome in any landscape.

One exception to the water zone rule is newly planted ornamental plants and turfgrasses. These plants require regular irrigation during the establishment period (30 to 60 days) regardless of their intended water-use zone.

Now, add a new overlay of tracing paper to the base map and sketch your desired water-use zones. The landscape is beginning to take shape and you can visualize the form of the various beds, but construction materials and plants have not yet been identified.

### DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN

Once you have settled on a design scheme and a water management arrangement, give form and definition to the various spaces in your plan. With the identification of planting spaces as well as edging materials, groundcovers and paving, the Master Plan begins to take form. This is a plan showing the final product of your efforts. Straight lines or smooth flowing curves are best—tight curves or unnecessary bends can be maintenance problems. Use right angles or gentle curves, and avoid acute angles that are difficult to maintain and irrigate. Remember that

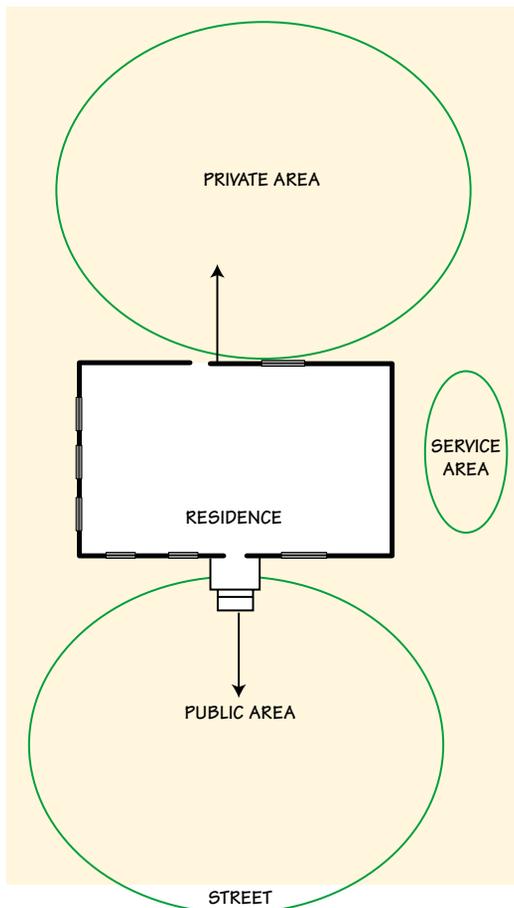


Figure 1 The basic use area of a typical residential lot

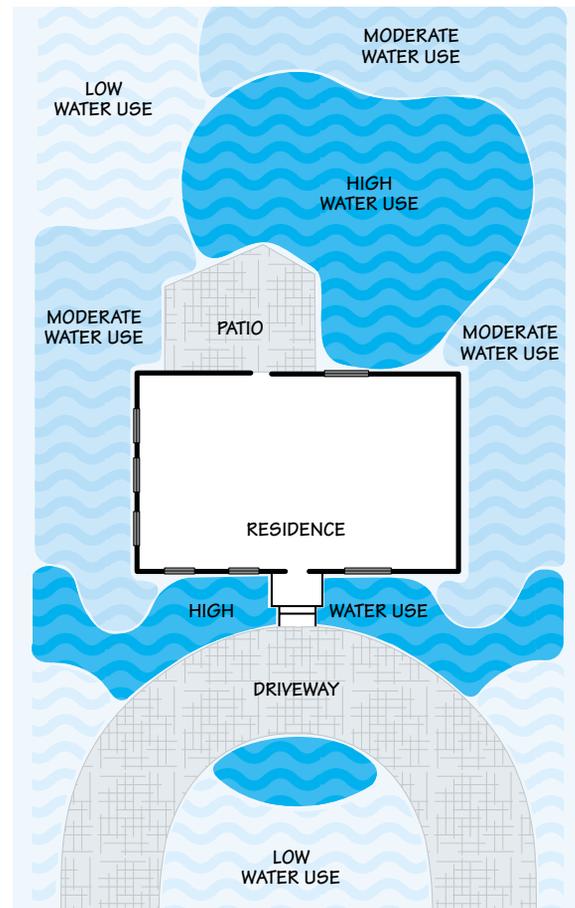


Figure 2 Diagram of water use zones of property

simplicity in the design will ensure easy maintenance and water-use efficiency. A prototype Master Plan is shown in *figure 3*.

### FIT PLANTS TO THE DESIGN

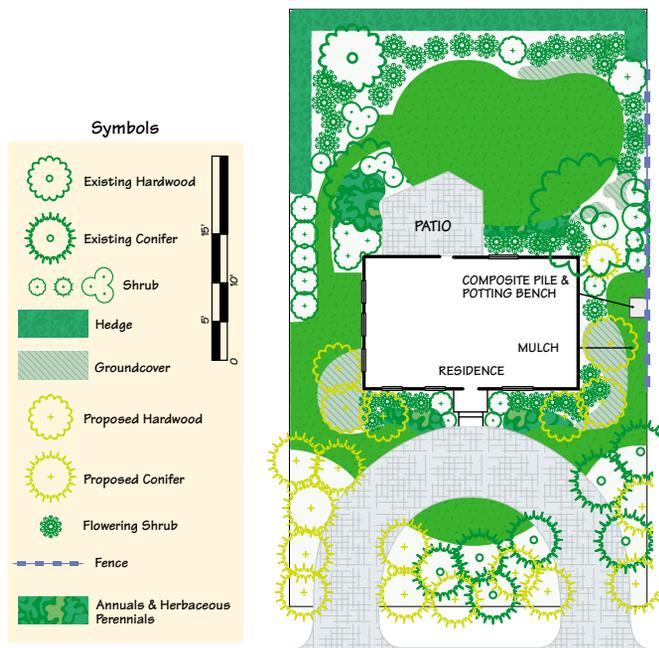
Once you achieve the style and overall effect you desire, it is time to select plants to fill the assigned spaces. It is very important to select plants that complement and accent the good features of the architecture and construction materials rather than overpower them.

Group plantings to conform to the shape of plant beds. Avoid rigid or formal, geometric plantings as much as possible.

Place plants at the proper spacing in the landscape to ensure easy maintenance and more efficient use of water. It is extremely important to space plants far enough apart so they can achieve their mature size without being crowded.

Select plants that have sizes and forms that conform to their location without having to be sheared or frequently pruned to keep them in bounds.

Choose plants with the same shapes and ultimate sizes as the space you want them to fill.



**Figure 3** Master Plan for incorporating Xeriscape principles. Note how the character of this landscape is very similar to that of a traditional landscape.

## Obtain a Soil Analysis – Step 2

### INSPECT YOUR SOIL

A thorough analysis of both the physical and chemical characteristics of the soil is important when developing a waterwise landscape. Each soil has its own unique structure and texture, drainage pattern, pH, nutrient content and need for amendments and fertilizer. To complicate matters, there may be several different soil types within an individual landscape, or the soil may consist of fill dirt brought onto the site. Soils are seldom perfect, and most of them can be improved in some way to ensure best plant growth.

### SOIL ANALYSIS SAVES GUESSWORK

Before landscaping, take a soil sample to your County Cooperative Extension Service for testing.

### DON'T ADD ORGANIC MATTER TO THE PLANTING HOLE FOR TREES AND SHRUBS

For years, we have added organic matter like peat moss, animal manure or compost to the planting hole to enrich the soil, to conserve moisture and to improve plant growth. But recent research shows no benefit from amending the planting hole. In fact, organic matter added to individual planting holes in soil acts like a sponge in a bathtub, holding excess moisture around plant roots after irrigation or rainfall. Waterlogged soils that suffocate plant roots are a leading cause of plant death. Even in well-drained sandy soils, organic matter encourages the roots of plants to stay within the hole instead of growing out to explore the native soil.

When planting individual trees and shrubs, dig a large planting hole at least two times wider than the root ball of the plant. See *figure 4*. Research at the University of Florida shows that plants transplanted into a large planting hole get established more quickly and develop a significantly larger root system than those in a small hole no larger than the root ball. A large, extensive root mass improves the plant's ability to absorb moisture from the soil and helps the plant survive drought.

Next, make certain the top of the root ball is level or slightly above the soil surface, then backfill with

the same soil removed from the hole. Do not add amendments to the hole. Simply backfill with the native soil after removing stones, sticks and other debris. Tamp the soil lightly to eliminate air pockets. Water thoroughly, and then add an organic mulch to conserve moisture.

When planting a group of shrubs, cultivate the soil throughout the area as deeply as possible. Cultivation changes the structure of the native soil and provides a good environment for growth.

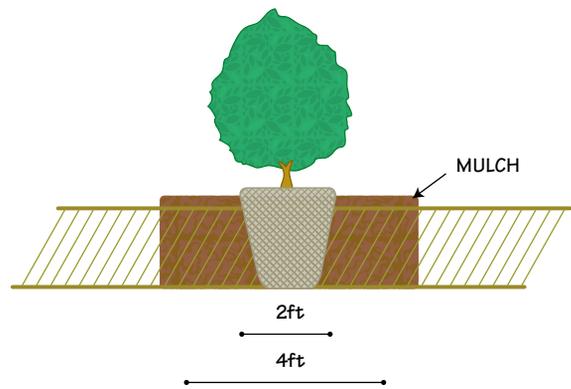
#### IMPROVE THE STRUCTURE OF POOR SOILS

Certain native soils such as dense, poorly drained clays silts have such poor structure that plant growth suffers unless they are improved. Poorly drained soils can be improved in several ways. Sometimes deep cultivation will break apart a hard layer of soil (hardpan) several inches below the soil surface and improve drainage.

On the other hand, sandy soils that tend to dry out rapidly and hold little moisture will benefit from organic matter such as aged animal manure or compost incorporated uniformly throughout the planting bed. This is particularly helpful when plants requiring water, such as annuals, are to be grown. However, instead of adding the organic matter to the planting hole, apply 3 to 6 inches on the soil surface and incorporate it into the soil using a rotary tiller.

When selecting plants for a Xeriscape landscape, keep in mind this important fact: It is not the plants we select that save water, but our ability to locate them in the landscape appropriately and to manage them properly that determines their water needs.

Any ornamental plant or turfgrass presently on the market can be used in a Xeriscape-type landscape. In fact, you may be surprised to learn just how many plants can thrive without any supplemental water once they are established. The key is to identify the water needs of the plant you select, then group it in the landscape with other plants having similar needs for water. By doing this, supplemental irrigation can be applied most efficiently to those plants that require it. The result is maximum water conservation.



**Figure 4** Diagram of properly planted shrub. Proper planting is the key to healthy root growth and drought tolerance of trees and shrubs.

Also, design turf in practical shapes that can be efficiently irrigated and maintained. The shape of a turf area has a direct impact on water use and waste. Long, narrow strips of turf are hard to water efficiently. Turf areas of the same size that are square or rounded are practical. As irrigated space is reduced, water savings increase.

### Choose Proper Plants – Step 3

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 non-native plants cultivated specifically for Florida conditions that are water-efficient and resistant to disease and pests. 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. These plants have *no* place in a Xeriscape landscape.

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.

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.

The diverse South Florida landscape includes various plant communities. Different plant communities often converge gradually in what are 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 home landscapes and guide plant selection for 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 content. Sea oats, sea grapes and dune sunflowers are a few examples of beach dune plants.



### *Coastal scrub*

**MARITIME FORESTS** — Soil pH moderately alkaline to neutral; sandy with some shell. Gumbo limbo, bay and oak trees are found in maritime forests.

### *Pine Flatwoods*

The most common plant community in Florida. Acidic, sandy soil with a hardpan layer 1–3 feet below. Slash pines, gallberry and grasses are common in pine flatwoods.

### *Sandhills*

High pinelands of open longleaf pine with wiregrass, shrubs or turkey oaks.

### *Hardwood Forests*

Hardwood forests occur in patches in temperate areas of Florida. The soils are acidic and sandy.

**UPLAND MIXED FORESTS** — Occur throughout Florida's northern panhandle region on upland clay soils. Magnolia, beech, oak and maple trees are found here.

**UPLAND MESIC HARDWOOD FORESTS** — Oak-hickory to pine-oak-hickory; range through central to west-central Florida on rich upland soils and clay hills. Sweetbay, holly and oaks are common in this community.

### *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 with diverse tropical trees and plants.

**PINE ROCKLANDS** — Porous limestone with sandy **humus** and marl; good drainage. Pine and palmettos dominate with numerous rare plants.

**TROPICAL HARDWOOD HAMMOCKS** — Alkaline limestone with moist humus. A range of **understory** plants and a diverse canopy including bromeliads, orchids and ferns.

### *Prairies*

**DRY PRAIRIES** — Similar to pine flatwoods without the pine overstory; dry prairies occur in central to west central Florida. Scrub oaks, saw palmetto and wiregrass are common in dry prairies.

**WET PRAIRIES** — Herbaceous plants dominate with sparse woody species; often inundated. Sawgrass, slash pines and wax myrtle are found in wet prairies.

### *Scrub*

Includes Florida's rarest plants and animals. Soils sandy, infertile and well-drained. Sand pine, oaks and rosemary can be found in scrub areas.

**SCRUB CYPRESS** — South Florida community with thin marl soils over limestone; scrub pond cypress with grasses and sedges.

### *Cypress Swamp Forests*

Inundated most of the year, with epiphytes growing in the cypress canopy, and ferns and aquatic plants growing among cypress knees below.

### *Wetland Forests*

**SWAMP FOREST** — Usually inundated stands of cypress, maples, hickory and ash.

**HYDRIC HAMMOCK** — Occasionally flooded with evergreens, maples, water oaks, elms and palms.

### *Coastal Saline Wetlands*

**COASTAL SALTWATER MARSHES** — Grasses and rushes dominate; mostly north and west.

**MANGROVE SWAMPS** — Central and southern coasts with heavy muck created by leaf litter and alternate flooding and draining. Mangroves, buttonwood and sea oxeye daisy thrive in mangrove swamps.

## 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.

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 location.



*Cypress swamp*

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.

### 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.

However, when plantings 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 the **oasis** zone, usually a small area, colorful ornamental plants may be chosen that may require extra water or care.

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 found in Florida. Many tolerate the high winds that occur during 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.

### Use Turf Wisely – Step 4

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:

- **ADD ORGANIC MATTER.** This improves water retention of the soil and turf health.
- **GO LIGHT ON THE FERTILIZER.** Fertilization stimulates growth and increases water needs. If you do fertilize, use a slow-release nitrogen product. These products won’t be washed away like liquid or fast-release fertilizers, which can contaminate waterways through stormwater or irrigation runoff.
- **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 lawn mower 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 lawn mower blades are sharp, they give a clean cut. Grass torn and shredded by dull blades suffers stress, requiring 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.

### Irrigate Efficiently – Step 5

**PROPER DESIGN IS IMPORTANT.** The installation of an efficient sprinkler system begins with good design. The system must be capable of applying water uniformly over the desired area with a minimum of over-spray into adjacent areas.



CHECK THE APPLICATION RATE OF YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM. Application rate is the rate at which a sprinkler system applies water to the soil surface, measured in inches per hours (in/hr). If application rates exceed the absorption capacity of the soil, then runoff occurs. Problems with runoff are more likely to occur in clay soils that have a low intake capacity.

Rotary sprinklers usually have application rates of 0.25 to 0.50 inches per hour and rarely cause runoff. Spray heads, on the other hand, typically have application rates between 1 and 2 inches per hour and may cause runoff on heavy soils, especially where slopes are greater than 10 percent. If runoff occurs, turn the system off for an hour or two to let the water soak in, and then apply the remainder of the water.

Determine the application rate of a sprinkler system by placing three or four rain gauges or empty tuna cans at random on an irrigated area for a predetermined length of time (usually one hour). By knowing the application rates of your sprinkler system, you will know how long to operate the system to apply a given amount of water and will avoid wasting water. Average water level within the gauges

or tuna cans is a measure of the output of the system (in/hr). Repeat this procedure in each sprinkler zone, particularly if different types of sprinklers are used on different zones.

ADJUST SPRINKLER HEADS AS NEEDED. Improper adjustment of sprinkler heads not only wastes water but also may damage buildings or cause accidents if the water is allowed to spray onto buildings, public streets or sidewalks. Carefully adjust the radius and arc of part-circle sprinklers to prevent undesirable over-spray. Check the system several times during the year to ensure proper adjustment.

OPERATE SPRINKLERS BETWEEN 4 P.M. AND 10 A.M. Time of application affects water-use efficiency. The best time to irrigate with sprinklers is between 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. since the least amounts of sunlight and evaporation occur during these hours.

## GUIDELINES FOR IRRIGATING THE LANDSCAPE

AN AUTOMATIC CONTROLLER CAN HELP TO SAVE WATER. An automatic controller attached to the irrigation system turns the system on and off and controls the water flow through the various zones according to a pre-set time clock. It allows you to set the length of time each zone operates as well as the days of the week and time of day the system operates.

However, an automatic controller does not relieve you of the need to closely monitor its operation. Controllers should be re-programmed frequently during the growing season because water needs change from week to week.

A rainfall sensor or rain switch attached to the controller detects rainfall and prevents the irrigation system from operating if significant rainfall has occurred. Another type of sensor measures soil moisture and overrides the system when soil moisture is adequate. Sensors are especially useful if the system cannot be monitored and adjusted regularly.





**Mulched beds conserve soil moisture and add design interest to this bed of viburnum and crown of thorns.**

There are many different types of controllers on the market. Make sure you get one with the features you need. When managed properly, an automatic controller can pay for itself in reduced water usage, cost and labor.

HANDWATERING IS NOT JUST FOR NEWLY PLANTED ORNAMENTAL PLANTS. It is also an effective and efficient way of applying water to selected plants that show signs of stress during dry periods. The direct application of water to the base of the plant, provided it is applied slowly enough to be absorbed by the soil, uses less water and is more efficient than sprinkler irrigation.

KNOW WHEN AND HOW TO IRRIGATE TURFGRASS. Turf under water stress will appear a dull bluish green color, the leaf blades will roll inward, and footprints will remain on the grass after walking over an area.

Under optimum growing conditions (high water-use zone), turfgrasses use 1 to 1 1/2 inches of water per week during hot, dry weather. It is usually best to divide this amount into two applications per week applying 1/2 to 3/4 inch each time. Never apply more than 1/2 to 3/4 inch at a time as this will likely result in runoff or deep percolation below the root zone. In the

winter season when temperatures are cooler, it is usually adequate to irrigate only once per week or less.

NEVER WATER GRASS DAILY EXCEPT DURING ESTABLISHMENT. Daily irrigation with a small amount of water encourages a shallow root system and reduced drought tolerance as shown in *figure 5*. Since roots generally grow where the soil is moist, a shallow root system also prevents efficient uptake of plant nutrients. Shallow, frequent irrigation increases evaporative water loss from the soil.

### **Use Mulch – Step 6**

Mulching is one of the most beneficial landscape practices. Mulches conserve moisture by preventing evaporative water loss from the soil surface and reducing the need for supplemental irrigation during periods of limited rainfall. By maintaining an even moisture supply in the soil, mulches prevent fluctuations in soil moisture that can damage roots.

Mulches also prevent crusting of the soil surface and allow water to penetrate readily to plant roots. They insulate the roots of plants from summer heat and winter cold and help control weeds that compete with plants for moisture. By serving as a barrier between the plant and soil, mulches help discourage soil-borne diseases that stress plants and cause them to have a higher demand for water.

Islands of mulch beds designed to blend with the landscape are an economical way to retrofit an existing landscape by reducing water needs and maintenance requirements. Aside from occasional weed control and topdressing with additional mulch, unplanted mulched areas require no water and little routine maintenance.

Pine straw, melaleuca mulch, recycled yard waste and shredded hardwood mulch or chips are some of the best mulches for a waterwise landscape. These fine-textured mulches hold moisture in the soil better than coarse-textured mulches like large-nugget pine bark. They also are non-matting and allow water, nutrients and oxygen to freely penetrate to plant roots.

Inorganic mulches, on the other hand, such as rock, gravel and marble absorb and re-radiate heat

from the sun and increase water loss from plants and soil. *Table 1* compares commonly used mulches on the market today. Cypress mulch is not recommended in order to protect natural cypress wetlands.

Apply approximately 3 inches of mulch under ornamental plants in the landscape. Avoid applying too much mulch because it encourages shallow roots that are easily damaged by excessive cold, heat or drought.

Where possible, extend the mulched area two to three times beyond the canopy spread of ornamental trees and shrubs. Research shows that the roots of ornamental plants grow far beyond the canopy spread, so it is important to mulch as large an area as practical.

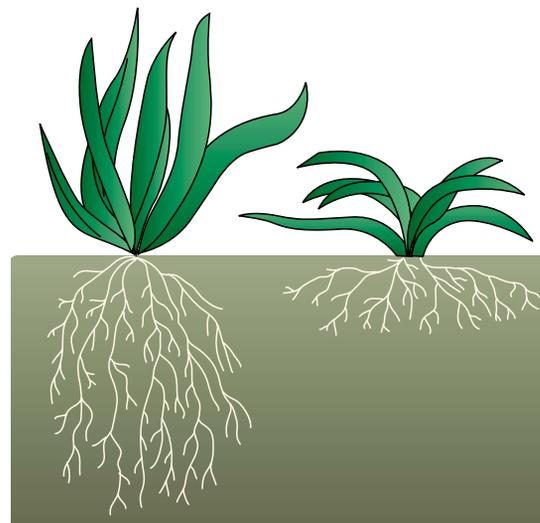
Once mulch is in place, use your hand to pull it back 2 to 3 inches away from the trunk of trees and shrubs. Keeping mulch away from the trunk will help prevent wood rotting diseases.

During periods of limited rainfall, make certain sufficient mulch is maintained beneath plants. If watering restrictions prevent you from irrigating, mulches will help conserve the soil's remaining moisture.

Newspapers placed under organic mulches improve water conservation in the soil and provide effective recycling. Place them on the soil surface under organic mulch at planting time.

### Perform Proper Maintenance – Step 7

A Xeriscape landscape is a low-maintenance landscape. By working smarter, not harder, in the landscape, you'll save time, energy and water without sacrificing the beauty of the environment.



*Figure 5 The healthy, deep-rooted grass on the left results from proper irrigation. The weak, shallow-rooted grass on the right results from light, frequent irrigation.*

FERTILIZE LESS AND USE SLOW-RELEASE FERTILIZERS.

Many common commercial fertilizers are known by their analysis number, such as 16-4-8, 10-10-10 or 6-6-6. A complete fertilizer contains nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. The numbers indicate the percentage of each of these nutrients. A 16-4-8 grade, for example, contains 16 percent nitrogen, 4 percent available phosphorus, and 8 percent soluble potassium. Purchase a fertilizer with nitrogen in slow-release form. Slow-release type fertilizers last longer by releasing nutrients gradually, in some cases for an entire season with one application. Also, they do not leach from the soil or wash away in runoff as readily as all-purpose fertilizers.

#### COMMONLY USED MULCHES

| MULCH      | SOURCE  | DURABILITY | SUBSIDENCE | HIGH IN NUTRIENTS | MAINTAINS PH | MAINTAINS COLOR |
|------------|---|------------|------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| eucalyptus | plantations   | poor       | good       | poor              | good         | poor            |
| melaleuca  | degraded wetlands   | good       | good       | poor              | good         | good            |
| pine bark  | by-product  | good       | good       | poor              | good         | fair            |
| pine straw | pine plantations  | good       | poor       | fair              | poor         | poor            |
| recycled   | various   | good       | fair       | good              | good         | good            |
| cypress    | Not recommended in order to protect natural cypress wetlands. |            |            |                   |              |                 |

*Table 1 Attributes of suggested mulches*



Always check the application rate on the label. The label usually suggests an application rate for optimum growth. This application rate is ideal for newly planted ornamental plants and turfgrasses to encourage healthy new growth and plant establishment. However, once plants are established, the recommended application rate of fertilizer can be reduced without sacrificing quality or appearance. This reduction in application rate is particularly important before and during dry periods. A good rule of thumb on established plants is to cut in half the rate recommended on the package.

Leaving grass clippings on turfgrass at each mowing supplies the grass with recycled nutrients and reduces the need for supplemental fertilizer. This does not promote thatch (a spongy condition of the turf). Thatch results from an accumulation of grass stems, shoots and roots, not clippings. By leaving cuttings on your lawn, as much as one-third of the nutrients applied to your lawn can be recycled.

| TURFGRASS      | MOWING HEIGHT (inches) |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Centipede      | 1 to 1.5               |
| Bermuda        | 1 to 2                 |
| Hybrid Bermuda | 0.5 to 1.5             |
| St. Augustine  | 2 to 3                 |

*Table 2 Mowing heights for turfgrasses*

PROPER MOWING SAVES WATER. Mow at the recommended height (*table 2*). Keep blade sharp and mow often enough so that no more than one-third of the leaf blade is removed at each mowing. Research shows that raising the mower blade during dry weather and cutting the grass higher encourages deeper rooting, increases turf survival during drought and reduces water demand.

Avoid scalping and stressing the grass and make certain mower blade is sharp at all times.

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 has information on how and when to make proper pruning cuts for each type of plant.



## **PLANTS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR LANDSCAPING**

The problem with invasive, exotic plants is that they spread from managed landscapes into Florida's natural areas. These plants crowd out native plants and stress the habitats that support Florida's threatened and endangered species of plants and animals. Melaleuca, Brazilian peppertree, water hyacinth and kudzu are well known pests that cost the state millions of dollars annually to control. Not as well known are some ornamental plants that also spread into Florida's waterways, parks and natural areas.

This guide includes a list of plants not recommended for landscaping because they have shown their abilities to invade natural areas. The list is maintained by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC), an organization comprised of professional botanists, environmental scientists, park rangers and land managers. The list is updated every two years based on observations and documented records of pest plants' spread and reproduction in Florida's natural areas. It is posted at the FLEPPC web site ([www.fleppc.org](http://www.fleppc.org)). Some of the plants on the FLEPPC list are prohibited from possession, sale or cultivation by federal, state or local laws.

The South Florida Water Management District, along with other agencies, battles invasive plants in waters and lands managed for the protection of public resources. The District encourages the public to learn about the problems posed by these plants and use this knowledge to wisely choose landscape plants. The District does not recommend the use of invasive plants for landscaping.

### **ARE ALL NON-NATIVE PLANTS BAD FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT?**

No. In fact, most non-native plants used in our Florida landscapes do not spread into the environment. While more than 10,000 non-native plants are estimated to have been purposely or accidentally brought into Florida, only 1,200 have

survived outside cultivation. And, of those, only 63 species are currently thought to be invading and disrupting native plant communities. This is less than one percent of all introduced plants.

### **SO WHICH PLANTS ARE OK?**

Some of the plants on the FLEPPC list are still commercially available. Some are already prohibited from propagation by federal or state laws, and others are under review and may or may not be prohibited in the future. Talk to your local extension agent and conduct your own research in making your decisions.

The nursery industry offers alternative plants and non-invasive varieties of some of the species known to spread into natural areas. Availability of these plants is noted in this plant guide where applicable and known.

### **COULD SOME PLANTS CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR NATURAL AREAS IN THE FUTURE?**

Only extensive research should guide legal prohibition of any plant. Consideration may include both ecological and economic impacts. The fact that some plants may become invasive only in certain habitats or regions adds to the complexity of this issue. Consensus regarding the invasiveness of plants produced by Florida's nursery growers is sought through ongoing dialogues between the plant industry, regulators, academia and natural areas managers.

Information on distribution of plants found in Florida may be found at the University of South Florida Center for Systematic Botany web site—<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/>. Because plant distributions and our understanding of their impacts may change over time, the information in the above web site and the FLEPPC most invasive plants list are updated periodically. The information provided here was updated in 2003. Be sure to check for the most current information.

## FLORIDA EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL 2003 LIST OF CATEGORY I (MOST INVASIVE) SPECIES

| Scientific Name  | Common Name                                  | Government List | Regional Distribution |
|--|--|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Abrus precatorius</i>   | rosary pea                                   |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>   | earleaf acacia                               |                 | S                     |
| <i>Albizia julibrissin</i>   | mimosa, silk tree                            |                 | N, C                  |
| <i>Albizia lebeck</i>  | woman's tongue                               |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Ardisia crenata</i> (= <i>A. crenulata</i> )  | coral ardisia                                |                 | N, C                  |
| <i>Ardisia elliptica</i> (= <i>A. humilis</i> )  | shoebutton ardisia                           |                 | S                     |
| <i>Asparagus densiflorus</i>   | asparagus-fern                               |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Bauhinia variegata</i>  | orchid tree                                  |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Bischofia javanica</i>  | bischofia                                    |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Calophyllum antillanum</i> (= <i>C. calaba</i> ;<br><i>C. inophyllum</i> misapplied)        | santa maria,<br>mastwood, Alexandrian laurel |                 | S                     |
| <i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>   | Australian pine                              | P               | N, C, S               |
| <i>Casuarina glauca</i>  | suckering Australian pine                    | P               | C, S                  |
| <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>   | camphor-tree                                 |                 | N, C, S               |
| <i>Colocasia esculenta</i>   | wild taro                                    |                 | N, C, S               |
| <i>Colubrina asiatica</i>  | lather leaf                                  |                 | S                     |
| <i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>   | carrotwood                                   | N               | C, S                  |
| <i>Dioscorea alata</i>   | winged yam                                   | N               | N, C, S               |
| <i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>   | air-potato                                   | N               | N, C, S               |
| <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>  | water-hyacinth                               | P               | N, C, S               |
| <i>Eugenia uniflora</i>  | Surinam cherry                               |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Ficus microcarpa</i> ( <i>F. nitida</i> and <i>F. retusa</i> var. <i>nitida</i> misapplied) | laurel fig                                   |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>   | hydrilla                                     | P, U            | N, C, S               |
| <i>Hygrophila polysperma</i>   | green hygro                                  | P, U            | N, C, S               |
| <i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>  | West Indian marsh grass                      |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Imperata cylindrica</i><br>( <i>I. brasiliensis</i> misapplied)                             | cogon grass                                  | N, U            | N, C, S               |
| <i>Ipomoea aquatica</i>  | waterspinach                                 | P, U            | C, S                  |
| <i>Jasminum dichotomum</i>   | Gold Coast jasmine                           |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Jasminum fluminense</i>   | Brazilian jasmine                            |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Lantana camara</i>  | lantana, shrub verbena                       |                 | N, C, S               |
| <i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>   | glossy privet                                |                 | N, C                  |
| <i>Ligustrum sinense</i>   | Chinese privet, hedge privet                 |                 | N, C, S               |
| <i>Lonicera japonica</i>   | Japanese honeysuckle                         |                 | N, C, S               |
| <i>Lygodium japonicum</i>  | Japanese climbing fern                       | N               | N, C, S               |
| <i>Lygodium microphyllum</i>   | Old World climbing fern                      | N               | C, S                  |
| <i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>  | cat's claw vine                              |                 | N, C, S               |
| <i>Manilkara zapota</i>  | sapodilla                                    |                 | S                     |
| <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>   | melaleuca, paper bark                        | P, N, U         | C, S                  |
| <i>Melia azedarach</i>   | Chinaberry                                   |                 | N, C, S               |
| <i>Mimosa pigra</i>  | catclaw mimosa                               | P, N, U         | C, S                  |
| <i>Nandina domestica</i>   | nandina, heavenly bamboo                     |                 | N, C                  |
| <i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>  | sword fern                                   |                 | N, C, S               |
| <i>Nephrolepis multiflora</i>  | Asian sword fern                             |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Neyraudia reynaudiana</i>   | Burma reed; cane grass                       | N               | S                     |
| <i>Paederia cruddasiana</i>  | sewer vine, onion vine                       | N               | S                     |
| <i>Paederia foetida</i>  | skunk vine                                   | N               | N, C, S               |
| <i>Panicum repens</i>  | torpedo grass                                |                 | N, C, S               |

**FLORIDA EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL 2003 LIST OF CATEGORY I (MOST INVASIVE) SPECIES**

| Scientific Name   | Common Name  | Government List | Regional Distribution |
|---|--|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Pennisetum purpureum</i>   | Napier grass                                       |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Pistia stratiotes</i>  | water lettuce                                      | P               | N, C, S               |
| <i>Psidium cattleianum</i> ( <i>P. littorale</i> )  | strawberry guava                                   |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Psidium guajava</i>  | guava  |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Pueraria montana</i> (= <i>P. lobata</i> )   | kudzu  | N, U            | N, C, S               |
| <i>Rhodomyrtus tomentosa</i>  | downy rose-myrtle                                  | N               | C, S                  |
| <i>Rhoeo spathacea</i> (see <i>Tradescantia spathacea</i> )                                     |  |                 |                       |
| <i>Ruellia brittoniana</i>  | Mexican petunia                                    |                 | N, C, S               |
| <i>Sapium sebiferum</i>   | popcorn tree, Chinese tallow tree                  | N               | N, C, S               |
| <i>Scaevola sericea</i> (= <i>Scaevola taccada</i> var. <i>sericea</i> , <i>S. frutescens</i> ) | scaevola, half-flower, beach naupaka               |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Schefflera actinophylla</i> (= <i>Brassaia actinophylla</i> )                                | schefflera, Queensland umbrella tree               |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>   | Brazilian pepper                                   | P, N            | N, C, S               |
| <i>Senna pendula</i> (= <i>Cassia coluteoides</i> )   | climbing cassia, Christmas cassia, Christmas senna |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Solanum tampicense</i> (= <i>S. houstonii</i> )  | wetland night shade, aquatic soda apple            | N, U            | C, S                  |
| <i>Solanum viarum</i>   | tropical soda apple                                | N, U            | N, C, S               |
| <i>Syngonium podophyllum</i>  | arrowhead vine                                     |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Syzygium cumini</i>  | jambolan, Java plum                                |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Tectaria incisa</i>  | incised halberd fern                               |                 | S                     |
| <i>Thespesia populnea</i>   | seaside mahoe                                      |                 | C, S                  |
| <i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>   | white-flowered wandering jew                       |                 | N, C                  |
| <i>Tradescantia spathacea</i> (= <i>Rhoeo spathacea</i> , <i>Rhoeo discolor</i> )               | oyster plant                                       |                 | S                     |
| <i>Urochloa mutica</i> (= <i>Brachiaria mutica</i> )  | Pará grass   |                 | C, S                  |

**ABBREVIATIONS USED:**

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Government list:</b>   | <b>Distribution:</b>       |
| <b>P</b> =Prohibited by Fla. DEP  | <b>N</b> = North Florida   |
| <b>N</b> =Noxious weed list of Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services | <b>C</b> = Central Florida |
| <b>U</b> =Noxious weed list of U.S. Dept. of Agriculture                          | <b>S</b> = South Florida   |

**PLANT IT SMART**

Incorporating non-invasive plants and Xeriscape principles into your landscape is easy and doesn't require a large investment. By following these recommendations, you can soon turn your yard into a thriving, waterwise landscape. But, most importantly, you can help protect our environment today—and for generations to come—by conserving our most valuable resource, water, and using plants that encourage rather than threaten natural Florida.

On the following pages, you'll find lists, photos and descriptions of dozens of indigenous trees, shrubs, groundcovers including flowers and grasses, and vines

that can be used in your waterwise Florida landscape.

Please do not plant non-indigenous, invasive plants such as Australian pine, melaleuca or water hyacinth. When non-indigenous and invasive plants escape they become biological invaders wreaking havoc on the environment. The environmental and economic harm caused by exotics is staggering, especially in South Florida where our tropical environment encourages plants to quickly disperse into new areas. As a result, our natural areas suffer from encroaching invasive plants that not only drive out native plants and animals, but can also affect water flow in the Everglades and the regional canal system.

# TREES

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name   | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Mature<br>Size (Ft.)<br>H x W | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type | Comments   |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| <b>NATIVE FLORIDA SPECIES</b>   |                               |                   |                   |                |                               |                |               |  |
| Acacia, Sweet<br><i>Acacia farnesiana</i>                               | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | 20'x20'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Small flowering tree with fine leaves lending airy appearance. Produces showy, fragrant, yellow flowers intermittently all year. Thorny branches provide good nesting sites for birds.   |
| Ash, Pop<br><i>Fraxinus caroliniana</i>                                 | 8a-10a                        | Medium            | L                 | Full Sun       | 40'x25'                       | Fast           | Deciduous     | Large shade tree, often multi-trunked, with an open crown giving filtered light. Best suited for wet sites. Fruit attracts birds.  |
| Birch, River<br><i>Betula nigra</i>                                     | 8a-9a                         | Medium            | L                 | Full Sun       | 40'x30'                       | Fast           | Deciduous     | Shade or specimen tree, often multi-trunked, with exfoliating reddish-brown bark. Best in wet areas not prone to prolonged flooding, but can adapt to more upland sites.   |
| Blackgum<br><i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>                                      | 8a-9a                         | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun    | 60'x30'                       | Medium         | Deciduous     | Large specimen or shade tree with brilliant red fall color. Best suited for rich moist sites, but will tolerate most planting conditions. Fruits ripen in the fall and attract wildlife.   |
| Blolly<br><i>Guapira discolor</i>                                       | 9b-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | 30'x40'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Small shade or accent tree with smooth gray bark and attractive leaves. Well suited for coastal locations. Produces red fruits in summer through fall that attract birds.  |
| Buttonwood<br><i>Conocarpus erectus</i>                                 | 10a-11                        | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | 35'x25'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Medium-sized specimen tree with interesting multi-trunks and open canopies. High salt, wind and drought tolerances make this an excellent choice for coastal planting sites.   |
| Cedar, Southern Red<br><i>Juniper virginiana = Juniperus silicicola</i> | 8a-9b                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | 35'x25'                       | Fast           | Conifer       | Medium-sized specimen or buffer tree with a pyramidal or columnar shape. Dense, somewhat fragrant foliage and fleshy purple fruits utilized by a variety of songbirds. Long lived.   |
| Cherry Laurel<br><i>Prunus caroliniana</i>                              | 8a-9b                         | Medium            | M                 | Partial Sun    | 25'x15'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Small background, screening or specimen tree that prefers a fertile well-drained soil. Excellent food source for birds and wildlife. Poisonous to livestock and humans.  |
| Common Persimmon<br><i>Diospyros virginiana</i>                         | 8a-10a                        | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun    | 50'x30'                       | Medium         | Deciduous     | Large specimen or shade tree with thick, showy bark, and is very adaptable to a variety of growing conditions. Large fleshy, edible fruit attract birds and wildlife. Fall color.  |
| Crabwood<br><i>Gymnanthes lucida</i>                                    | 10a-11                        | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | 20'x15'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | A small densely branched screening or background tree with a compact, narrow growth habit making it suitable for planting sites between buildings. New growth is reddish.  |
| Cypress, Bald<br><i>Taxodium distichum</i>                              | 8a-11                         | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | 80'x25'                       | Fast           | Conifer       | Large shade or specimen tree that prefers moist locations but will easily adapt to drier sites. Desirable foliage color all year with feathery looking leaves. The character rich trunk is highlighted by attractive exfoliating bark. |
| Cypress, Pond<br><i>Taxodium ascendens</i>                              | 8b-11                         | Low               | M, H              | Partial Sun    | 75'x15'                       | Fast           | Conifer       | Large shade or specimen tree with a narrow pyramidal growth habit. Tiny needle-like leaves give tree an open wispy appearance. Prefers moist soils but will adapt to drier locations.  |
| Dogwood, Flowering<br><i>Cornus florida</i>                             | 8a-9a                         | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun    | 25'x25'                       | Medium         | Deciduous     | Small understory, shade or accent tree. Requires well drained, acidic soil rich in organic matter to ensure the production of showy white flowers in the spring. Excellent fall color. Brilliant red berries.                          |
| East Palatka Holly<br><i>Ilex x attenuata 'East Palatka'</i>            | 8a-9b                         | Medium            | M                 | Partial Sun    | 30'x15'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Medium-sized specimen or screening tree with an open pyramidal form. Female trees produce bright red berries in late fall and winter, highly preferred by birds.   |
| Elm, Florida<br><i>Ulmus americana var. floridana</i>                   | 8a-10a                        | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun    | 60'x40'                       | Fast           | Deciduous     | Large upright, vase-shaped shade or background tree that prefers rich moist soils. Thick dark gray bark. Attractive fall foliage.  |
| Fiddlewood<br><i>Citharexylum spinosum = Citharexylum fruticosum</i>    | 10a-11                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | 20'x15'                       | Fast           | Evergreen     | Small flowering accent or screening tree with glossy leaves and fragrant tubular white flowers spring through fall. Trunk may be single or multi-stemmed. Attracts wildlife.   |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



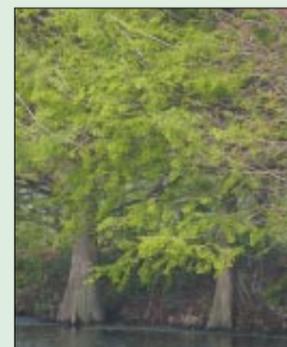
Acacia, Sweet  
*Acacia farnesiana*



Blolly  
*Guapira discolor*



Cedar, Southern Red  
*Juniper virginiana*



Cypress, Bald  
*Taxodium distichum*



Dogwood, Flowering  
*Cornus florida*



Elm, Florida  
*Ulmus americana var. floridana*



Fiddlewood  
*Citharexylum fruticosum*

# TREES

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name   | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range        | Mature<br>Size (Ft.)<br>H x W | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type  | Comments  |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| Florida Soapberry<br><i>Sapindus saponaria</i> = <i>Sapindus marginatus</i> | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 25'x15'                       | Medium         | Semi-deciduous | Small accent, shade or background tree with a round, densely branched canopy. Prefers well-drained soil. Essentially an indestructible pest-free plant.   |
| Geiger Tree<br><i>Cordia sebestena</i>                                      | 10b-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 25'x20'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Small flowering accent or shade tree with a round canopy and extremely showy orange flower clusters throughout the year. Often multi-trunked. Excellent plant for coastal sites.                              |
| Gumbo Limbo<br><i>Bursera simaruba</i>                                      | 9b-11                         | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 40'x35'                       | Fast           | Semi-deciduous | Versatile shade or specimen tree with a round open form. Interesting trunk shapes and attractive copper to green-colored peeling bark. Easily propagated by cuttings of any size.                             |
| Hercules' Club<br><i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>                         | 8a-10b                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 30'x15'                       | Medium         | Deciduous      | Small specimen tree with a round crown and interesting dark green compound leaves with tall clusters of greenish flowers. Stout prickles cover much of the plant.   |
| Hickory, Mockernut<br><i>Carya tomentosa</i>                                | 8a-9b                         | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 60'x35'                       | Fast           | Deciduous      | Large specimen tree with a broadly rounded crown and round fruit with thick husks. Wildlife food source. Yellow autumn leaves.  |
| Hickory, Pignut<br><i>Carya alba</i> = <i>Carya glabra</i>                  | 8a-9a                         | Low               | L                 | Full Sun              | 60'x40'                       | Fast           | Deciduous      | Large shade or specimen tree with compound leaflets, dense oval shaped crown and variable sized fruit. Attracts wildlife. Prefers well-drained sites. Excellent fall color.                                   |
| Hickory, Scrub<br><i>Carya floridana</i>                                    | 9a-10a                        | Low               | L                 | Full Sun              | 30'x15'                       | Medium         | Deciduous      | Small specimen or shade tree with compound leaflets and edible nuts utilized by wildlife. Excellent choice for dry sandy sites. Grows larger in fertile soils.  |
| Holly, American<br><i>Ilex opaca</i>  | 8a-9b                         | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 40'x20'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Large specimen or screening tree with stiff, spiny leaves. Female trees produce bright red berries early fall through late spring, which are a major food source for birds. Prefers acid soils.               |
| Holly, Dahoon<br><i>Ilex cassine</i>  | 8a-10b                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 25'x15'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Small specimen tree with an open irregular form. Prefers moist planting sites. Female trees produce colorful red berries in the fall and winter, which are a major food source for birds.                     |
| Holly, Yaupon<br><i>Ilex vomitoria</i>                                      | 8a-9b                         | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 20'x15'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Small bushy specimen tree with a densely branched crown and small glossy leaves. Female plants produce bright red berries in the fall that attract birds. Attractive whitish-gray trunk.                      |
| Hornbeam, American<br><i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>                           | 8a-9a                         | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 25'x25'                       | Medium         | Deciduous      | Medium-sized, often multi-trunked shade tree with a dense oval canopy and showy bark. Excellent fall color. Tolerates wet sites. Also called Ironwood, given its very dense, hard wood.                       |
| Ironwood, Black<br><i>Krugiodendron ferreum</i>                             | 10a-11                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 20'x10'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Small specimen or background tree with dense, glossy, dark green oval leaves and furrowed light gray bark. Fruit is attractive to birds. Heaviest wood of any American tree.                                  |
| Jamaican Dogwood<br><i>Piscidia piscipula</i>                               | 10b-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 45'x25'                       | Fast           | Deciduous      | Medium-sized flowering shade tree that produces somewhat showy white flowers marked with blue/purple/pink in the spring while the tree is leafless. Excellent plant for coastal areas.                        |
| Joewood<br><i>Jacquinia keyensis</i>  | 10a-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 15'x6'                        | Medium         | Evergreen      | Small flowering accent tree with densely branched canopy and dense foliage. Produces fragrant white flowers year round. Attractive blue-gray bark. Excellent plant for coastal areas. Extremely slow growing. |
| Lancewood<br><i>Ocotea coriacea</i>   | 10b-11                        | Low               | L                 | Full Sun, Partial Sun | 25'x25'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Small short-lived specimen tree with a densely branched, broad oval or rounded crown and dark green glossy lance shaped leaves. Best suited for rich moist sites.   |
| Lignum Vitae<br><i>Guaicum sanctum</i>                                      | 10b-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 15'x15'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Small flowering tree with a dense foliage and attractive gnarled, white bark. Produces very showy blue flowers all year and colorful fruits in the fall.  |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Florida Soapberry  
*Sapindus saponaria*



Geiger Tree  
*Cordia sebestena*



Gumbo Limbo  
*Bursera simaruba*



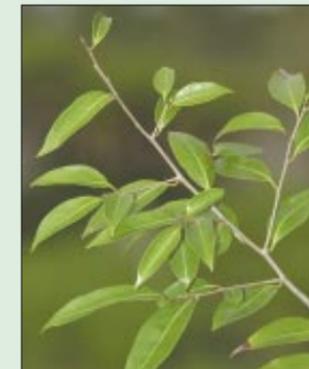
Holly, Dahoon  
*Ilex cassine*



Holly, Yaupon  
*Ilex vomitoria*



Joewood  
*Jacquinia keyensis*



Lancewood  
*Ocotea coriacea*



Lignum Vitae  
*Guaicum sanctum*

# TREES

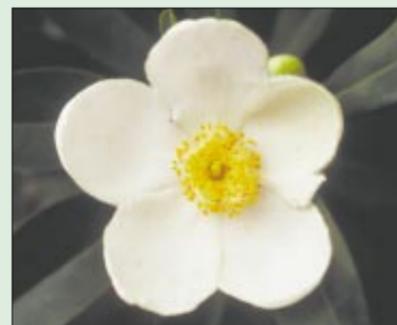
| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name   | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range        | Mature<br>Size (Ft.)<br>H x W | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type      | Comments  |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---|
| Loblolly Bay<br><i>Gordonia lasianthus</i>  | 8a-9b                         | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 40'x15'                       | Medium         | Evergreen          | Upright flowering tree with a uniform columnar form. Produces showy, white, fragrant flowers in the spring and summer. Prefers moist to seasonally wet, organic, rich growing conditions.     |
| Magnolia, Southern<br><i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>                                 | 8a-10a                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 80'x40'                       | Medium         | Evergreen          | Large flowering shade tree with large glossy, dark green leaves, showy, fragrant white flowers in the spring and summer. Tolerant of most growing conditions, but prefers wet sites.          |
| Mahogany<br><i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>   | 10a-11                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 50'x40'                       | Fast           | Evergreen          | Large shade or specimen tree with a densely leafy canopy. Tolerant of most growing conditions except wet sites. Web worms and weak branches can be a problem.                                 |
| Mangrove, Black<br><i>Avicennia germinans</i>                                     | 9b-11                         | High              | H                 | Full Sun              | 30'x25'                       | Medium         | Evergreen          | Medium-sized shade, background or screening tree that grows in brackish water sites, but can adapt to dryer locations. Excellent plant for coastal areas. Valuable wildlife plant. Protected. |
| Mangrove, Red<br><i>Rhizophora mangle</i>   | 9b-11                         | High              | H                 | Full Sun              | 30'x30'                       | Medium         | Deciduous          | Large background tree. Commonly found growing in salt or brackish water. Characterized by prop roots. Excellent plant for coastal areas. Valuable wildlife plant. Protected.                  |
| Mangrove, White<br><i>Laguncularia racemosa</i>                                   | 9b-11                         | High              | H                 | Full Sun              | 35'x30'                       | Medium         | Evergreen          | Medium-sized background or screen tree. Commonly used to help stabilize and hold soil near or in coastal areas. Valuable wildlife plant. Protected.   |
| Maple, Red<br><i>Acer rubrum</i>  | 8a-10b                        | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 50'x30'                       | Fast           | Deciduous          | Versatile shade tree with outstanding fall color. In winter, males produce tiny red flowers, females produce winged fruit. Tolerates most growing conditions, but prefers moist sites.        |
| Mastic<br><i>Sideroxylon foetidissimum</i> = <i>Mastichodendron foetidissimum</i> | 9b-11                         | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 45'x30'                       | Medium         | Evergreen          | Large attractive shade tree with a single wind-resistant straight trunk, rounded crown and fragrant yellow flowers. Edible, gummy fruits attract wildlife. Pest free.                         |
| Mulberry, Red<br><i>Morus rubra</i>   | 8a-10a                        | Low               | M                 | Full Sun              | 30'x25'                       | Fast           | Deciduous          | Medium-sized shade or background tree with large, rough-textured showy leaves and edible fruits in the spring. Fruits attract birds and wildlife, but may stain pavement. Cold tolerant.      |
| Oak, Chapman<br><i>Quercus chapmanii</i>  | 9a-10a                        | Low               | M                 | Full Sun              | 20'x10'                       | Slow           | Deciduous, briefly | Small shade or background tree that produces tiny acorns, which are sought after by wildlife. Prefers sandy well-drained soils.   |
| Oak, Laurel<br><i>Quercus laurifolia</i>  | 8a-10b                        | Low               | L                 | Full Sun              | 80'x45'                       | Fast           | Evergreen          | Large fast-growing shade tree with a densely rounded crown when mature. Tolerant of most planting conditions, but dislikes alkaline soils. Acorns are a wildlife food source.                 |
| Oak, Live<br><i>Quercus virginiana</i>  | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun              | 60'x40'                       | Medium         | Evergreen          | Large shade tree with a broad spreading canopy and thick trunk. Wind resistant and long-lived. With age the tree will become wider than tall. Acorns provide food for wildlife and birds.     |
| Oak, Sand Live<br><i>Quercus geminata</i>   | 8a-10b                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 40'x40'                       | Medium         | Evergreen          | Large shade or specimen tree with dense round canopy. A small version of live oak. Prefers well-drained soil. Leaves and acorns will stain cement but are a wildlife food source.             |
| Oak, Turkey<br><i>Quercus laevis</i>  | 8a-9b                         | Low               | M                 | Full Sun              | 50'x20'                       | Fast           | Deciduous          | Large shade or specimen tree with spreading branches and an open crown. Glossy irregularly shaped leaves. Best in dry, sandy areas. Acorns provide food for wildlife and birds.               |
| Oak, Water<br><i>Quercus nigra</i>  | 8a-9b                         | Low               | L                 | Full Sun              | 80'x50'                       | Fast           | Evergreen          | Large shade tree with round dense canopy. Prefers moist sites, but will tolerate slightly dryer conditions. Smooth, slightly furrowed bark. Acorns provide food for wildlife and birds.       |
| Paradise Tree<br><i>Simarouba glauca</i>  | 9b-11                         | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 50'x30'                       | Medium         | Evergreen          | Large shade or specimen tree with attractive glossy green foliage and a broad rounded crown. Bright red new growth in spring and summer. Red fruits in summer attract birds.                  |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Loblolly Bay  
*Gordonia lasianthus*



Magnolia, Southern  
*Magnolia grandiflora*



Mahogany  
*Swietenia mahagoni*



Mangrove, Red  
*Rhizophora mangle*



Maple, Red  
*Acer rubrum*



Mastic  
*Sideroxylon foetidissimum*



Oak, Live  
*Quercus virginiana*



Paradise Tree  
*Simarouba glauca*

# TREES

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                                | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Mature<br>Size (Ft.)<br>H x W | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type  | Comments   |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Pigeon Plum<br><i>Coccoloba diversifolia</i>                   | 10a-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | 25'x20'                       | Fast           | Evergreen      | Small screening or specimen tree with a narrow upright growth habit and attractive peeling bark. Edible purple fruit in autumn attracts wildlife. Tolerant of urban planting sites.                                    |
| Pine, Loblolly<br><i>Pinus taeda</i>                           | 8a-9b                         | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | 100'x25'                      | Fast           | Conifer        | Large screening or shade tree with an open irregular canopy. Fastest-growing and tallest of the pines. Tolerant of most planting conditions, but prefers moist acid soils without groundwater irrigation. No tap root. |
| Pine, Long-leaf<br><i>Pinus palustris</i>                      | 8a-9b                         | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | 70'x35'                       | Medium         | Conifer        | Large specimen or shade tree with an open irregular crown and long glossy drooping needles. Typically found in dry sandy areas, but tolerant of moist sites. Excellent wildlife food source.                           |
| Pine, Sand<br><i>Pinus clausa</i>                              | 8a-10a                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | 30'x20'                       | Fast           | Conifer        | Attractive shade or specimen tree with an open irregular canopy, and short dark-green needles. Prefers dry, well-drained sandy soils. Excellent wildlife food source. Somewhat short-lived.                            |
| Pine, Slash<br><i>Pinus elliottii</i>                          | 8a-10a                        | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | 100'x30'                      | Fast           | Conifer        | Large background or shade tree with an open canopy and shiny dark green needles. Very sensitive to soil grade changes or compaction. Excellent wildlife food source.   |
| Pine, South Florida Slash<br><i>Pinus elliottii var. densa</i> | 10a-11                        | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | 90'x40'                       | Fast           | Conifer        | Large background or shade tree with dense clusters of dark green needles. Tolerates wide ranges of soils, but very sensitive to physical disturbances within the drip line. Excellent wildlife food source.            |
| Pitch Apple<br><i>Clusia rosea</i>                             | 10a-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | 25'x20'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Small flowering specimen tree with dense, thick, leathery leaves and showy pink and white flowers in spring. Can form aerial roots. Excellent plant for coastal areas. Poisonous.                                      |
| Plum, Flatwoods<br><i>Prunus umbellata</i>                     | 8a-9b                         | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun    | 20'x15'                       | Medium         | Deciduous      | Small flowering tree with an irregularly shaped canopy and white flowers appearing before foliage in spring. Crooked trunk and purple fruit. Prefers fertile and well-drained soils. Wildlife food source.             |
| Pond Apple<br><i>Annona glabra</i>                             | 10a-11                        | High              | M                 | Full Sun       | 20'x15'                       | Medium         | Semi-deciduous | Small specimen tree with dense upturned branches, glossy leaves, swollen trunk base with age and pithy, avocado-shaped fruits in the fall. Prefers swampy or aquatic sites, but can adapt to drier sites.              |
| Red Bay<br><i>Persea borbonia</i>                              | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | 40'x30"                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Large shade or specimen tree with a dense rounded crown. Fragrant leaves with a grayish white underside are commonly used in cooking. Dark purple fruit attracts birds.  |
| Red Stopper<br><i>Eugenia rhombea</i>                          | 10b-11                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | 20'x10'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Small specimen or understory tree with attractive reddish brown bark. Single or multi-stemmed trunk. Small black berries provide excellent food for wildlife. New growth is red.                                       |
| Redberry Stopper<br><i>Eugenia confusa</i>                     | 10a-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | 20'x10'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Small specimen or screening tree with glossy narrow-tipped leaves and attractive light-gray, peeling bark. Typically multi-stemmed. Small red fruits in fall attract birds.  |
| Redbud<br><i>Cercis canadensis</i>                             | 8a-9b                         | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | 25'x20'                       | Medium         | Deciduous      | Small flowering accent or shade tree with an irregularly rounded crown. Showy rosy-pink flowers appear before foliage in spring. Typically found multi-trunked. Excellent yellow fall color.                           |
| Satinleaf<br><i>Chrysophyllum oliviforme</i>                   | 10a-11                        | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | 30'x20'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Small-to-medium-sized specimen or shade tree with showy leaves, glossy green on top and bronzy satin below. Small, dark purple fruit attracts birds.   |
| Seagrape<br><i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>                           | 9b-11                         | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | 30'x25'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Medium-sized shade or specimen tree with a broadly spreading canopy, large, leathery round leaves and peeling brown bark. Excellent for coastal areas. Edible fruit attracts wildlife.                                 |
| Short Leaf Fig<br><i>Ficus citrifolia</i>                      | 10b-11                        | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | 50'x40'                       | Fast           | Evergreen      | Large shade tree with a round spreading canopy. Considered somewhat better behaved than other Ficus species, but has an aggressive root system. Yellow to red fruits attract birds.                                    |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Pigeon Plum  
*Coccoloba diversifolia*



Pine, Slash  
*Pinus elliottii*



Pitch Apple  
*Clusia rosea*



Pond Apple  
*Annona glabra*



Red Bay  
*Persea borbonia*



Redbud  
*Cercis canadensis*



Satinleaf  
*Chrysophyllum oliviforme*



Seagrape  
*Coccoloba uvifera*

# TREES

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name   | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Mature<br>Size (Ft.)<br>H x W | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type | Comments  |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---|
| Silver Buttonwood<br><i>Conocarpus erectus var. sericeus</i>            | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | 25'x20'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Medium-sized specimen or screening tree with a spreading vase shaped crown, silvery leaves and attractive bark. Typically multi-trunked. Excellent for coastal areas. Subject to sooty mold in shady, humid, frequent watering conditions.                  |
| Southern Catalpa<br><i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>                         | 8b-9b                         | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | 50'x40'                       | Fast           | Deciduous     | Large shade tree with an oval, irregularly shaped crown and thick trunk. Tolerant of most planting conditions, but prefers well-drained sites. Showy white flowers in fall.   |
| Spanish Stopper<br><i>Eugenia foetida</i>                               | 9b-11                         | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | 15'x15'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Small specimen tree with an irregularly rounded crown and grayish-brown peeling bark. Small white, mildly fragrant flowers in summer and small black fruits in fall that attract birds.   |
| Strangler Fig<br><i>Ficus aurea</i>                                     | 9b-11                         | Low               | M                 | All            | 50'x50'                       | Fast           | Evergreen     | Large freestanding shade tree when mature, but commonly begins life as an epiphyte on cabbage palms. Large glossy dark green leaves and showy trunk. Excellent wildlife food source. Has an aggressive root system.   |
| Sugarberry<br><i>Celtis laevigata</i>                                   | 8a-10b                        | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | 50'x35'                       | Medium         | Deciduous     | Large shade tree with a round irregularly shaped canopy, drooping branches and a showy pale gray trunk. Black and red fruits attract wildlife. Yellow fall color. Tolerates extended flooding.  |
| Summer Haw<br><i>Crataegus flava</i>                                    | 9a-9b                         | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | 20'x10'                       | Medium         | Deciduous     | Small, thorny, multi-stemmed accent tree with fragrant white flowers in spring, bright red berries in winter and showy exfoliating bark all year. Prefers sandy well-drained soils.   |
| Swamp Bay<br><i>Persea palustris</i>                                    | 8a-10b                        | Medium            | H                 | Partial Sun    | 35'x20'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Small shade or specimen tree with a dense, pyramid-shaped crown and aromatic leaves. Resembles red bay, but prefers moister sites and is more resistant to galls.   |
| Swamp Tupelo<br><i>Nyssa sylvatica var. biflora</i>                     | 8a-9b                         | High              | L                 | Partial Sun    | 60'x25'                       | Medium         | Deciduous     | Large shade tree with a dense canopy and rough textured bark. Produces dark blue fruit that attract wildlife. Prefers rich moist to wet sites, but tolerates most planting soils.   |
| Sweetbay<br><i>Magnolia virginiana</i>                                  | 8a-9b                         | High              | L                 | Partial Sun    | 30'x15'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Small, narrow-cylindrically growing specimen tree. Dark green leaves with silvery undersides. Produces showy fragrant white flowers in summer and colorful red fruit in fall. Because of thin bark, tree should be protected from weed trimmers and mowers. |
| Sweetgum<br><i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>                              | 8a-9b                         | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | 70'x40'                       | Fast           | Deciduous     | Large shade or background tree with glossy star-shaped leaves and brown prickly fruit balls in fall. Prefers moist wet acid soils, but will tolerate most conditions. Excellent red fall color.   |
| Sycamore<br><i>Platanus occidentalis</i>                                | 8a-9a                         | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | 90'x60'                       | Fast           | Deciduous     | Long-lived shade or screening tree with large leaves, a massive trunk and very attractive white peeling bark. Prefers moist sites, but adapts to drier conditions.  |
| Tulip Tree<br><i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>                            | 8a-9a                         | High              | L                 | Full Sun       | 90'x40'                       | Fast           | Deciduous     | Large shade or background tree with an oval-shaped canopy and a rough-barked very straight trunk. Produces fragrant yellow-green flowers in spring that attract bees. Yellow fall color.  |
| Wild Dilly<br><i>Manilkara bahamensis</i>                               | 10a-11                        | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | 25'x15'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Small specimen tree with dark green leathery leaves and edible fruit that attracts wildlife. The wood is very dense. Drooping clusters of yellow flowers in spring.   |
| Wild Lime<br><i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>                                  | 9b-11                         | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | 15'x12'                       | Fast           | Evergreen     | Small barrier, background or screening tree with a broad densely branched crown. Typically multi-trunked with spiny branches. Tolerates most planting conditions. Butterfly larval food source.   |
| Wild Tamarind<br><i>Lysiloma latisiliquum</i>                           | 10b-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | 40'x30'                       | Fast           | Deciduous     | Medium-sized shade or specimen tree with a weeping growth habit and delicate feather-like foliage. Produces small, white, fragrant flowers in spring and summer.  |
| Willow, Busic<br><i>Sideroxylon salicifolium = Dipholis salicifolia</i> | 10a-11                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | 30'x12'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Small specimen or shade tree with glossy dark green leaves and a narrow upright crown. Small, white fragrant flowers in spring. Small black berries are excellent wildlife food.  |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Silver Buttonwood  
*Conocarpus erectus*



Strangler Fig  
*Ficus aurea*



Sugarberry  
*Celtis laevigata*



Sweetbay  
*Magnolia virginiana*



Sweetgum  
*Liquidambar styraciflua*



Tulip Tree  
*Liriodendron tulipifera*



Wild Dilly  
*Manilkara bahamensis*



Wild Lime  
*Zanthoxylum fagara*

# TREES

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                                   | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range   | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Mature<br>Size (Ft.)<br>H x W | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type  | Comments  |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| <b>NON-NATIVE SPECIES</b>   |   |                   |                   |                |                               |                |                |   |
| African Tulip Tree<br><i>Spathodea campanulata</i>                | 10b-11  | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | 55'x40'                       | Fast           | Evergreen      | Large flowering shade or specimen tree with an upright, irregular growth habit and large leaves. Produces large, showy orange and yellow flowers during winter and spring. Can be messy and may need pruning after freezes and windstorms. Drops leaves during drought. |
| Allspice<br><i>Pimenta dioica</i>                                 | 10b-11  | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | 20'x15'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Small specimen tree with an open, branching structure and irregularly shaped canopy. Large leaves and small edible fruit smell like various spices. Attractive exfoliating bark. Clusters of small off-white flowers in spring.   |
| Black Olive<br><i>Bucida buceras</i>                              | 10a-11  | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | 50'x40'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Large, spiny shade tree with a dense, irregular canopy. Tolerant of urban planting sites. Leaves can stain vehicles and pavement. Can be messy.   |
| Bottlebrush<br><i>Callistemon spp.</i>                            | 9a-11   | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | 20'x10'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Small flowering specimen or accent tree, with showy red flowers in spring. Several species are available with varying growth habits.  |
| Brazilian Beauty Leaf<br><i>Calophyllum brasiliense</i>           | <i>INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17).</i> |                   |                   |                |                               |                |                |   |
| Bridal Veil<br><i>Caesalpinia granadillo</i>                      | 10b-11  | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | 35'x25'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Medium-sized flowering shade or specimen tree with an irregular, vase-shaped canopy, frilly foliage and showy yellow flowers in summer and fall. Typically multi-trunked with attractive exfoliating bark. Numerous seed pods can be messy.                             |
| Bulnesia<br><i>Bulnesia arborea</i>                               | 10a-11  | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | 30'x25'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Medium-sized flowering shade or specimen tree with a rounded, dense canopy. Produces yellow-orange flowers all year, except winter. Typically multi-trunked.  |
| Carrotwood<br><i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>                    | <i>INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17).</i> |                   |                   |                |                               |                |                |   |
| Crape Myrtle<br><i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>                       | 8a-11   | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | 25'x15'                       | Medium         | Deciduous      | Small flowering specimen or accent tree with showy flowers in spring and summer. Attractive light brown exfoliating bark. Many different varieties available.   |
| Cuban Tamarind<br><i>Lysiloma sabicu</i>                          | 10b-11  | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | 30'x25'                       | Medium         | Deciduous      | Small specimen or shade tree with a weeping growth habit and finely textured foliage, first emerging with reddish tips. Produces small yellow flowers in spring and summer. Numerous seed pods can be messy.  |
| Dwarf Poinciana<br><i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i>                 | 9-11  | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | 15'x10'                       | Fast           | Evergreen      | Small flowering specimen or accent tree with a rounded irregular canopy, finely textured foliage and showy orange-yellow flowers in spring, summer and fall. Spiny and poisonous. Numerous seed pods can be messy.  |
| Elm, Chinese<br><i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>                           | 8a-10a  | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | 45'x30'                       | Fast           | Semi-deciduous | Large specimen or shade tree with an irregularly vase-shaped canopy and weeping growth habit. Attractive light brown and gray exfoliating bark. Several different cultivars available. Copious fruit can be messy.  |
| Fig, Cuban Laurel<br><i>Ficus microcarpa = F. retusa 'nitida'</i> | <i>INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17).</i> |                   |                   |                |                               |                |                |   |
| Fig, Fiddleleaf<br><i>Ficus lyrata</i>                            | 10a-11  | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | 40'x30'                       | Medium         | Evergreen      | Medium-sized shade or specimen tree with a dense, irregularly shaped crown and large shiny green leaves that can be messy.  |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



African Tulip Tree  
*Spathodea campanulata*



Allspice  
*Pimenta dioica*



Black Olive  
*Bucida buceras*



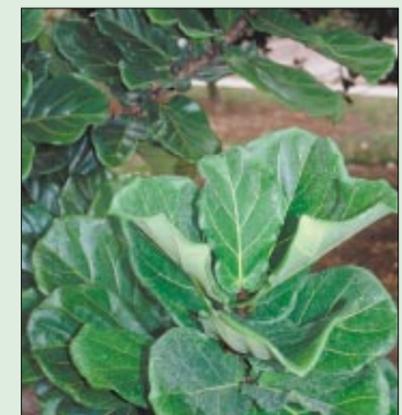
Bottlebrush  
*Callistemon spp.*



Crape Myrtle  
*Lagerstroemia indica*



Dwarf Poinciana  
*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*



Fig, Fiddleleaf  
*Ficus lyrata*

# TREES

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                         | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range   | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Mature<br>Size (Ft.)<br>H x W | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type | Comments   |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| Fig, Rusty<br><i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>                   | 10b-11  | High              | M                 | Partial Sun    | 50'x40'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Large shade or specimen tree with a dense rounded canopy and dark green leaves with rusty pubescent undersides. Tolerant of most urban planting sites.   |
| Floss Silk Tree<br><i>Chorisia speciosa</i>             | 10a-11  | Medium            | H                 | Full Sun       | 40'x45'                       | Fast           | Deciduous     | Large flowering shade or specimen tree with an extremely spiny green trunk and showy pink flowers in fall. Tolerant of most planting conditions, but prefers well-drained sites.   |
| Frangipani<br><i>Plumeria spp.</i>                      | 10b-11  | Medium            | M                 | Partial Sun    | 20'x20'                       | Medium         | Deciduous     | Small flowering specimen or accent tree with a rounded, open canopy, showy, fragrant red or white flowers, thick succulent stems and large oval leaves. Requires well-drained planting sites. Can be messy.                                |
| Fringe Flower, Chinese<br><i>Loropetalum chinense</i>   | 8a-10   | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun    | 15'x10'                       | Medium         | Deciduous     | Small tree with a loose open form and fine leaves. Prefers moist well-drained soils. Drought-tolerant once established. Red and white flowered forms, red forms are much showier. Drooping, strap-like flower petals arranged in clusters. |
| Glossy Privet<br><i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>               | <i>INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17).</i> |                   |                   |                |                               |                |               |  |
| Golden Rain Tree<br><i>Koelreuteria elegans</i>         | <i>INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17).</i> |                   |                   |                |                               |                |               |  |
| Golden Shower<br><i>Cassia fistula</i>                  | 10-11   | Medium            | M                 | Full Sun       | 40'x35'                       | Fast           | Deciduous     | Medium-sized flowering shade or specimen tree with an open irregular vase-shaped canopy. Produces showy yellow flowers in summer. Poisonous.   |
| Hong Kong Orchid Tree<br><i>Bauhinia x 'blakeana'</i>   | 9b-11   | Medium            | M                 | Partial Sun    | 30'x25'                       | Fast           | Evergreen     | Medium-sized flowering shade or specimen tree with an irregularly vase-shaped canopy. Produces showy pink-purple flowers all year. Produces no seeds, therefore, is not invasive or messy like other orchid trees. Somewhat weak-wooded.   |
| Jaboticaba<br><i>Myrciaria cauliflora</i>               | 10b-11  | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun    | 20'x15'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Small specimen or accent tree with a profusely branched, dense rounded crown and attractive reddish flaking bark. Small edible fruits attached to trunk may be present all year. Tolerant of most planting soils.                          |
| Jacaranda<br><i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>               | 9b-11   | Medium            | L                 | Full Sun       | 40'x50'                       | Fast           | Deciduous     | Large flowering shade tree with an irregularly vase-shaped canopy and very finely textured foliage. Produces showy, fragrant, lavender-blue flowers in spring and summer.  |
| Japanese Privet<br><i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>           | 9-10b   | Medium            | M                 | Partial Sun    | 15'x20'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Small specimen or shade tree with a dense rounded canopy, showy white pungent flowers and attractive bark. Black berries attract birds. Typically multi-trunked.   |
| Jerusalem Thorn Tree<br><i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>     | 8b-11   | Medium            | H                 | Full Sun       | 20'x25'                       | Fast           | Deciduous     | Small flowering specimen tree with open, somewhat weeping growth habit. Produces yellow flowers in spring and summer. Typically multi-trunked and very spiny throughout.   |
| Leyland Cypress<br><i>Cupressocyparis x 'leylandii'</i> | 8a-10a  | Medium            | M                 | Full Sun       | 45'x20'                       | Fast           | Evergreen     | Large specimen or screening tree with a dense very formal columnar growth habit and dark green to blue-green foliage. Tolerant of most well-drained soils.   |
| Loquat<br><i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>                    | 8a-11   | Medium            | M                 | Full Sun       | 20'x15'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Small flowering shade or specimen tree with a dense round canopy and large dark green foliage. Produces fragrant white flowers in fall and winter and showy orange edible fruit.   |
| Lychee<br><i>Litchi chinensis</i>                       | 10a-11  | Medium            | L                 | Full Sun       | 30'x25'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Small flowering shade or accent tree with a dense round canopy, glossy bright green foliage and showy yellow flowers in spring. Produces edible fruit in late spring and early summer.   |
| Madagascar Olive<br><i>Noronhia emarginata</i>          | 10b-11  | Medium            | H                 | Full Sun       | 25'x20'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Small specimen tree with a dense irregular-shaped canopy and small fragrant yellow flowers in spring. Produces an edible fleshy yellow fruit. Excellent small tree for coastal areas.  |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Fig, Rusty  
*Ficus rubiginosa*



Frangipani  
*Plumeria spp.*



Fringe Flower, Chinese  
*Loropetalum chinense*



Hong Kong Orchid Tree  
*Bauhinia x 'blakeana'*



Jaboticaba  
*Myrciaria cauliflora*



Jacaranda  
*Jacaranda mimosifolia*



Jerusalem Thorn Tree  
*Parkinsonia aculeata*



Loquat  
*Eriobotrya japonica*

# TREES

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                                  | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range  | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Mature<br>Size (Ft.)<br>H x W | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type | Comments  |
|--|--|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---|
| Orchid Tree<br><i>Bauhinia variegata</i>                         | INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17). |                   |                   |                |                               |                |               |   |
| Pink and White Shower<br><i>Cassia javanica</i>                  | 10b-11   | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | 40'x30'                       | Fast           | Deciduous     | Flowering shade or specimen tree with a wide spreading crown and pale green leaves. Produces showy red-pink flowers in spring and summer.   |
| Pink Trumpet Tree<br><i>Tabebuia heterophylla</i>                | 10a-11   | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | 50'x40'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Large flowering shade or specimen tree with a round canopy and showy pink flowers in spring. Tolerates most well-drained soils.   |
| Plum Jambolan<br><i>Syzygium cumini</i>                          | INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17). |                   |                   |                |                               |                |               |   |
| Pongam<br><i>Pongamia pinnata</i>                                | 10b-11   | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | 40'x35'                       | Fast           | Evergreen     | Large flowering shade or specimen tree with a dense round crown and showy pink, white, lavender flowers in spring. Drooping branches are very wind resistant. Seeds profusely and may produce suckers.                  |
| Royal Poinciana<br><i>Delonix regia</i>                          | 10a-11   | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | 40'x50'                       | Fast           | Deciduous     | Large shade or specimen tree with a sprawling open canopy, fine textured foliage and showy red-orange flowers in summer. Tolerant of urban sites. Copious large seed pods can be messy.                                 |
| Schefflera<br><i>Schefflera actinophylla</i>                     | INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17). |                   |                   |                |                               |                |               |   |
| Spiny Black Olive<br><i>Bucida molinetii</i> = <i>B. spinosa</i> | 10b-11   | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | 20'x15'                       | Slow           | Evergreen     | Small shade or specimen tree with irregular and upright growth habit. A small, spiny cousin of the Black Olive with the same characteristics.   |
| Tamarind<br><i>Tamarindus indica</i>                             | 10a-11   | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | 50'x45'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Large shade or specimen tree with a dense irregularly shaped canopy, fine textured foliage and attractive grayish-green bark. Extremely wind resistant.   |
| Trumpet Tree<br><i>Tabebuia aurea</i> = <i>T. caraiba</i>        | 10a-11   | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | 25'x15'                       | Medium         | Deciduous     | Flowering specimen or accent tree with a dense irregular shaped canopy, silver green foliage, attractive corky bark and showy bright yellow flowers in the spring.  |
| Weeping Fig<br><i>Ficus benjamina</i>                            | 10b-11   | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | 60'x90'                       | Fast           | Evergreen     | Large shade tree with a dense spreading canopy. Aggressive root system. Not recommended for planting close to structures or underground water pipes.  |
| Weeping Podocarpus<br><i>Podocarpus gracilior</i>                | 10a-11   | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | 40'x30'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Large shade or specimen tree with dense weeping canopy, pendulous branching and fine textured linear foliage. Tolerant of urban planting sites.   |
| Weeping Yaupon<br><i>Ilex vomitoria</i> 'Pendula'                | 8-9b   | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | 25'x10'                       | Medium         | Evergreen     | Small weeping shade, accent or specimen tree with an openly irregular form, upright weeping growth habit. Showy red fruits attract wildlife in fall, but are poisonous to humans.                                       |
| Willow, Weeping<br><i>Salix babylonica</i>                       | 8a-9b  | High              | L                 | Full Sun       | 35'x30'                       | Fast           | Deciduous     | Medium-sized shade or specimen tree with a densely irregular shaped canopy and weeping growth habit. Prefers wet areas. Relatively short-lived.   |
| Yellow Elder<br><i>Tecoma stans</i>                              | 10b-11   | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | 25'x15'                       | Fast           | Evergreen     | Small flowering accent tree with an irregularly shaped oval crown, showy yellow flowers year round. Commonly found multi-trunked. Must be trained into a tree form.   |
| Ylang-Ylang<br><i>Cananga odorata</i>                            | 10b-11   | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | 40'x25'                       | Fast           | Evergreen     | Large specimen or background tree with a dense, irregularly shaped crown and pyramidal growth habit. Produces very fragrant yellow flowers all year, which are used to make Chanel No. 5 perfume. Somewhat weak-wooded. |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Pink Trumpet Tree  
*Tabebuia heterophylla*



Pongam Tree  
*Pongamia pinnata*



Royal Poinciana  
*Delonix regia*



Tamarind  
*Tamarindus indica*



Trumpet Tree  
*Tabebuia aurea*



Yellow Elder  
*Tecoma stans*



Ylang-Ylang  
*Cananga odorata*

# PALM-LIKE

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                         | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range        | Typical<br>Height    | Growth<br>Rate | Comments   |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|--|
| <b>NATIVE FLORIDA SPECIES</b>                           |                               |                   |                   |                       |                      |                |  |
| Buccaneer Palm<br><i>Pseudophoenix sargentii</i>        | 10b-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 10'                  | Slow           | Small specimen or accent palm with a stout, ringed trunk, a canopy of 8-10 blue-green leaves and produces clusters of bright red fruits. Tolerance of salty winds, drought and a variety of soils makes this palm well suited for coastal plantings. Rare.       |
| Cabbage Palm<br><i>Sabal palmetto</i>                   | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 40'                  | Medium         | Florida's state tree. Adaptable to various soil conditions and very wind resistant. The fruits, flowers and crown where moisture collects provide wildlife value. Some retain the old frond bases ("boots"), which provide attachment areas for epiphytic ferns. |
| Dwarf Palmetto<br><i>Sabal minor</i>                    | 8a-10b                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Shade    | 6'                   | Medium         | Small, usually trunkless palm commonly used as an understory accent or specimen plant. Bluish-green to green foliage adds a distinctive tropical look to the landscape. Tolerant of varying site conditions.   |
| Florida Royal Palm<br><i>Roystonea regia = R. elata</i> | 10a-11                        | Medium            | M                 | Full Sun              | 80'                  | Medium         | These large stately palms shed heavy 10-foot fronds, which may present a hazard to structures or passersby. Site them in rich, moist soils where there is adequate space. Formerly held to be two species, Florida and Cuban Royal Palm.                         |
| Needle Palm<br><i>Rhapidophyllum hystrix</i>            | 8a-10b                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Shade    | 5'                   | Medium         | This small trunkless specimen palm adds a tropical accent to the landscape. The fiber-matted crown contains sharp, needle-like fibers. It is usually found in the understory of rich hardwood forests.   |
| Paurotis Palm<br><i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i>          | 9b-11                         | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 20'                  | Medium         | Spiny, multi-trunked palm, which eventually forms a large cluster in time. Also known as the Everglades palm, this accent palm prefers relatively moist soils. Manganese deficiency ("frizzle-top") may develop in alkaline soils.                               |
| Saw Palmetto<br><i>Serenoa repens</i>                   | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 6'                   | Medium         | Widely adaptable and very durable, multi-trunked palm. Flowers attract many pollinating insects and its blue-black berries are used medicinally. Large specimens are difficult to transplant. Petioles (frond branches) are saw-toothed at margins.              |
| Scrub Palmetto<br><i>Sabal etonia</i>                   | 8a-10b                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 4'                   | Medium         | Similar to the dwarf palmetto but occurs only in peninsular Florida on drier (scrub) soils. Rare.  |
| Silver Palm<br><i>Coccothrinax argentata</i>            | 10b-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 10'<br>often smaller | Medium         | Small, slow-growing specimen palm with finely divided palmate leaves that have silvery undersides. Tolerant of alkaline soils and well suited for coastal locations. Dark fruits attractive to wildlife.   |
| Thatch Palm, Florida<br><i>Thrinax radiata</i>          | 10b-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 20'                  | Medium         | Tolerant of alkaline soils, and has no disease or pest problems. A small, durable, palm with glossy, fan-shaped fronds that is excellent for coastal locations. White fruits eaten by songbirds.   |
| Thatch Palm, Key<br><i>Thrinax morrisii</i>             | 10b-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 20'<br>often smaller | Medium         | Similar to the Florida Thatch Palm except for a silvery underside of the fronds. Tolerant of high alkalinity and coastal conditions, it can also be grown inland where drainage is good (sandy soils).   |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Buccaneer Palm  
*Pseudophoenix sargentii*



Cabbage Palm  
*Sabal palmetto*



Florida Royal Palm  
*Roystonea regia = R. elata*



Paurotis Palm  
*Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*



Saw Palmetto  
*Serenoa repens*



Thatch Palm, Florida  
*Thrinax radiata*

# PALM-LIKE

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                                    | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range        | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate | Comments   |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| <b>NON-NATIVE SPECIES</b>  |                               |                   |                   |                       |                   |                |  |
| Alexandra Palm<br><i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i>                | 10b-11                        | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 40'               | Medium         | Also known as King Alexander Palm, it makes a stately accent in the landscape. New leaves may be bronze color on young specimens. Performs best with supplemental irrigation during drought periods. It does not transplant well from field nurseries.           |
| Areca Palm<br><i>Dypsis lutescens = Chrysalidocarpus lutescens</i> | 10b-11                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 20'               | Medium         | Commonly used as a multi-trunked specimen or screening palm. Its foliage suffers on poor soils but with fertilization the leaflets will be medium-green contrasting with a yellowish leaf stem. Spreads aggressively, plant where there is adequate space.       |
| Arikury Palm<br><i>Syagrus schizophylla</i>                        | 10a-11                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 15'               | Medium         | A relatively small specimen palm that prefers partial shade. It is adaptable in its soil requirements. The frond bases (petioles) are spiny.   |
| Bamboo Palm<br><i>Chamaedorea erumpens</i>                         | 10b-11                        | Low               | L                 | Shade                 | 10'               | Medium         | Slender, solitary bamboo-like palm with small (18-20 inches long) fronds. Adaptable in its soil requirements. Useful as an understory shrub in a tropical garden or as an indoor foliage plant. Its fruit is mildly irritating.                                  |
| Bird-of-Paradise, White<br><i>Strelitzia nicolai</i>               | 9a-11                         | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 20'               | Medium         | Large banana-like leaves are subject to splitting by the wind. An attractive multi-trunked large accent plant that provides a tropical look to the landscape. Produces showy flowers that are purple and white.  |
| Bismarck Palm<br><i>Bismarckia nobilis</i>                         | 10a-11                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 30'-60'           | Medium         | A massive fan palm with large silver blue leaves that adapts well to Florida conditions, but is out-of scale for small residential yards. Slow to form a trunk, its growth rate increases towards moderate after trunk development.                              |
| Canary Island Date Palm<br><i>Phoenix canariensis</i>              | 9a-11                         | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 40'               | Medium         | Large formal accent or specimen palm with a massive trunk. The lower third of the fronds bear long, sharp spines. Poorly drained sites should be avoided. Susceptible to lethal yellowing and magnesium deficiency.  |
| Cardboard Palm<br><i>Zamia furfuracea</i>                          | 10a-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 3'                | Medium         | A sturdy cycad with stiff, fern-like leaves that feel like cardboard. It may be used as a bold groundcover or as an accent shrub in sandy, well-drained soils. Red seeds held in cones by female plants are poisonous. Leaves heavily damaged at 28°F.           |
| Cat Palm<br><i>Chamaedorea cataractarum</i>                        | 10b-11                        | High              | L                 | Partial Sun, Shade    | 5'                | Medium         | A small virtually trunkless, palm with attractive foliage that forms a rounded clump. It is useful as a shrubby accent in a shaded garden. It has moderate drought tolerance in the shade.   |
| Chinese Fan Palm<br><i>Livistona chinensis</i>                     | 9a-11                         | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 25'               | Medium         | Hardy specimen plant with a wide-spreading crown and long drooping leaf tips. It is spiny and slightly susceptible to lethal yellowing. This hardy palm can handle a few degrees below freezing without damage. Other <i>Livistona</i> species are available.    |
| Cliff Date Palm<br><i>Phoenix rupicola</i>                         | 9-11                          | Low               | M                 | Full Sun              | 25'               | Medium         | A graceful, moderately sized date palm that has bright green arching fronds with pinnate leaves that lie in one plane. The lower leaflets are modified into spines. It is adaptable to various soils.  |
| Clustering Fishtail Palm<br><i>Caryota mitis</i>                   | 10a-11                        | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 18'               | Medium         | The unusual leaf form of this multi-trunked palm makes it useful as a specimen plant. Its stems die after fruiting but are replaced by new clustering stems. Fruit contains irritating calcium oxalate crystals. Spreads aggressively, requiring adequate space. |
| Coconut Palm<br><i>Cocos nucifera</i>                              | 10b-11                        | Low               | H                 | Full Sun              | 60'               | Medium         | Coconut palms are the most economically important palm for use as food, thatch and coir fiber. The trees adapt well to exposed coastal locations and warm temperatures. The "Malayan" and "Maypan" varieties are resistant to the fatal lethal yellowing virus.  |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Areca Palm  
*Dypsis lutescens*



Bamboo Palm  
*Chamaedorea erumpens*



Canary Island Date Palm  
*Phoenix canariensis*



Cardboard Palm  
*Zamia furfuracea*



Cat Palm  
*Chamaedorea cataractarum*



Chinese Fan Palm  
*Livistona chinensis*



Clustering Fishtail Palm  
*Caryota mitis*



Coconut Palm  
*Cocos nucifera*

# PALM-LIKE

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                   | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range        | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate | Comments   |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| Cycad, Chamal, Dioon<br><i>Dioon edule</i>        | 8b-11                         | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 5'                | Slow           | This very slow-growing, long-lived cycad is used as a specimen plant for tropical effects. Its stiff, shiny, dark green leaflets are sharp. Tolerant of various soils and drought, it forms a trunk only after many years.   |
| Edible Date Palm<br><i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>    | 8b-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun              | 70'               | Slow           | An adaptable landscape palm to various soils and conditions, but mildly susceptible to lethal yellowing disease. Foliage is gray-green and the lower leaflets are modified into sharp spines.  |
| European Fan Palm<br><i>Chamaerops humilis</i>    | 8a-11                         | Medium            | M                 | Full Sun, Partial Sun | 10'               | Slow           | This small fan palm is commonly used as a specimen or buffer plant, and is adaptable to various soils, but they must be well-drained. The frond stems are armed with orange spines. There is much variation in leaf color and habit among specimens.               |
| Foxtail Palm<br><i>Wodyetia bifurcata</i>         | 10a-11                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 30'               | Medium         | A popular, fast-growing specimen palm with dark green leaves with silvery undersides and a slender gray trunk that is ringed with leaf scars. It appears to be adaptable to various soil conditions.   |
| Hurricane Palm<br><i>Dictyosperma album</i>       | 10b-11                        | Low               | M                 | Full Sun              | 30'               | Medium         | A spiny accent or specimen palm for tropical and subtropical landscapes. It is adaptable in its soil requirements, but drying winds can burn the foliage. It is moderately susceptible to lethal yellowing disease.  |
| King Sago<br><i>Cycas revoluta</i>                | 8b-11                         | Low               | L-M               | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 8'                | Slow           | This palm-like cycad has stiff dark green foliage and is used as an accent shrub. It is adaptable in its soil requirements but prone to micronutrient deficiencies. The leaves are somewhat spiny and its red fruits are poisonous. Prone to scale infestations.   |
| Lady Palm<br><i>Rhapis excelsa</i>                | 9-11                          | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Shade    | 7'                | Medium         | Best suited for partial shade because its palmate leaves tend to yellow in sun. It forms dense clusters and can be used as an accent shrub or an interior plant. It is prone to iron deficiency and manganese deficiency in alkaline soils.                        |
| Licuala Palm<br><i>Licuala grandis</i>            | 10b-11                        | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun           | 8'                | Slow           | Small specimen palm that is a rainforest understory plant. It requires partial shade and protection of its unique corrugated, circular leaves from drying winds. It prefers a well-drained organic soil. The lower part of the frond branch contains hooked teeth. |
| Macarthur Palm<br><i>Ptychosperma macarthurii</i> | 10b-11                        | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 25'               | Medium         | A slender, multiple trunked palm that is adaptable to various soils and resistant to lethal yellowing. This clumping species has smaller leaves and thinner trunks than Solitaire Palm and may also be used for interiorscape. Its red fruits are an irritant.     |
| Majesty Palm<br><i>Ravenala rivularis</i>         | 10a-11                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 60'-80'           | Medium         | Adaptable specimen palm for understory planting locations. This palm quickly reaches 10 feet of height then slows in growth rate. Requires frequent fertilization or moderate shade to maintain healthy look. Widely used as an interior plant.                    |
| Montgomery Palm<br><i>Veitchia montgomeryana</i>  | 10b-11                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 25'-35'           | Medium         | A small specimen palm that has a slender gray (green near the crownshaft) trunk and fronds that do not drop below a horizontal position. It is adaptable in its soil requirements and slightly susceptible to lethal yellowing.                                    |
| Parlor Palm<br><i>Chamaedorea elegans</i>         | 10b-11                        | Low               | L                 | Shade, Partial Sun    | 6'                | Slow           | Parlor palm is a densely clustering trunked palm that is very popular as an indoor foliage plant and can be used as a small accent in low light outdoors. Its black fruits are an irritant and mites can be a problem at low relative humidity.                    |
| Pindo Palm<br><i>Butia capitata</i>               | 8a-10b                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 15'               | Slow           | Hardy specimen plant with stiff, blue-green pinnate leaves densely covering arching fronds, which also contain spines. Also called Jelly Palm for its edible fruits, it does best in Central and Northern Florida. Tolerant of various soils.                      |
| Ponytail Palm<br><i>Beaucarnea recurvata</i>      | 10a-11                        | Low               | M                 | Full Sun              | 10'               | Slow           | Often erroneously called a palm, this small specimen tree has long, linear leaves and a large swollen base/trunk. Micronutrient deficiencies, however, are common with this plant.   |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



European Fan Palm  
*Chamaerops humilis*



Foxtail Palm  
*Wodyetia bifurcata*



King Sago  
*Cycas revoluta*



Lady Palm  
*Rhapis excelsa*



Parlor Palm  
*Chamaedorea elegans*



Pindo Palm  
*Butia capitata*



Ponytail Palm  
*Beaucarnea recurvata*

# PALM-LIKE

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                     | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range        | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate | Comments   |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| Pygmy Date Palm<br><i>Phoenix roebelenii</i>        | 10a-11                        | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 10'               | Slow           | The Pygmy Date Palm is a popular, small accent palm with graceful, fine-textured fronds. It is subject to magnesium, manganese and potassium deficiencies and is armed with sharp spines on the petioles (frond bases).  |
| Queen Palm<br><i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i>          | 10a-11                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 40'               | Medium         | Widely planted specimen palm that has a smooth gray trunk and long arching fronds. Manganese deficiency ("frizzle top") is frequently a problem, especially in alkaline soils, unless periodically fertilized. It produces copious fruits, which can be messy. |
| Queen Sago<br><i>Cycas circinalis</i>               | 10b-11                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 10'               | Medium         | Large cycad with dark green, spiny palm-like leaves that are much larger than those of the King Sago. It forms a visible trunk and can be used as a free-standing specimen in large areas. Produces red fruits that are poisonous. Prefers well drained soils. |
| Screw Pine<br><i>Pandanus utilis</i>                | 10b-11                        | Low               | H                 | Full Sun              | 25'               | Medium         | Unusual tree with palm-like leaf clusters and prop-like roots. It is tolerant of various soils. It is slightly susceptible to lethal yellowing and the leaves are spiny. Its unusual fruits are edible and resemble a pineapple.                               |
| Senegal Date Palm<br><i>Phoenix reclinata</i>       | 9-11                          | Low               | M                 | Full Sun              | 25'-30'           | Medium         | This multi-trunked specimen palm suckers vigorously and produces many stems. The lower leaves are modified into long, dagger-like spines. It is tolerant of various soils but requires sufficient room.  |
| Solitaire Palm<br><i>Ptychosperma elegans</i>       | 10b-11                        | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 20'               | Medium         | Also known as Alexander Palm, this small, slender palm is commonly used as a specimen tree for interiorscape. It produces red fruits and is lethal yellowing resistant. It is adaptable to various soils but must be protected from cold winds.                |
| Traveler's Palm<br><i>Ravenala madagascariensis</i> | 10a-11                        | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 25'               | Medium         | Relative of the banana and bird of paradise, this striking plant has large, tropical-looking leaves arranged in one plane atop a stout trunk. It does best in fertile soil and is used as a free-standing specimen.  |
| Triangle Palm<br><i>Neodypsis decaryi</i>           | 10b-11                        | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 25'               | Medium         | Unique blue-green leaves are arranged in three planes, creating a bold, formal appearance. It requires well-drained soil and regular fertilization on infertile soils. Drought tolerant once established, it is slightly susceptible to lethal yellowing.      |
| Washington Palm<br><i>Washingtonia robusta</i>      | 8a-11                         | Low               | M                 | Full Sun              | 80'               | Medium         | A very tall, slender and spiny fan palm that retains old leaves in a petticoat. Its leaves are damaged in the low 20s°F. This desert palm naturally lives near water but over-watering in humid areas can cause root and butt rot.                             |
| Wild Date Palm<br><i>Phoenix sylvestris</i>         | 9a-11                         | Low               | M                 | Full Sun              | 40'               | Medium         | Also known as Toddy Palm or India Date Palm. It is adaptable in its soil requirements and like other large date palms, makes a durable specimen tree. The blue-green cast of the leaves is variable and the petiole is armed with spines.                      |
| Windmill Palm<br><i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>       | 8a-10b                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 25'               | Medium         | This small specimen fan palm is one of the most cold and shade tolerant palms in cultivation. It will not thrive in hot, tropical conditions. The petioles are slightly spiny and has soft, disorganized brown fiber on the trunk. It prefers fertile soils.   |
| Yucca, Spineless<br><i>Yucca elephantipes</i>       | 9b-11                         | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | 20'               | Medium         | This is one of the few yuccas that has relatively soft leaf tips, unlike Spanish Bayonet which has very sharp, hard leaf tips. It is adaptable to various soils and commonly used as an accent. Variegated forms are also available.                           |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Pygmy Date Palm  
*Phoenix roebelenii*



Queen Sago  
*Cycas circinalis*



Screw Pine  
*Pandanus utilis*



Traveler's Palm  
*Ravenala madagascariensis*



Triangle Palm  
*Neodypsis decaryi*



Washington Palm  
*Washingtonia robusta*



Wild Date Palm  
*Phoenix sylvestris*



Yucca, Spineless  
*Yucca elephantipes*

# SHRUBS

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name  | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range        | Flower<br>Season | Flower<br>Color    | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type        | Comments   |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|--|
| <b>NATIVE FLORIDA SPECIES</b>  |                               |                   |                   |                       |                  |                    |                   |                |                      |  |
| Adam's Needle<br><i>Yucca filamentosa</i>                                    | 8a-9b                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun              | Spring           | White              | 5'                | Medium         | Evergreen            | Flowering accent or specimen plant with rigid leaves that have filamentous edges and spiny tips. Flower stalks usually take several years to appear.                                       |
| Apple, Seven-year<br><i>Genipa clusifolia</i> (= <i>Casasia clusifolia</i> ) | 10a-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | All Year         | White              | 8'                | Medium         | Evergreen            | Informal flowering hedge or buffer plant with shiny leaves, showy fragrant flowers and fruit that attracts wildlife. Excellent seaside plant.  |
| Bahama Coffee<br><i>Psychotria ligustrifolia</i>                             | 10b-11                        | Medium            | M                 | Partial Sun, Shade    | Spring - Summer  | White              | 4'                | Medium         | Evergreen            | Informal hedge or foundation plant with very dark green glossy foliage. Red fruits are attractive to wildlife. Can form suckers.   |
| Bay Cedar<br><i>Suriana maritima</i>   | 10b-11                        | Low               | H                 | Full Sun              | All Year         | Yellow             | 10'               | Medium         | Evergreen            | Round densely leafed accent or screening plant. Prefers dry sandy well-drained sites, but is tolerant of most site conditions. Excellent plant for coastal areas.                          |
| Beach Elder<br><i>Iva imbricata</i>  | 9-10b                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun              | All Year         | Green              | 3'                | Medium         | Herbaceous Perennial | Small multi-stemmed accent plant with fleshy leaves and suckering roots that help stabilize loose soils. Excellent for coastal areas. Inconspicuous flowers.                               |
| Beautyberry<br><i>Callicarpa americana</i>                                   | 8-11                          | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | Spring - Summer  | Pink               | 4'-6'             | Medium         | Deciduous            | Commonly used as an understory plant for added color. Brilliant display of bright purple berries that will attract birds year round. Flowers also attract butterflies.                     |
| Black Torch<br><i>Erithalis fruticosa</i>                                    | 10a-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | All Year         | White              | 8'                | Medium         | Evergreen            | Informal screen or privacy hedge with a dense rounded form when planted in full sun. Shiny black fruits are attractive to wildlife.  |
| Blueberry, Shiny<br><i>Vaccinium myrsinites</i>                              | 8a-11                         | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | Spring           | White and Pink     | 2'                | Medium         | Evergreen Small Tree | Small accent or foundation plant that also is suitable for mass plantings. Small glossy leaves. Edible fruit that are attractive to wildlife. Spreads by runners.                          |
| Buckthorn, Tough<br><i>Sideroxylon tenax</i> (= <i>Bumelia tenax</i> )       | 8b-9b                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun              | All Year         | White              | 20'               | Medium         | Evergreen            | Large barrier, background or screening plant with small leaves and large edible purple berries. Prefers well-drained sandy soils. Thorny.  |
| Buttonbush<br><i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>                               | 8a-10a                        | High              | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | Summer           | White              | 8'-12'            | Medium         | Deciduous            | Excellent plant for poorly drained sites or around a lake or pond. The foliage is dark green and very shiny. The fragrant blooms attract butterflies and bees. Poisonous.                  |
| Caper, Jamaican<br><i>Capparis cynophallophora</i>                           | 10b-11                        | Low               | H                 | Full Sun              | Spring           | Pink and White     | 9'-16'            | Medium         | Evergreen            | Popular flowering shrub or small tree with a uniform, shape and growth habit. Dark green glossy leaves with slightly rusty undersides. Showy, fragrant flowers.                            |
| Cassia, Bahama<br><i>Senna mexicana</i> var. <i>chapmanii</i>                | 10a                           | Low               | L                 | Full Sun              | Fall - Winter    | Yellow             | 1'-3'             | Medium         | Evergreen            | Dwarf accent plant that is suitable for mass plantings. The dark green foliage and the large showy flowers contrast nicely. Adds a tropical feel to the garden. Attracts butterflies.      |
| Christmas Berry<br><i>Lycium carolinianum</i>                                | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | Summer - Fall    | White and Lavender | 7'                | Medium         | Evergreen            | Specimen or accent plant with fleshy, needle-like, grayish green foliage and bright red berries in winter. Grows naturally in salt marshes and salt flats.                                 |
| Coral Bean<br><i>Erythrina herbacea</i>                                      | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | Spring           | Red                | 15'               | Medium         | Deciduous            | Flowering accent or barrier plant with elongated spikes of tubular flowers that attract hummingbirds. Colorful fruits split open in the fall to expose poisonous seeds.                    |
| Cotton, Wild<br><i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>                                    | 9-11                          | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | All Year         | Yellow             | 6'-12'            | Medium         | Evergreen            | Showy yellow flowers form seed pods filled with fluffy white to rusty cotton. State-listed as endangered in the wild. Occasional pruning will strengthen branches and improve root system. |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Apple, Seven-year  
*Genipa clusifolia*



Bahama Coffee  
*Psychotria ligustrifolia*



Bay Cedar  
*Suriana maritima*



Beautyberry  
*Callicarpa americana*



Buttonbush  
*Cephalanthus occidentalis*



Caper, Jamaican  
*Capparis cynophallophora*



Christmas Berry  
*Lycium carolinianum*



Coral Bean  
*Erythrina herbacea*

# SHRUBS

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                       | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range          | Flower<br>Season   | Flower<br>Color    | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type           | Comments  |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|
| Eastern Gamagrass<br><i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>     | 8a-11                         | Low               | M                 | Full Sun                | Spring -<br>Fall   | Reddish-<br>gold   | 4'-6'             | Medium         | Herbaceous<br>Perennial | Large clump-forming accent or groundcover plant with dark green arching leaves. Prefers moist planting sites, but tolerates most planting conditions.                                       |
| Elderberry<br><i>Sambucus canadensis</i>              | 8a-11                         | Medium            | L                 | Full Sun                | Summer             | White              | 10'-15'           | Fast           | Deciduous               | Large screening or barrier plant with glossy jagged edged leaves, fragrant flowers and black edible berries that attract wildlife. Typically multi-stemmed.                                 |
| Firebush<br><i>Hamelia patens</i>                     | 10a-11                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun<br>Full Sun | All<br>Year        | Orange -<br>Red    | 3'-10'            | Medium         | Evergreen               | Flowering informal hedge, accent or specimen plant with red tinted pale green leaves and showy tubular flowers that attract hummingbirds.   |
| Florida Flame Azalea<br><i>Rhododendron austrinum</i> | 8a-9b                         | High              | L                 | Partial Sun             | Spring             | Yellow -<br>Orange | 6'                | Medium         | Deciduous               | Vase shaped medium textured specimen or mass planting with showy fragrant flowers that appear before the leaves in spring. Will not flower in deep shade.                                   |
| Florida Gamagrass<br><i>Tripsacum floridanum</i>      | 10a-11                        | Low               | M                 | Full Sun                | Fall               | Gold               | 2'                | Medium         | Herbaceous<br>Perennial | Small dense clump-forming groundcover, with long, glossy light green leaves. Prefers damp rich soils, but is tolerant of most planting sites. Inconspicuous flowers.                        |
| Florida Privet<br><i>Forestiera segregata</i>         | 8a-10b                        | Low               | H                 | Full Sun                | Spring             | Green              | 10'               | Medium         | Evergreen               | Large fine-textured informal hedge or screening plant, with dense, small leaves and green to black fruit that attracts birds. Excellent plant for coastal areas.                            |
| Florida-Anise<br><i>Illicium floridanum</i>           | 8a-10a                        | High              | L                 | Partial Sun<br>Shade    | Spring             | Red -<br>Purple    | 8'-10'            | Medium         | Evergreen               | Large screening or background plant with an upright growth habit, fragrant showy flowers and aromatic anise-scented leaves. Prefers wet sandy soils.  |
| Gallberry<br><i>Ilex glabra</i>                       | 8a-10a                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun<br>Full Sun | Spring             | White              | 6'-7'             | Slow           | Evergreen               | Medium-sized screening, foundation or background plant with an open informal growth habit. Showy black fruit for birds in winter. Inconspicuous flowers. Produces suckers.                  |
| Green Cocoplum<br><i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i>          | 10b-11                        | Low               | M                 | Full Sun<br>Partial Sun | All<br>Year        | White              | 12'-15'           | Medium         | Evergreen               | Relatively pest-free plant that can be used as a formal or informal hedge with dense, ovoid glossy foliage. Edible purple fruits are attractive to wildlife. Inconspicuous flowers.         |
| Holly, Dwarf Yaupon<br><i>Ilex vomitoria 'Nana'</i>   | 8a-10a                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun<br>Full Sun | Spring -<br>Summer | White              | 3'                | Medium         | Evergreen               | Small compact groundcover with small dark green leaves and reddish new growth. Maintains a compact form when planted in full sun. Inconspicuous flowers. Poisonous.                         |
| Inkberry<br><i>Scaevola plumieri</i>                  | 10a-11                        | Low               | H                 | Full Sun                | Summer             | White              | 3'-5'             | Slow           | Evergreen               | Sprawling groundcover with succulent glossy leaves and glossy black fruits. Excellent plant for coastal or dune areas. Rare.  |
| Lyonia, Rusty<br><i>Lyonia ferruginea</i>             | 8a-10b                        | Low               | L                 | Full Sun                | Spring             | White              | 10'-15'           | Medium         | Evergreen               | Large screening, background plant or small tree with rusty pubescence on the leaf undersides and small, urn-shaped fragrant flowers. Prefers most acidic soil conditions.                   |
| Maidenbush<br><i>Savia bahamensis</i>                 | 10b-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun<br>Full Sun | Spring             | Green              | 9'                | Medium         | Evergreen               | Can be used as an informal hedge, background or screening plant. Tolerates most planting conditions. Excellent plant for coastal areas.   |
| Marlberry<br><i>Ardisia escallonioides</i>            | 10a-11                        | High              | H                 | Partial Sun<br>Shade    | Spring -<br>Fall   | White              | 10'-20'           | Medium         | Evergreen               | Understory plant commonly used to provide screening or background. Tolerates varying soil conditions. Fragrant flowers and black fruits are attractive to wildlife but poisonous to humans. |
| Myrsine<br><i>Rapanea punctata</i>                    | 8b-11                         | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun<br>Full Sun | All<br>Year        | White              | 15'               | Medium         | Evergreen               | Shrubby upright growing specimen, screening plant or small tree with inconspicuous flowers and small black berries that attracts wildlife. Tolerates most planting conditions.              |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



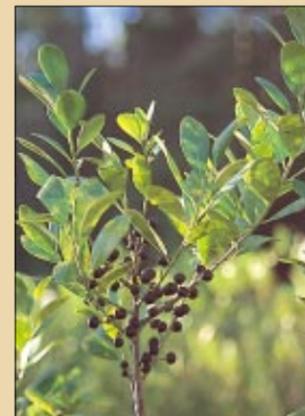
Eastern Gamagrass  
*Tripsacum dactyloides*



Elderberry  
*Sambucus canadensis*



Firebush  
*Hamelia patens*



Gallberry  
*Ilex glabra*



Green Cocoplum  
*Chrysobalanus icaco*



Holly, Dwarf Yaupon  
*Ilex vomitoria 'Nana'*



Marlberry  
*Ardisia escallonioides*



Myrsine  
*Rapanea punctata*

# SHRUBS

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                              | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Flower<br>Season   | Flower<br>Color   | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type      | Comments  |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|---|
| Oakleaf Hydrangea<br><i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>            | 8a-9b                         | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring             | White             | 5'-6'             | Fast           | Deciduous          | Upright suckering plant commonly planted in mass or as a specimen plant. Showy flowers and exfoliating bark. Large oak-like leaves provide excellent fall color.  |
| Pinxter Azalea<br><i>Rhododendron canescens</i>              | 8a-10a                        | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring             | Pink -<br>White   | 10'               | Medium         | Deciduous          | Large specimen or screening plant with a suckering growth habit and showy fragrant flowers. Requires an acid soil to perform well.  |
| Possum Haw<br><i>Viburnum nudum</i>                          | 9a-9b                         | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring             | White             | 6'-12'            | Fast           | Deciduous          | Large background or screening plant with an open crown, masses of showy flowers, red fall foliage and small berries that attract wildlife.  |
| Red Tip Cocoplum<br><i>Chrysobalanus icaco 'Red Tip'</i>     | 10a-11                        | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | All<br>Year        | White             | 12'-15'           | Medium         | Evergreen          | Commonly used for hedges, screens or buffers. Edible purple fruits are attractive to wildlife. Dense burgundy red foliage persists year-round. Inconspicuous flowers.   |
| Sea Lavender<br><i>Argusia gnaphalodes (= A. volubilis)</i>  | 9b-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | Winter -<br>Spring | White             | 3'-5'             | Medium         | Evergreen          | Mounding specimen plant with distinctive silvery gray foliage. Prefers sandy well drained soils. Excellent plant for coastal areas. Endangered.   |
| Silver Buttonwood<br><i>Conocarpus erectus var. sericeus</i> | 10b-11                        | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | All<br>Year        | Purple -<br>White | 20' -25'          | Medium         | Evergreen          | Large screening, specimen plant or small tree with a vase shaped crown, silvery leaves and attractive bark. Excellent plant for coastal areas. Inconspicuous flowers.   |
| Simpson Stopper<br><i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i>               | 9-11                          | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | All<br>Year        | White             | 8'-25'            | Medium         | Evergreen          | Densely branched and leafy hedge or small tree with masses of fragrant white flowers and bright orange berries that attract birds. May bloom intermittently all year after weather extremes. When used as a hedge, frequent pruning limits flowering. |
| Softleaf Coffee<br><i>Psychotria sulzneri</i>                | 10-11                         | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | All<br>Year        | White             | 6-9'              | Medium         | Evergreen          | Understory or specimen plant with dull gray-green foliage and attractive red berries that attract wildlife. Prefers deep shade.   |
| Spanish Bayonet<br><i>Yucca aloifolia</i>                    | 8a-10b                        | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | Spring             | White             | 12'-14'           | Medium         | Evergreen          | Upright clump-forming accent or security screening plant with dark green ridged leaves with sharp points and showy flowers. Prefers well-drained soils.   |
| Spicewood<br><i>Calypttranthes pallens</i>                   | 10b-11                        | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Fall   | White             | 15'-20'           | Medium         | Evergreen          | Commonly used as a hedge or small tree with colorful fruit, and fragrant foliage, create interest year round. Attracts wildlife. Inconspicuous flowers.   |
| Swamp Mallow<br><i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>                    | 8a-10b                        | High              | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Summer | Red               | 5'-6'             | Medium         | Perennial          | Large accent or specimen plant with an erect growth habit and showy flowers that attract hummingbirds. Prefers wet planting sites.  |
| Sweetspire, Virginia<br><i>Itea virginica</i>                | 8a-11                         | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Summer | White             | 4'-7'             | Medium         | Semi-<br>evergreen | Small accent plant with tassels of tiny fragrant flowers and glossy dark green foliage that may turn reddish in color with cooler temperatures. May produce suckers.  |
| Tetrazygia<br><i>Tetrazygia bicolor</i>                      | 10-11                         | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Summer | White             | 8'-10'            | Medium         | Evergreen          | Flowering accent or specimen plant with glossy dark green leaves, showy flowers and black-blue berries that attract birds. Prefers well drained soils.  |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



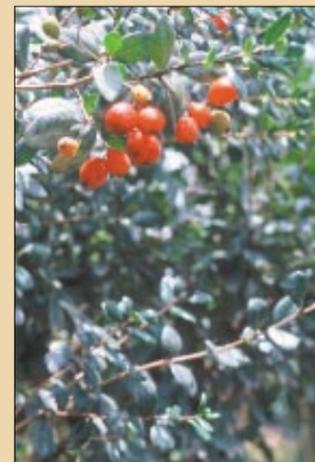
Red Tip Cocoplum  
*Chrysobalanus icaco 'Red Tip'*



Sea Lavender  
*Argusia gnaphalodes*



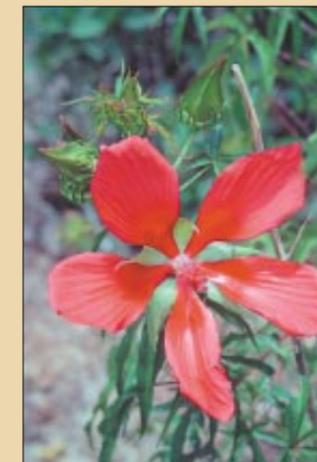
Silver Buttonwood  
*Conocarpus erectus var. sericeus*



Simpson Stopper  
*Myrcianthes fragrans*



Spanish Bayonet  
*Yucca aloifolia*



Swamp Mallow  
*Hibiscus coccineus*



Tetrazygia  
*Tetrazygia bicolor*

# SHRUBS

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                               | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Flower<br>Season | Flower<br>Color  | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type | Comments   |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| Tropical Sea Oxeye Daisy<br><i>Borrchia arborescens</i>       | 10a-11                        | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | All Year         | Yellow           | 3'                | Medium         | Evergreen     | Considered a spreading groundcover rather than a shrub. Prefers well-drained soils, which makes it well adapted for beach strands. Showy flowers.          |
| Varnish Leaf<br><i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>                       | 9a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | Summer           | White            | 6'                | Medium         | Evergreen     | Large hardy accent, hedge or foundation plant with shiny leaves and showy winged fruit.  |
| Walter's Viburnum<br><i>Viburnum obovatum</i>                 | 8a-10a                        | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring           | White            | 12'-15'           | Medium         | Evergreen     | Large formal or informal hedge with showy flowers and red to black edible berries that attract wildlife. May form thickets, which provide nesting habitat. |
| Wax Myrtle<br><i>Myrica cerifera</i>                          | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | Spring - Summer  | Green            | 20'               | Medium         | Evergreen     | Large screening or specimen plant with fragrant leaves and waxy blue-green berries that attract wildlife. Typically multi-stemmed. Inconspicuous flowers.  |
| White Indigo Berry<br><i>Randia aculeata</i>                  | 10a-11                        | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | All Year         | White            | 8'                | Medium         | Evergreen     | Hardy specimen or foundation plant with stiff somewhat spiny branches, small fragrant flowers and showy white berries on female plants.                    |
| Wild Coffee<br><i>Psychotria nervosa</i>                      | 10a                           | Medium            | M                 | Partial Sun    | Spring - Summer  | White            | 5'                | Medium         | Evergreen     | Multi-stemmed screening or understory plant with glossy dark green leaves and bright red berries that attract wildlife. Excellent for shady locations.     |
| Wild Olive<br><i>Osmanthus americanus</i>                     | 8a-9b                         | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring           | White            | 15'               | Medium         | Evergreen     | Large background or screening plant with showy fragrant flowers. Prefers a well drained moderately fertile soil.   |
| Wild Rosemary<br><i>Conradina canescens</i>                   | 9a-9b                         | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | Spring - Fall    | Pink             | 4'                | Medium         | Evergreen     | Aromatic foliage. Flowers attract insects. Prefers well-drained sandy soil.  |
| Wild Sage, Buttonsage<br><i>Lantana involucrata</i>           | 10a                           | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | All Year         | White and Yellow | 6'                | Medium         | Evergreen     | Shrub with small coarse leaves. Will tolerate some shade. Flowers attractive to butterflies. Dark blue berry. Excellent specimen for coastal areas.        |
| Yellow Anise<br><i>Illicium parviflorum</i>                   | 9a-9b                         | Medium            | L                 | Shade          | Spring           | Yellow           | 15'               | Medium         | Evergreen     | Multi-stemmed hedge, screening plant or small tree with dense foliage, distinctive flowers and fragrant olive green foliage. Tolerates shady sites. Rare.  |
| Yellow Necklace Pod<br><i>Sophora tomentosa var. truncata</i> | 10a-11                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | All Year         | Yellow           | 6'-8'             | Medium         | Evergreen     | Loose-growing background or specimen plant with showy yellow flowers that attract butterflies and humming birds. Bean shaped seed pods are poisonous.      |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Walter's Viburnum  
*Viburnum obovatum*



Wax Myrtle  
*Myrica cerifera*



White Indigo Berry  
*Randia aculeata*



Wild Coffee  
*Psychotria nervosa*



Wild Sage, Buttonsage  
*Lantana involucrata*



Yellow Necklace Pod  
*Sophora tomentosa var. truncata*

# SHRUBS

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name   | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range   | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Flower<br>Season | Flower<br>Color          | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type        | Comments  |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|---|
| <b>NON-NATIVE SPECIES</b>   |   |                   |                   |                |                  |                          |                   |                |                      |   |
| Alder, Yellow<br><i>Turnera ulmifolia</i>                                     | 9-11  | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | All Year         | Yellow, White            | 2'-4'             | Fast           | Evergreen            | Drought-tolerant, non-woody shrub. Showy flowers open only during mid-day. May be pinched back to increase fullness.  |
| Alocasia, Elephant Ear<br><i>Alocasia spp.</i>                                | 10b-11  | High              | L                 | Shade          | Summer           | Green                    | 2'-10'            | Fast           | Herbaceous Perennial | Irregular-shaped specimen or accent plant with large tropical-looking leaves. Many species and varieties with different characteristics are available. Poisonous.   |
| Angel's Trumpet<br><i>Brugmansia x 'candida'</i>                              | 8-10b   | High              | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring - Summer  | White, Pink, Yellow      | 8'-12'            | Fast           | Evergreen            | Flowers are fragrant, showy inverted bells. Do not over water. May be propagated from cuttings. All parts of the plant are extremely poisonous.   |
| Anise-Tree<br><i>Illicium anisatum</i>  | 8-10b   | High              | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring           | Yellow and Green         | 15'               | Medium         | Evergreen            | Large screening or background plant with fragrant, upright, leathery, olive green anise-scented foliage. Relatively pest-free plant. Inconspicuous flowers.   |
| Arbor-vitae, Oriental<br><i>Platycladus orientalis</i>                        | 8-10b   | High              | L                 | Partial Sun    | N/A              | N/A                      | 20'               | Medium         | Evergreen Conifer    | Large buffer or screening plant with a dense tightly compacted form and conical growth habit. Dark green foliage is arranged vertically. Inconspicuous flowers.   |
| Azalea Hybrids<br><i>Rhododendrom spp.</i>                                    | 8-10a   | High              | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring           | White, Pink, Red, Purple | 4'-6'             | Medium         | Evergreen            | Showy understory, foundation or specimen plant with dark green foliage and a rounded or spreading form. Requires well-drained, mildly acidic soils. Many varieties available.   |
| Barberry, 'Crimson Pygmy'<br><i>Berberis thunbergii</i> , 'Atropurpurea Nana' | 8a-9a   | High              | M                 | Full Sun       | Spring           | Creamy White             | 3'-5'             | Medium         | Deciduous            | Colorful barrier or accent plant with dense dark crimson foliage, thorny stems and colorful red-orange berries visible in the fall. Tolerates exposure.   |
| Barberry, Wintergreen<br><i>Berberis julianae</i>                             | 8-9b  | High              | M                 | Partial Sun    | Spring           | Yellow                   | 5'                | Medium         | Evergreen            | Dense barrier or background plant with spiny dark green foliage, purplish when young or grown in full sun. Black-blue berries in the fall. Very spiny stems.  |
| Beach Naupaka<br><i>Scaevola sericea</i>                                      | <b>INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17).</b> |                   |                   |                |                  |                          |                   |                |                      |   |
| Bird of Paradise<br><i>Strelitzia reginae</i>                                 | 9-11  | High              | M                 | Full Sun       | Spring - Summer  | Orange and Blue          | 5'-6'             | Medium         | Evergreen            | Fan-like clump of long-stalked, blue-green leaves. Striking inflorescence suggests a bird in flight. Slow growing. Best in full sun and rich, moist soil. May be divided into new plants, which may not bloom for 7-10 years. Inconspicuous flowers; bracts provide long-lasting color. |
| Blue Porterweed<br><i>Stachytarpheta urticifolia</i>                          | 9-11  | High              | H                 | Full Sun       | All Year         |                          |                   | Fast           | Evergreen            | Drought-tolerant, constant blooms attract butterflies. May spread by seed beyond garden beds. Small blue flowers grow along slender spikes at branch tips. May be damaged or killed by frost.   |
| Bougainvillea, Paper Flower<br><i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>                    | 10-11   | High              | H                 | Full Sun       | All Year         | Many                     | 8'                | Fast           | Evergreen Vining     | Colorful specimen or barrier plant with a dense wispy form when grown as a shrub. Inconspicuous flowers; persistent bracts provide intense color. Requires frequent pruning to maintain shrub form. Very thorny.  |
| Butterfly-Bush<br><i>Buddleja davidii</i>                                     | 8-10b   | High              | M                 | Full Sun       | Winter - Spring  | White, Pink, Red, Purple | 8'-10'            | Medium         | Evergreen            | Large flowering accent or background plant with showy fragrant flower clusters that attract butterflies. Requires a hard pruning in the fall.   |
| Caricature Plant<br><i>Graptophyllum pictum</i>                               | 10b-11  | High              | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring - Fall    | Red                      | 5'                | Fast           | Evergreen            | Upright accent or border plant, grown for its attractive pink and green foliage. Inconspicuous flowers. Suitable for coastal locations. Needs consistent moisture. Poisonous.   |
| Catclaw Mimosa<br><i>Mimosa pigra</i>   | <b>INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17).</b> |                   |                   |                |                  |                          |                   |                |                      |   |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Alder, Yellow  
*Turnera ulmifolia*



Alocasia, Elephant Ear  
*Alocasia spp.*



Angel's Trumpet  
*Brugmansia x 'candida'*



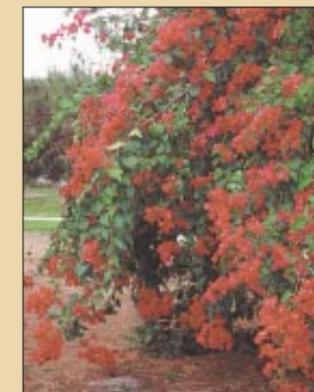
Azalea Hybrids  
*Rhododendrom spp.*



Bird of Paradise  
*Strelitzia reginae*



Blue Porterweed  
*Stachytarpheta urticifolia*



Bougainvillea, Paper Flower  
*Bougainvillea glabra*



Caricature Plant  
*Graptophyllum pictum*

# SHRUBS

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                          | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range  | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range          | Flower<br>Season   | Flower<br>Color               | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type           | Comments   |
|--|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--|
| Century Plant, Maguey<br><i>Agave americana</i>          | 9a-11  | Low               | H                 | Full Sun                | Summer -<br>Fall   | Yellow                        | 6'-8'             | Fast           | Succulent<br>Perennial  | Spiny succulent commonly used as a specimen or in rock gardens. Blooms once and dies within 10 years, however, young plants arise from base. Many different cultivars available.                   |
| Chenille Plant<br><i>Acalypha hispida</i>                | 10b-11   | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun<br>Full Sun | All<br>Year        | Red                           | 5'                | Fast           | Evergreen               | Crimson flower spikes up to 18 inches long are produced most of the year. Needs partial sun and regular moisture. May be propagated by cuttings. Mites, scale and mealybugs may be problems.       |
| Chinese Privet<br><i>Ligustrum sinense</i>               | INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17). |                   |                   |                         |                    |                               |                   |                |                         |  |
| Copperleaf<br><i>Acalypha wilkesiana</i>                 | 10b-11   | Medium            | H                 | Full Sun                | Spring -<br>Fall   | White                         | 8'                | Fast           | Evergreen               | Upright border or accent plant with dense, irregularly shaped bronze-copper colored foliage. Good seaside plant. Inconspicuous flowers.  |
| Coral Ardisia<br><i>Ardisia crenata</i>                  | INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17). |                   |                   |                         |                    |                               |                   |                |                         |  |
| Crape Jasmine<br><i>Tabernaemontana divaricata</i>       | 10b-11   | Medium            | M                 | Partial Sun<br>Full Sun | Spring -<br>Fall   | White                         | 8'                | Medium         | Evergreen               | Flowering background or specimen plant with a dense round symmetrical form, shiny leaves and fragrant (especially at night), showy flowers.  |
| Crinum Lily<br><i>Crinum asiaticum</i>                   | 9-11   | Medium            | M                 | Full Sun<br>Partial Sun | Spring -<br>Summer | White                         | 5'                | Medium         | Herbaceous<br>Perennial | Large clump-forming specimen or accent plant with long fleshy light green leaves and showy fragrant flowers. Many cultivars available. Poisonous.  |
| Croton<br><i>Codiaeum variegatum</i>                     | 10a-11   | Medium            | M                 | Partial Sun<br>Full Sun | Summer             | White                         | 8'                | Fast           | Evergreen               | Rounded irregularly shaped accent or specimen plant with colorful foliage. Inconspicuous flowers. Can become leggy over time. Many cultivars available.  |
| Daisy, African Bush<br><i>Gamolepis chrysanthemoides</i> | 10b-11   | Medium            | L                 | Full Sun                | All<br>Year        | Yellow                        | 3'                | Medium         | Evergreen               | Low-growing rounded flowering shrub suitable for accent or mass plantings. Irregular leaf shape also adds interest. Becomes leggy with age.  |
| Day Jessamine<br><i>Cestrum diuumum</i>                  | INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17). |                   |                   |                         |                    |                               |                   |                |                         |  |
| Downy Jasmine<br><i>Jasmine multiflorum</i>              | 10b-11   | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun<br>Full Sun | Spring -<br>Fall   | White                         | 4'-5'             | Medium         | Evergreen               | Sprawling, low-growing foundation or hedge plant that requires frequent pruning to maintain shrub form. Can also be trained on a trellis. Showy flowers.   |
| Firecracker Plant<br><i>Russelia equisetiformis</i>      | 10b-11   | Medium            | H                 | Full Sun                | All<br>Year        | Red                           | 4'-5'             | Medium         | Evergreen               | Flowering vase-shaped specimen or accent plant with wispy almost leafless stems and long tubular flowers that attract butterflies. Excellent cascading plant. Spreading growth may be troublesome. |
| French Hydrangea<br><i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>         | 8-9b   | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun<br>Shade    | Spring -<br>Summer | Blue, Red,<br>White, Lavender | 5'                | Fast           | Deciduous               | Round compact flowering shrub with coarse textured foliage and showy flowers that change color depending on the pH of the soil. Many cultivars available.  |
| Gardenia<br><i>Gardenia augusta</i>                      | 8a-10a   | Medium            | L                 | Full Sun                | Spring             | White                         | 6'                | Medium         | Evergreen               | Rounded specimen shrub with an open irregular growth habit, showy fragrant flowers, and dense shiny dark green foliage. Requires well drained soils. Many cultivars available.                     |
| Ginger, Shell<br><i>Alpinia zerumbet</i>                 | 10a-11   | Medium            | M                 | Partial Sun<br>Full Sun | Summer -<br>Winter | White,<br>Yellow              | 8'                | Fast           | Herbaceous<br>Perennial | Large clump-forming specimen or accent plant with dense, long, waxy dark green leaves that give a ginger odor when crushed and showy flowers clusters.   |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Century Plant, Maguey  
*Agave americana*



Chenille Plant  
*Acalypha hispida*



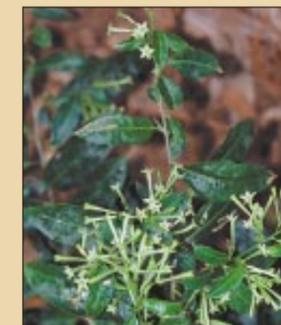
Copperleaf  
*Acalypha wilkesiana*



Crinum Lily  
*Crinum asiaticum*



Croton  
*Codiaeum variegatum*



Downy Jasmine  
*Jasmine multiflorum*



Gardenia  
*Gardenia augusta*



Ginger, Shell  
*Alpinia zerumbet*

# SHRUBS

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                            | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range   | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Flower<br>Season   | Flower<br>Color        | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type | Comments  |
|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|---|
| Glorybush<br><i>Tibouchina urvilleana</i>                  | 9b-10b  | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Fall   | Purple                 | 10'               | Fast           | Evergreen     | Open irregularly shaped specimen shrub or small patio tree with pubescent dark green foliage and showy flowers. Prefers well-drained soils.   |
| Golden Dewdrop<br><i>Duranta repens</i>                    | 9b-11   | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Fall   | Blue,<br>White         | 12'-14'           | Medium         | Evergreen     | Flowering background plant with an upright form and showy flowers that attract butterflies. Tolerates most soil conditions. Yellow fruit is poisonous.  |
| Green Pittosporum<br><i>Pittosporum tobira</i>             | 8-11  | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | Summer             | White                  | 6'-8'             | Medium         | Evergreen     | Round, irregularly shaped hedge, foundation, or screening plant with glossy green leaves clustered at the tips of branches. Inconspicuous flowers.  |
| Hawthorn, Indian<br><i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i>             | 8a-11   | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | Spring             | White, Pink            | 4'                | Medium         | Evergreen     | Typically a low-growing accent shrub with an open irregular growth habit, showy flowers, ridged dark green foliage and small black berries present in the fall. Often declines in zones 9b-11.                      |
| Heliconia<br><i>Heliconia spp.</i>                         | 10b-11  | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring-<br>Summer  | Red, Yellow            | 7'                | Medium         | Non-woody     | Well-drained moist soils. Feed regularly with palm fertilizer. Cut spent flower canes to the ground. Every few years, divide clump when growth slows. Bracts provide long-lasting color. Flowers are inconspicuous. |
| Hibiscus<br><i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>                  | 10a-11  | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | All<br>Year        | Many                   | 8'-10'            | Fast           | Evergreen     | Open upright specimen or screening plant with showy flowers and glossy green leaves. Tolerates most soil conditions. Many varieties exist. Commonly attracts white flies and aphids.                                |
| Holly, Burford or Chinese<br><i>Ilex cornuta 'Burford'</i> | 8a-9b   | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring             | White                  | 8'-15'            | Medium         | Evergreen     | Large dense screening or specimen plant with drooping branches, spiny dark green leaves, and red berries in the fall that attract wildlife. Inconspicuous flowers.  |
| Holly, Japanese<br><i>Ilex crenata</i>                     | 8-9b  | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring             | White                  | 8'-10'            | Medium         | Evergreen     | Rounded hedge or background plant with dense foliage. Male and female plants necessary for berry production. Inconspicuous flowers. Many varieties available.   |
| Honeysuckle, Cape<br><i>Tecomaria capensis</i>             | 10b-11  | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | Spring<br>and Fall | Orange,<br>Red, Yellow | 6'-8'             | Fast           | Evergreen     | Rambling plant with soft feathery foliage, tubular flower clusters, requires frequent pruning to retain shrub form. Will vine nicely on fence posts or trellis.   |
| Juniper, Chinese<br><i>Juniperus chinensis</i>             | 8a-10b  | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | N/A                | N/A                    | 6'                | Medium         | Evergreen     | Many different varieties and cultivars available with varied growth habits. Requires well-drained fertile soil. Cannot be pruned severely. Often declines in zones 9b-10.   |
| King's Mantle<br><i>Thunbergia erecta</i>                  | 10b-11  | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | All<br>Year        | Purple                 | 5'                | Fast           | Evergreen     | Upright flowering specimen or hedge plant with showy flowers. Requires well-drained soils and frequent pruning to retain desired shape.   |
| Littleleaf Boxwood<br><i>Buxus microphylla 'Japonica'</i>  | 8-10a   | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Summer             | White                  | 4'                | Medium         | Evergreen     | Compact densely foliated formal hedge or foundation plant with stiff leathery medium green leaves. Many cultivars available. Inconspicuous flowers.   |
| Nandina/Heavenly Bamboo<br><i>Nandina domestica</i>        | <b>INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17).</b> |                   |                   |                |                    |                        |                   |                |               |   |
| Natal Plum<br><i>Carissa macrocarpa</i>                    | 10b-11  | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Fall   | White                  | 10'               | Medium         | Evergreen     | Round foundation or screening plant with dense branching and foliage, showy fragrant flowers, spiny stems and large red semi-edible fruit.  |
| Night-Blooming Jessamine<br><i>Cestrum nocturnum</i>       | 10a-11  | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | Spring -<br>Summer | White                  | 10'               | Medium         | Evergreen     | Sprawling specimen plant with showy fragrant flowers appearing only at night. Fragrance can be overpowering. White fruits and foliage are poisonous.  |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Glorybush  
*Tibouchina urvilleana*



Green Pittosporum  
*Pittosporum tobira*



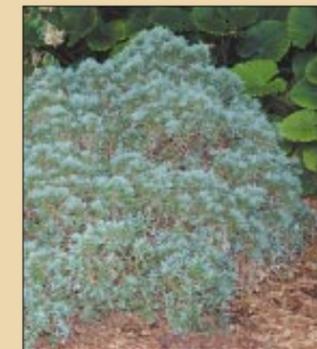
Hawthorn, Indian  
*Rhaphiolepis indica*



Heliconia  
*Heliconia spp.*



Hibiscus  
*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*



Juniper, Chinese  
*Juniperus chinensis*



Natal Plum  
*Carissa macrocarpa*

# SHRUBS

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                         | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range   | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Flower<br>Season | Flower<br>Color        | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type           | Comments   |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--|
| Oleander<br><i>Nerium oleander</i>                      | 8a-11   | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | All Year         | White, Pink            | 15'               | Medium         | Evergreen               | Upright multi-stemmed screening or barrier plan with showy flower clusters. Excellent plant for coastal areas. The entire plant is very poisonous.                       |
| Peregrina, Jatropha<br><i>Jatropha integririma</i>      | 10b-11  | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | All Year         | Red                    | 8'                | Medium         | Evergreen               | Flowering multi-trunk specimen or accent plant with a semi-compact shape and irregularly lobed leaves. Tolerant of most planting conditions. Poisonous.                  |
| Philodendron, Split Leaf<br><i>Philodendron selloum</i> | 9-10  | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun    | Summer           | White                  | 3'-5'             | Medium         | Herbaceous<br>Perennial | Round accent, mass planting or foundation plant with a loose open form. Many cultivars with different characteristics available. Inconspicuous flowers.                  |
| Pineapple Guava<br><i>Feijoa sellowiana</i>             | 8b-10   | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | Spring           | White -<br>Reddish     | 12'-14'           | Medium         | Evergreen               | Flowering hedge, foundation, specimen plant or small tree with dense foliage, showy flowers and edible fruit. Leaves are gray-green with silvery undersides.             |
| Plumbago<br><i>Plumbago auriculata</i>                  | 10a-11  | Medium            | M                 | Full Sun       | Spring -<br>Fall | Blue,<br>White         | 5'                | Fast           | Evergreen               | Sprawling foundation or hedge with dense foliage, showy flower clusters and soft pubescent leaves. Heavy surface shearing will revive the plant color.                   |
| Podocarpus, Yew<br><i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i>       | 8a-11   | Medium            | M                 | Partial Sun    | N/A              | N/A                    | 35'               | Medium         | Conifer                 | Upright specimen, screening, framing plant or small tree with dense foliage and a narrow, symmetrical columnar growth habit. Tolerates most well-drained soils.          |
| Poinciana, Dwarf<br><i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i>      | 9a-11   | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | Spring -<br>Fall | Orange,<br>Yellow, Red | 9'                | Fast           | Evergreen               | Upright loosely branched specimen, semi-screening plant or small tree with showy flowers and feathery light green leaves. Tolerates poor planting conditions. Poisonous. |
| Red Ixora<br><i>Ixora coccinea</i>                      | 10b-11  | Medium            | M                 | Full Sun       | All Year         | Yellow, Red,<br>Pink   | 5'                | Medium         | Evergreen               | Compact foundation, hedge or specimen shrub with dense foliage and showy flower clusters. Requires well-drained fertile soil. Many cultivars available.                  |
| Red Powderpuff<br><i>Calliandra haematocephala</i>      | 10a-11  | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | Winter           | Red, White             | 15'               | Medium         | Evergreen               | Round multi-trunked specimen shrub or small tree with showy flowers and attractive red fruit. Prefers sandy soils. Requires occasional shearing to maintain shape.       |
| Rose<br><i>Rosa spp.</i>                                | 8-10b   | Medium            | L                 | Full Sun       | All Year         | Many                   | 10'               | Medium         | Evergreen               | Colorful specimen or group plantings with an upright or vining form depending on variety, thorny stems and fragrant flowers. Requires moist, well-drained soil.          |
| Rose-of-Sharon<br><i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>              | 8-9b  | High              | L                 | Full Sun       | Summer -<br>Fall | Many                   | 10'               | Fast           | Deciduous               | Upright, bushy specimen, accent or hedging plant with showy flowers and lustrous foliage. Prefers fertile well-drained soils. Blooms on new growth.                      |
| Sasanqua Camellia<br><i>Camellia sasanqua</i>           | 8-9b  | High              | L                 | Full Sun       | Fall             | White,<br>Pink, Red    | 15'               | Medium         | Evergreen               | Upright hedge, screening, specimen plant or small tree with dense foliage, showy fragrant flowers and glossy dark green leaves. Prefers acid soils.                      |
| Schefflera, Dwarf<br><i>Schefflera arboricola</i>       | 10a-11  | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | Summer           | White                  | 10'               | Fast           | Evergreen               | Rounded multi-stemmed foundation or informal hedge with dense glossy leaves and flexible stems. Performs well in low light areas. Inconspicuous flowers.                 |
| Shoebuttan Ardisia<br><i>Ardisia elliptica</i>          | <b>INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17).</b> |                   |                   |                |                  |                        |                   |                |                         |  |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Oleander  
*Nerium oleander*



Peregrina, Jatropha  
*Jatropha integririma*



Plumbago  
*Plumbago auriculata*



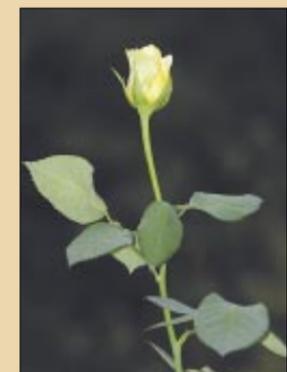
Podocarpus, Yew  
*Podocarpus macrophyllus*



Red Ixora  
*Ixora coccinea*



Red Powderpuff  
*Calliandra haematocephala*



Rose  
*Rosa spp.*



Schefflera, Dwarf  
*Schefflera arboricola*

# SHRUBS

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                               | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range  | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Flower<br>Season | Flower<br>Color        | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type | Comments  |
|---|--|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|---|
| Snail Seed<br><i>Coccolus laurifolius</i>                     | 9a-10b   | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Summer           | Yellow                 | 13'               | Medium         | Evergreen     | Coarse textured barrier, screening or hedge plant with a weeping growth habit. Tiny flowers are inconspicuous. Poisonous leaves.                                      |
| Snow Bush<br><i>Breynia disticha</i>                          | 10b-11   | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Summer           | White                  | 6'                | Medium         | Evergreen     | Rounded clump forming specimen or accent plant with fine textured variegated foliage and red berries. Requires pruning to deter weediness.                            |
| Strawberry Guava<br><i>Psidium cattleianum</i>                | INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17). |                   |                   |                |                  |                        |                   |                |               |   |
| Surinam Cherry<br><i>Eugenia uniflora</i>                     | INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17). |                   |                   |                |                  |                        |                   |                |               |   |
| Sweet Olive<br><i>Osmanthus fragrans</i>                      | 9a-9b  | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Fall - Winter    | White                  | 20'               | Medium         | Evergreen     | Upright and rounded multi-trunked specimen plant with small, extremely fragrant flower clusters and deep green foliage. Prefers well-drained soils.                   |
| Texas Sage<br><i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>                  | 8a-10b   | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | Summer           | Lavender               | 5'                | Medium         | Evergreen     | Compact low hedge or specimen plant with showy bell shaped flowers and gray-green foliage. Requires well-drained sites. Full sun for best flowering.                  |
| Thryallis<br><i>Galphimia gracilis</i>                        | 10b-11   | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Fall | Yellow                 | 5'                | Medium         | Evergreen     | Round compact specimen or border accent plant with showy flowers and light green foliage that turns bronze in the fall and winter. Brittle stems can be a problem.    |
| Ti Plant<br><i>Cordyline terminalis</i>                       | 10b-11   | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | Fall             | White                  | 5'                | Medium         | Evergreen     | Slender, upright single trunked accent or specimen plant with long narrow purple to pink leaves. Tolerates shady conditions. Many varieties available.                |
| Tibouchina<br><i>Tibouchina clavata</i>                       | 10b-11   | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | Spring -<br>Fall | Purple                 | 6'                | Medium         | Evergreen     | Round specimen or border plant with an irregular growth habit, showy flowers and dark green pubescent leaves. Prefers well-drained soils.                             |
| Viburnum, Sandankwa<br><i>Viburnum suspensum</i>              | 8a-10b   | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Summer           | White                  | 6'                | Medium         | Evergreen     | Compact foundation or hedge plant with dense leathery dark green leaves and small fragrant flower clusters. Tolerates shady locations.                                |
| Viburnum, Sweet<br><i>Viburnum odoratissimum</i>              | 8a-10b   | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring           | White                  | 8-10'             | Medium         | Evergreen     | Dense, upright stoutly branched screening, foundation, hedge plant or small tree with large coarse dark green leaves and fragrant flowers. Tolerates shady locations. |
| Yesterday-Today-and-Tomorrow<br><i>Brunfelsia grandiflora</i> | 10b-11   | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Fall | White,<br>Purple, Blue | 8'                | Medium         | Evergreen     | Dense, upright multi-trunked specimen or foundation plant with showy fragrant flowers. Tolerates most planting conditions.  |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Snow Bush  
*Breynia disticha*



Sweet Olive  
*Osmanthus fragrans*



Texas Sage  
*Leucophyllum frutescens*



Thryallis  
*Galphimia gracilis*



Ti Plant  
*Cordyline terminalis*



Viburnum, Sweet  
*Viburnum odoratissimum*



Yesterday-Today-and-Tomorrow  
*Brunfelsia grandiflora*

# GROUNDCOVERS & GRASSES



| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name   | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Flower<br>Season   | Flower<br>Color        | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type        | Comments   |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|--|
| <b>NATIVE SPECIES</b>   |                               |                   |                   |                |                    |                        |                   |                |                      |  |
| Aster, Stokes<br><i>Stokesia laevis</i>   | 8-10                          | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | Summer             | Many                   | 1-2'              | Medium         | Perennial            | Works well at the front of perennial borders. Requires acidic, well-drained soil. Cultivars come in a wide range of colors. Cold hardy.  |
| Beach Morning Glory<br><i>Ipomoea imperati</i> (= <i>I. stolonifera</i> )       | 8-10b                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | Spring -<br>Fall   | White                  | 0.5'              | Fast           | Herbaceous           | Works well as a groundcover. Likes well-drained, sandy soils. Showy flowering vine (non-climbing) for stabilizing beach dunes.   |
| Beach Sunflower<br><i>Helianthus debilis</i>                                    | 8-10                          | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | All<br>Year        | Yellow and<br>Black    | 1'-2'             | Fast           | Annual               | Showy flowers, extreme drought and salt tolerance. Although annual, profuse seeding causes colonies to persist well. Excellent groundcover needing no maintenance or irrigation. |
| Bitter Panicgrass<br><i>Panicum amarum</i>                                      | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | All<br>Year        | Green                  | 3.5'              | Fast           | Ornamental<br>Grass  | Coastal; good for stabilizing dunes. Well to excessively drained, moderately coarse-textured and coarse-textured soils. Bluish leaves.   |
| Black-eyed Susan<br><i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>                                      | 8a-10                         | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Fall   | Yellow and<br>Black    | 3'                | Medium         | Perennial            | Works well in wild gardens, flowerbeds or as a border. Likes rich, well-drained soils. Popular as a cut flower. Not damaged by root-knot nematodes.                              |
| Blanket Flower<br><i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>                                   | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | All<br>Year        | Red, Orange,<br>Yellow | 2'                | Fast           | Annual/<br>Perennial | Works well as border or bedding plant. Requires a well-drained soil. Flower has great variation in color. Few insect problems. Re-seeds readily.                                 |
| Blue Flag Iris<br><i>Iris hexagona</i>  | 8a-10a                        | High              | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring             | Blue,<br>Purple        | 4'                | Medium         | Perennial            | Use as accent plant in wet areas. Large plant size not suitable for small gardens. Needs moist to wet soil. Striking flower. Also called Dixie or Prairie Iris.                  |
| Blue Porterweed<br><i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>                            | 9b-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | All<br>Year        | Blue,<br>Purple        | 2'                | Fast           | Perennial            | Use as groundcover or in wildflower garden. Likes well-drained soils. Flowers open in morning. Asian import, <i>S.urticifolia</i> has an upright habit.                          |
| Blue-eyed Grass<br><i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>                            | 8a-11                         | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | Spring             | Blue,<br>Purple        | 1'                | Medium         | Perennial            | Use at front edge of flowerbed. Will tolerate dry conditions, but likes moist soils. Lovely blue wildflower adds diversity and spring color to lawns.                            |
| Butterfly Weed<br><i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>                                     | 8a-10                         | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Fall   | Orange                 | 2'                | Fast           | Perennial            | Plant in mixed borders or in wild gardens. Prefers well-drained, sandy soils. Also known as pleurisy root. Sap is not milky.   |
| Cardinal Flower<br><i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>                                    | 8a-9b                         | High              | L                 | Partial Sun    | Summer -<br>Fall   | Red                    | 6'                | Medium         | Perennial            | Use at edge of pond or water garden or in low, wet areas. Requires moist soils. Stalks of intensely red flowers. Hummingbird-pollinated.   |
| Cinnamon Fern<br><i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>                                      | 8a-10                         | High              | L                 | Partial Sun    | N/A                | N/A                    | 4'                | Medium         | Fern                 | Use in massed borders or as accent plant. Requires moist, acidic soil. Should not let site dry out. "Bloom" is cinnamon-colored spike.   |
| Climbing Aster<br><i>Aster carolinianus</i> = <i>Symphotrichum carolinianum</i> | 8a-11                         | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Summer -<br>Winter | Pink -<br>Lavender     | 10'               | Fast           | Perennial            | Best in informal garden due to sprawling, vine-like growth habit. Prefers wet soils. Cut back severely after flowering for vigorous, full growth.                                |
| Common Tickseed<br><i>Coreopsis leavenworthii</i>                               | 8a-11                         | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | All<br>Year        | Yellow                 | 5'                | Fast           | Perennial            | Nice in wildflower garden. Likes moist, sandy soils. Yellow petals with brown centers. Creates brilliant masses of yellow blooms in spring.                                      |
| Dotted Horsemint<br><i>Monarda punctata</i>                                     | 8a-10a                        | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Fall   | Yellow,<br>Lavender    | 4'                | Fast           | Perennial            | Use in informal wildflower garden or in the back of border areas. Likes well-drained soil. Purple-spotted yellow flower with large lavender bracts.                              |
| Giant Leather Fern<br><i>Acrostichum danaeifolium</i>                           | 8b-11                         | High              | H                 | Partial Sun    | N/A                | N/A                    | 8'                | Medium         | Fern                 | Specimen plant for wet areas. Requires moist to wet soils. Huge leaves. Needs large area to grow to full potential.  |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Aster, Stokes  
*Stokesia laevis*



Beach Sunflower  
*Helianthus debilis*



Blanket Flower  
*Gaillardia pulchella*



Blue-eyed Grass  
*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*



Butterfly Weed  
*Asclepias tuberosa*



Climbing Aster  
*Aster carolinianus*



Common Tickseed  
*Coreopsis leavenworthii*



Giant Leather Fern  
*Acrostichum danaeifolium*

# GROUNDCOVERS & GRASSES



| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                     | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Flower<br>Season   | Flower<br>Color    | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type           | Comments  |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|
| Giant Sword Fern<br><i>Nephrolepis biserrata</i>    | 10b-11                        | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | N/A                | N/A                | 4'                | Medium         | Fern                    | Can be used as a dense groundcover in shady, moist areas. Prefers moist, sandy soils. Fronds grow from 3.5 to 4 feet long.  |
| Golden Creeper<br><i>Ernodea littoralis</i>         | 9b-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | All Year           | White,             | 2'                | Medium         | Semi-woody<br>Evergreen | Good choice for oceanfront gardens and as groundcover in dry areas. Needs dry, well-drained soils. Small flowers, dark green leaves. Rare plant.  |
| Gopher Apple<br><i>Licania michauxii</i>            | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | Spring -<br>Summer | Yellow,<br>Green   | 1'                | Medium         | Woody<br>Evergreen      | Good choice for coastal landscapes. Thrives in very well drained sandy soils. Underground shrub that pokes its leaves, edible fruits and flowers above ground. Gopher tortoise food.                          |
| Green Eyes<br><i>Berlandiera subacaulis</i>         | 8b-10                         | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | All Year           | Yellow             | 1.5'              | Fast           | Perennial               | Nice addition to wildflower garden. Likes sandy or rocky, well-drained soils. Greenish-yellow central disk flower. Native only to Florida.  |
| Iris, Virginia<br><i>Iris virginica</i>             | 8a-9b                         | High              | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring             | Blue,<br>Purple    | 4'                | Medium         | Perennial               | Use as accent plant in wet areas or in water garden. Needs a moist to wet soil. Large, striking flower. Also called Virginia Iris.  |
| Lizard's Tail<br><i>Saururus cernuus</i>            | 8a-10b                        | High              | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Fall   | White              | 3'                | Fast           | Annual                  | Use in wet areas and water gardens. Likes moist to wet soils. Nodding spikes of white flowers. Forms extensive colonies by spreading rhizomes.  |
| Lopsided Indiangrass<br><i>Sorghastrum secundum</i> | 8a-11                         | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | Summer -<br>Fall   | Gold -<br>Brown    | 4'                | Medium         | Ornamental<br>Grass     | Use in informal garden. Well suited for acidic soils. Produces tall attractive spikes towards end of summer to fall.  |
| Muhly Grass<br><i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>       | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | Fall -<br>Winter   | Purple             | 1'-3'             | Medium         | Ornamental<br>Grass     | Wonderful accent plant. Grows nearly symmetrical. Creates cover for wildlife. Mixes well with wildflowers. Lovely purple plumes in fall.  |
| Paint Brush<br><i>Carphephorus corymbosus</i>       | 8a-11                         | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | Summer -<br>Fall   | Purple             | 3'-4'             | Fast           | Perennial               | Blends well in butterfly or wildflower gardens. Often found in pinelands. Does best in acid soils.  |
| Quailberry<br><i>Crossopetalum ilicifolium</i>      | 10b-11                        | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | All Year           | White              | 1'-2'             | Medium         | Semi-woody<br>Evergreen | Attractive holly-like leaves with inconspicuous flowers and persistent red berries. Excellent for use around and beneath trees, but not in deep shade. Threatened species that thrives in well-drained soils. |
| Powderpuff<br><i>Mimosa strigillosa</i>             | 8a-10a                        | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | Spring -<br>Summer | Pink               | 0.5'              | Fast           | Perennial               | Carpeting groundcover with fern-like leaves sensitive to touch. Adds color to lawns. Can be mowed. Flowers resemble pink puffballs. Very drought-tolerant once established.                                   |
| Prickly Pear Cactus<br><i>Opuntia humifusa</i>      | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | Spring             | Yellow             | 4'                | Medium         | Succulent               | Specimen or accent plant with showy flowers; spines and glochids. Host of cochineal insects used to make red dye. Edible fruit, also feeds gopher tortoise.   |
| Purple Coneflower<br><i>Echinacea purpurea</i>      | 8a-9b                         | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | Summer -<br>Fall   | Reddish-<br>purple | 2'                | Medium         | Perennial               | Clumping plant. Prefers well-drained soils. Long lasting cut flowers. Used medicinally. Needs little care. Handles heat well.   |
| Purple Lovegrass<br><i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>   | 8a-9b                         | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | Summer -<br>Fall   | Purple             | 2.5'              | Medium         | Ornamental<br>Grass     | Finely textured accent plant with purple plumes in the fall. Likes dry areas with alkaline soil. Cover for small birds. Ideal to plant with drought-tolerant wildflowers.                                     |
| Railroad Vine<br><i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>          | 9a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | All Year           | Pink -<br>Lavender | 0.5'              | Fast           | Vine                    | A creeping, flowering vine. Normally of beaches and coastal dunes. Large rosy pink flowers, open only in morning. Needs sun. Sap may cause dermatitis.  |
| Rain Lily<br><i>Zephyranthes atamasco</i>           | 8a-9b                         | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | Winter -<br>Summer | White,<br>Pink     | 1'                | Medium         | Perennial               | Wonderful in mass plantings. Prefers moist, not soggy rich soil. Grass-like foliage. Blooms after rains during warm seasons. Short-lived flowers.   |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Giant Sword Fern  
*Nephrolepis biserrata*



Muhly Grass  
*Muhlenbergia capillaris*



Quailberry  
*Crossopetalum ilicifolium*



Powderpuff  
*Mimosa strigillosa*



Prickly Pear Cactus  
*Opuntia humifusa*



Purple Coneflower  
*Echinacea purpurea*



Railroad Vine  
*Ipomoea pes-caprae*



Rain Lily  
*Zephyranthes atamasco*

# GROUNDCOVERS & GRASSES



| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                        | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Flower<br>Season   | Flower<br>Color        | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type           | Comments  |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|
| Royal Fern<br><i>Osmunda regalis</i>                   | 8a-10b                        | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | N/A                | N/A                    | 5'                | Medium         | Fern                    | Showy elegant specimen fern. Requires damp moist site. Light green twice-divided fronds give plant an airy look.  |
| Sage, Lyre-Leaved<br><i>Salvia lyrata</i>              | 8a-10a                        | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Fall   | Purple -<br>Blue       | 1.5'              | Medium         | Perennial               | Attractive wildflower or butterfly garden plant. Purple-green basal leaves. Slender stalks of purple-blue flowers.  |
| Sage, Tropical Red<br><i>Salvia coccinea</i>           | 8a-11                         | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | All Year           | Red                    | 2'                | Fast           | Perennial               | Colorful wildflower garden addition. Red flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Re-seeds profusely.  |
| Saltgrass<br><i>Distichlis spicata</i>                 | 8b-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | N/A                | N/A                    | 1.5'              | Medium         | Turfgrass               | Good substitute for turfgrass in coastal areas. Can handle high temps and brackish water. Can be mowed.   |
| Saltmeadow Cord Grass<br><i>Spartina patens</i>        | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | Spring -<br>Fall   | Green                  | 2'                | Medium         | Ornamental<br>Grass     | Border or background plant. Spreads by rhizome eventually creating mats. Well-adapted to salty conditions.  |
| Sand Cord Grass, Switchgrass<br><i>Spartina bakeri</i> | 8b-11                         | Low               | M                 | Full Sun       | Fall -<br>Spring   | Green                  | 3-6'              | Medium         | Ornamental<br>Grass     | Massed or accent plant with a delicate look. Robust perennial of saltmarshes and dunes. Stabilizes dunes and parking lots. Can handle moist conditions.                   |
| Sea Oats<br><i>Uniola paniculata</i>                   | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | Spring -<br>Fall   | Green                  | 3-6"              | Medium         | Ornamental<br>Grass     | Protected species. Stabilizes beach dunes. Flower and seed heads are distinctive and attractive in dry flower arrangements. Doesn't do well away from the coast.          |
| Sea Oxeye Daisy<br><i>Borrichia frutescens</i>         | 8b-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | Spring -<br>Summer | Yellow                 | 3'                | Medium         | Semi-woody<br>Perennial | Bedding plant. Excellent seaside plant with silvery foliage. Forms extensive colonies.  |
| Sea Purslane<br><i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i>         | 9-10b                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | All Year           | Pink                   | .5'-1'            | Medium         | Perennial               | Small, neat, non-invasive bedding plant. Handles saline conditions well. Succulent beach stabilizer wildflower.   |
| Seashore Dropseed<br><i>Sporobolus virginicus</i>      | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | N/A                | N/A                    | 1'                | Medium         | Turfgrass               | Good substitute for turfgrass in low coastal areas. Spreads by rhizome to form mats. Skipper butterfly host plant. Mows well.   |
| Seashore Paspalum<br><i>Paspalum vaginatum</i>         | 8b-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | N/A                | N/A                    | 2'                | Medium         | Turfgrass               | Excellent species for seaside planting. Coastal grass, dune stabilizer and lawngrass Spreads by rhizome. Mows well.   |
| Seaside Goldenrod<br><i>Solidago sempervirens</i>      | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | Spring -<br>Fall   | Yellow                 | 6'                | Fast           | Perennial               | Wonderful addition to wildflower gardens. Flower spike 3-4 feet tall. Spreads by rhizome. Non-allergenic.   |
| Shrub Verbena<br><i>Lantana depressa</i>               | 10b-11                        | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | All Year           | Yellow                 | .5'-6'            | Medium         | Perennial               | Accent or edge plant. Most plants of <i>Lantana depressa</i> in cultivation are hybrids. Native hybridizes freely with <i>Lantana camara</i> . Excellent butterfly plant. |
| Smooth Water-Hyssop<br><i>Bacopa monnieri</i>          | 8a-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | Summer             | White, Purple,<br>Pink | .5'               | Medium         | Perennial               | Succulent mat-forming butterfly host plant. Flowering groundcover for wet areas. Can handle some brackish water inundation.   |
| Snowberry<br><i>Chiococca alba = C. pinetorum</i>      | 9b-11                         | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | All Year           | Yellow                 | 10"               | Medium         | Evergreen<br>Vine-like  | Inconspicuous flowers provide a pleasant fragrance. White fruits contrast nicely against its shiny green foliage.   |
| Southern Shield Fern<br><i>Thelypteris kunthii</i>     | 8a-10b                        | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | N/A                | N/A                    | 2.5'              | Medium         | Fern                    | Accent or foundation plant. Erect to arching fronds. Soft appearance. Can grow on rocks and in shade.   |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Royal Fern  
*Osmunda regalis*



Sage, Tropical Red  
*Salvia coccinea*



Saltmeadow Cord Grass  
*Spartina patens*



Sea Oats  
*Uniola paniculata*



Sea Oxeye Daisy  
*Borrichia frutescens*



Smooth Water-Hyssop  
*Bacopa monnieri*



Snowberry  
*Chiococca alba*



Southern Shield Fern  
*Thelypteris kunthii*

# GROUNDCOVERS & GRASSES



| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                                 | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range   | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Flower<br>Season      | Flower<br>Color    | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type        | Comments  |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|---|
| Spider Lily<br><i>Hymenocallis latifolia</i>                    | 9b-11   | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | Summer                | White              | 3'                | Medium         | Perennial            | Accent or foundation plant. Strap-like leaves. Showy, fragrant flowers attractive to large hawkmoths. Low maintenance. Susceptible to lubber grasshoppers.  |
| Verbena, Beach<br><i>Glandularia (Verbena) maritima</i>         | 8b-11   | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | Summer<br>or All Year | Lavender           | 1'                | Fast           | Perennial            | Also called Coastal Mock Vervain. Readily spreads and re-seeds in sandy, well-drained areas. Does not like to be mulched.   |
| Wild Columbine<br><i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>                   | 8a-8b   | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring                | Red                | 3'                | Medium         | Perennial            | Dainty plant with nodding blooms. Endangered in Florida.  |
| Wild Petunia<br><i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i>                    | 8a-10a  | Medium            | L                 | Full Sun       | Spring                | White -<br>Purple  | 1'-3'             | Medium         | Semi-<br>woody       | Pale blue flowers brighten up shady wooded areas, also sunny sites.   |
| Wiregrass<br><i>Aristida stricta = A. beyrichiana</i>           | 8a-10a  | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | N/A                   | N/A                | 2'-3'             | Medium         | Bunchgrass           | Flowers following fire. A gopher tortoise staple food. Ideal for mixing with wildflowers in dry areas.  |
| Yellow Canna<br><i>Canna flaccida</i>                           | 8a-11   | High              | L                 | Full Sun       | Spring -<br>Summer    | Yellow             | 4'-5'             | Fast           | Perennial            | Clumps readily expand in low, disturbed wet sites. Erect, robust perennial with showy yellow flowers. The canna leaf roller insect may chew foliage.  |
| Yellowtop<br><i>Flaveria linearis</i>                           | 8b-11   | Medium            | H                 | Full Sun       | Spring -<br>Fall      | Yellow             | 3'                | Fast           | Perennial            | Goldenrod relative with dense flat-topped clusters of small yellow flowers. Easy to grow and propagate.   |
| <b>NON-NATIVE SPECIES</b>                                       |   |                   |                   |                |                       |                    |                   |                |                      |   |
| Agapanthus<br><i>Agapanthus africanus</i>                       | 9a-11   | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Summer    | Blue -<br>Lavender | 2'                | Medium         | Perennial            | Clumping mound-shaped bedding or accent plant with showy flowers. Relatively short-lived in South Florida. Good container plant.  |
| Aloe<br><i>Aloe vera = A. barbadensis</i>                       | 10a-11  | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Summer    | Yellow             | 1.5'              | Medium         | Perennial            | Clump-forming coarsely textured specimen plant. Fleshy leaves have sap that soothes burns and cuts. Requires well-drained soils.  |
| Anthurium<br><i>Anthurium andreaeanum</i>                       | 10a-11  | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun    | All Year              | White -<br>Scarlet | 2'                | Medium         | Perennial            | Showy heartshaped bract varies from white to deep red with flower spike projecting from center. Well-drained coarse soils discourage crown rot. Time-release fertilizer encourages flowering. Only slight drying between waterings. |
| Apostle Plant<br><i>Neomarica northiana</i>                     | 10-11   | Medium            | L                 | Full Sun       | Spring -<br>Summer    | White,<br>Purple   | 3'                | Medium         | Perennial            | Clumping groundcover with showy flowers and ridged sword-shaped leaves. Spreads by creeping rhizomes. Best in partial shade, well-drained rich soil.  |
| Artillery Plant<br><i>Pilea microphylla</i>                     | 10b-11  | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | Summer                | White -<br>Pink    | 1'                | Medium         | Annual/<br>Perennial | Short-lived groundcover with a fern-like appearance. Spreads by seed and root expansion. Varied cultivars available. Persistent and hardy. Inconspicuous flowers.   |
| Asian Sword Fern<br><i>Nephrolepis multiflora</i>               | <b>INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants not recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17).</b> |                   |                   |                |                       |                    |                   |                |                      |   |
| Asparagus Fern<br><i>Asparagus aethiopicus = A. densiflorus</i> | <b>INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants not recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17).</b> |                   |                   |                |                       |                    |                   |                |                      |   |
| Bahiagrass<br><i>Paspalum notatum</i>                           | 8a-11   | Medium            | L                 | Full Sun       | N/A                   | N/A                | 2'                | Medium         | Turfgrass            | Low-maintenance, deep-rooted turfgrass. Tolerates wide range pH range in sandy soils, moderately shady conditions and foot traffic. Several cultivars available.  |
| Begonia, Wax<br><i>Begonia cucullata = B. semperflorens</i>     | 8a-11   | Medium            | L                 | Full Sun       | All Year              | Red                | 1'                | Medium         | Annual/<br>Perennial | Compact bedding or accent plant with showy flowers and glossy leaves. Often succumbs to summer heat and nematodes. Sun-adapted cultivars available.   |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Wild Columbine  
*Aquilegia canadensis*



Wild Petunia  
*Ruellia caroliniensis*



Yellow Canna  
*Canna flaccida*



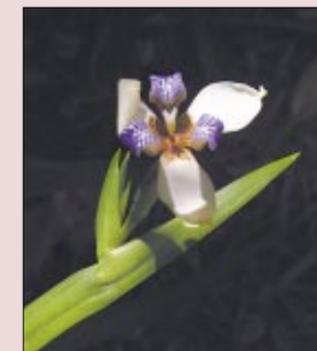
Yellowtop  
*Flaveria linearis*



Aloe  
*Aloe vera*



Anthurium  
*Anthurium andreaeanum*



Apostle Plant  
*Neomarica northiana*



Begonia, Wax  
*Begonia cucullata*

# GROUNDCOVERS & GRASSES



| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                            | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range   | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Flower<br>Season | Flower<br>Color | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate     | Plant<br>Type        | Comments   |
|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| Bermuda Grass<br><i>Cynodon dactylon</i>                   | 8a-11   | High              | H                 | Full Sun       | N/A              | N/A             | .5'               | Medium             | Turfgrass            | High-maintenance, fine-textured turfgrass commonly found on golf courses or athletic fields. Several cultivars available with similar characteristics.   |
| Bird's Nest Fern<br><i>Asplenium nidus</i>                 | 10b-11  | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun    | N/A              | N/A             | 2.5'              | Medium             | Fern                 | Asian fern with stiff erect fronds arranged in a rosette. Grows well in containers or aerially mounted as an epiphyte.   |
| Cast-iron Plant<br><i>Aspidistra elatior</i>               | 9a-11   | Medium            | M                 | Partial Sun    | All Year         | Inconspicuous   | 2'                | Medium             | Perennial            | Upright, clumping, coarse textured groundcover or accent plant with glossy, dark green leaves. Tolerates harsh site conditions.  |
| Centipede Grass<br><i>Eremochloa ophiuroides</i>           | 8a-8b   | Medium            | H                 | Full Sun       | All Year         | N/A             | .5'               | Medium             | Turfgrass            | Low-maintenance vigorous turfgrass. Will not withstand foot traffic. Susceptible to nematodes and other diseases. Dense, low growing.  |
| Daylily<br><i>Hemerocallis hybrids</i>                     | 8a-10b  | Medium            | M                 | Full Sun       | Spring-Summer    | Many            | 3'                | Medium             | Perennial            | Lily-like clump forming groundcover or mass planting. Individual flowers only last one day. Thousands of cultivars available.  |
| False Heather<br><i>Cuphea hyssopifolia</i>                | 9b-11   | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun    | All Year         | Purple - White  | 1.5'              | Medium             | Semi-woody Perennial | Compact groundcover or edging plant with fine texture and low branching. Showy flowers more prevalent during warm months.  |
| Fountain Grass<br><i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>               | 8-11  | Medium            | L                 | Full Sun       | Spring - Summer  | Reddish         | 3'                | Fast               | Ornamental Grass     | Rather invasive plant that can spread and overtake other sites. Clumping bunchgrass used as a groundcover or accent plant. Feathery flower spikes 2-3 feet high. Green or purple foliage.                                |
| Ginger, Butterfly<br><i>Hedychium coronarium</i>           | 9a-11   | Medium            | M                 | Partial Sun    | Spring           | White           | 5'                | Fast               | Perennial            | Multi-stemmed clump forming accent plant with large showy, fragrant flowers. Readily divided into new plants. Will get very large if not periodically divided.   |
| Holly Fern<br><i>Cyrtomium falcatum</i>                    | 9a-11   | Medium            | M                 | Partial Sun    | All Year         | N/A             | 1.5'              | Medium             | Perennial Fern       | Dense groundcover with an arching form and leathery green foliage. Prefers moist, shady areas. Readily divided into new plants.  |
| Iris<br><i>Iris spp.</i>                                   | 8a-9a   | Medium            | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring           | Blue, Purple    | 2'                | Depends on species | Perennial            | Upright groundcover or accent plant with flat sword shaped leaves and showy flowers. Different species have different growth requirements. Many cultivars available.   |
| Juniper, Parson's<br><i>Juniperus chinensis 'Parsonii'</i> | 8-10b   | Medium            | M                 | Full Sun       | Spring           | N/A             | 2'                | Medium             | Conifer              | Spreading groundcover, foundation or specimen plant with blue-green to grayish foliage depending on cultivar. Requires well-drained soil conditions.   |
| Juniper, Shore<br><i>Juniperus conferta</i>                | 8a-10a  | Medium            | H                 | Full Sun       | Spring           | N/A             | 2'                | Medium             | Conifer              | Creeping groundcover or cascading plant with blue-green needle-like foliage. Prefers drier well-drained soils. Many cultivars available.   |
| Kalanchoe<br><i>Kalanchoe blossfeldiana</i>                | 9b-11   | Medium            | M                 | Full Sun       | Winter           | Many            | 1.5'              | Medium             | Perennial            | Upright, glabrous bedding or accent plant with blue-green foliage and showy flowers that bloom in response to day length. Many cultivars available.  |
| Lantana<br><i>Lantana camara</i>                           | <b>INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17).</b> |                   |                   |                |                  |                 |                   |                    |                      |  |
| Lantana, Gold Mound<br><i>Lantana camara 'Gold Mound'</i>  | <b>INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17).</b> |                   |                   |                |                  |                 |                   |                    |                      |  |
| Lantana, Trailing<br><i>Lantana montevidensis</i>          | 9a-11   | Medium            | H                 | Full Sun       | All Year         | Purple          | 2'                | Medium             | Perennial            | Spreading groundcover or cascading planter box plant with showy flowers and aromatic leaves. Full sun and well-drained soil promotes compact growth. Sterile and non-invasive in Florida, unlike <i>Lantana camara</i> . |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Cast-iron Plant  
*Aspidistra elatior*



False Heather  
*Cuphea hyssopifolia*



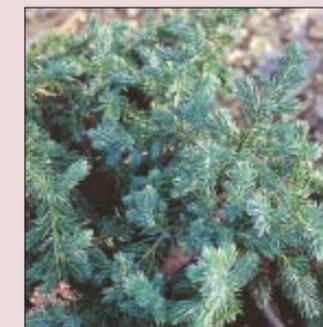
Ginger, Butterfly  
*Hedychium coronarium*



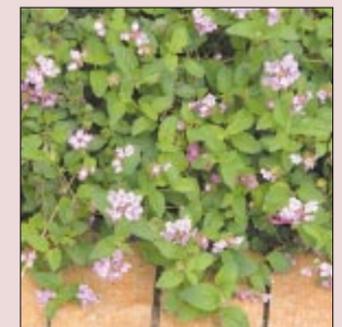
Holly Fern  
*Cyrtomium falcatum*



Iris  
*Iris spp.*



Juniper, Parson's  
*Juniperus chinensis 'Parsonii'*



Lantana, Trailing  
*Lantana montevidensis*

# GROUNDCOVERS & GRASSES

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name  | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range  | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Flower<br>Season | Flower<br>Color            | Typical<br>Height | Growth<br>Rate       | Plant<br>Type           | Comments   |
|--|--|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Lily Turf<br><i>Liriope spp.</i>                                       | 8a-10b   | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | Summer           | Purple,<br>Pink            | 1'                | Medium               | Herbaceous              | Dense clump forming grass-like groundcover with dark green recurving leaves and showy flower spikes. Will not tolerate foot traffic. Many cultivars available. |
| Mexican Bluebell<br><i>Ruellia tweediana</i> = <i>R. brittoniana</i>   | INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17). |                   |                   |                |                  |                            |                   |                      |                         |  |
| Mondo Grass<br><i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>                             | 8-10b  | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | Summer           | White                      | 6"-10"            | Medium               | Herbaceous<br>Perennial | Dense stemless clumping groundcover commonly found in shady areas. Dark green grass-like leaves curve toward the ground. Will not tolerate foot traffic.       |
| Oyster Plant<br><i>Tradescantia spathacea</i> = <i>Rhoeo spathacea</i> | INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17). |                   |                   |                |                  |                            |                   |                      |                         |  |
| Pampas Grass<br><i>Cortaderia selloana</i>                             | 8a-10a   | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | Summer -<br>Fall | White, Pink                | 6'                | Medium               | Ornamental<br>Grass     | Large clumping specimen grass with showy flower plumes on female plants and long, arching, serrated leaves. Excellent seaside plant. Tolerant of most soils.   |
| Pentas<br><i>Pentas lanceolata</i>                                     | 8a-11  | Medium            | L                 | Full Sun       | All Year         | Many                       | 3'                | Fast                 | Perennial               | Sprawling groundcover, accent or low hedge with showy flowers and abundant leaves. Will not tolerate freezing temperatures. Relatively pest free.              |
| Purple Queen<br><i>Tradescantia pallida 'purpurea'</i>                 | 8a-10a   | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | All Year         | Light Pink                 | 1'                | Fast                 | Perennial               | Sprawling groundcover with an open growth habit. Showy flowers open only in the morning. Colorful foliage. Will tolerate poor sites. Can become invasive.      |
| Sage<br><i>Salvia spp.</i>   | 8a-11  | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | Summer           | Many                       | 2'-5'             | Varies by<br>species | Perennial               | Bushy, upright bedding or planter box plant with showy flowers and bright green leaves. Many species are available. Flowering time is species-dependent.       |
| Scarlet Milkweed<br><i>Asclepias curassavica</i>                       | 9b-11  | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | All Year         | Orange<br>and Yellow       | 3'                | Fast                 | Perennial               | Upright accent or perennial border plant with showy flower clusters and narrow leaves. Tolerates most growing conditions. Attracts butterflies. Poisonous.     |
| Society Garlic<br><i>Tulbaghia violacea</i>                            | 8a-11  | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | Spring -<br>Fall | Purple                     | 1.5'              | Medium               | Perennial               | Tuberous grass-like clumping groundcover or accent plant with showy flowers and garlic scented foliage. Flowers best in full sun, but tolerates partial shade. |
| Spiral Ginger<br><i>Costus barbatus</i>                                | 8a-11  | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | Spring           | Red                        | 5'                | Medium               | Perennial               | Colorful accent or specimen plant with showy, waxy flowers atop tall stalks and large spirally arranged leaves. Also called Red Torch Ginger.                  |
| St. Augustine Grass<br><i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>                  | 8a-11  | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun    | N/A              | N/A                        | 6"                | Fast                 | Turfgrass               | Vigorous, dense coarse textured turfgrass. Many cultivars with very different characteristics available. Moderately high maintenance. Spreads by stolons.      |
| White-Flowered Wandering Jew<br><i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>        | INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants Not Recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17). |                   |                   |                |                  |                            |                   |                      |                         |  |
| Yellow African Iris<br><i>Dietes bicolor</i>                           | 9b-11  | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | All Year         | Yellow with<br>Black Spots | 3'                | Medium               | Herbaceous<br>Perennial | Upright, clump-forming groundcover or accent plant with showy flowers and long, narrow leaves. Blooms about every 10 days.                                     |
| Zoysia Grass<br><i>Zoysia spp.</i>                                     | 8a-11  | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | N/A              | N/A                        | 6"                | Medium               | Turfgrass               | Dense, fine textured turfgrass. Good shade tolerance. Tolerant of most soil conditions. Typically mowed with reel mowers. Moderate maintenance required.       |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Lily Turf  
*Liriope spp.*



Mondo Grass  
*Ophiopogon japonicus*



Pentas  
*Pentas lanceolata*



Purple Queen  
*Tradescantia pallida 'purpurea'*



Sage  
*Salvia spp.*



Scarlet Milkweed  
*Asclepias curassavica*



Society Garlic  
*Tulbaghia violacea*



Spiral Ginger  
*Costus barbatus*

# VINES

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                         | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range   | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range        | Flower<br>Season      | Flower<br>Color | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type           | Comments  |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|
| <b>NATIVE FLORIDA SPECIES</b>                           |   |                   |                   |                       |                       |                 |                |                         |   |
| Blue Jacquemontia<br><i>Jacquemontia pentanthos</i>     | 10-11   | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | Fall - Spring         | Blue            | Fast           | Twining, Evergreen      | Fast-growing, showy and pest-free. May be used as a groundcover or trained onto a trellis. Full blooms may produce hundreds of small (one inch wide) flowers. Excess moisture will cause decline. |
| Coral Honeysuckle<br><i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>       | 8a-10   | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | Spring - Fall         | Orange - Red    | Fast           | Twining, Evergreen      | Glossy, dark green leaves. Blooms best in full sun. Tubular flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Red berries in fall attract other wildlife. Suitable for fences or on a trellis.        |
| Corky-stem Passion Flower<br><i>Passiflora suberosa</i> | 8b-11   | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | All Year              | Green           | Fast           | Tendrils, Evergreen     | Older vines have deeply grooved corky stems. Small flowers and purple fruits. Great variation in leaf shape. Important to butterfly tribe, Heliconiini (Longwings).                               |
| Crossvine<br><i>Bignonia capreolata</i>                 | 8A-11   | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | Spring                | Orange - Red    | Fast           | Tendrils, Evergreen     | Climbs by tendrils bearing small, adhesive disks. Large, long-throated flowers attract hummingbirds. Blooms best in full sun. Cross sections of stems are cross-shaped.                           |
| Muscadine Grape<br><i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>            | 8a-11   | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | Spring - early Summer | Green           | Fast           | Tendrils, Evergreen     | Inconspicuous flowers but has large, edible, purplish black fruit (grapes). This wild vine is an important wildlife food source. Grows easily on trellises, arbors or fences.                     |
| Passion Flower<br><i>Passiflora incarnata</i>           | 8a-10   | Low               | M                 | Full Sun              | All Year              | Bluish-purple   | Fast           | Tendrils, Deciduous     | Also called Maypop. Larval food plant for butterflies. Edible fruit. Will sucker a distance away. Dies back to ground during winter.  |
| Trumpet Vine<br><i>Campsis radicans</i>                 | 8a-9  | Low               | H                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | Summer - early Fall   | Orange - Red    | Fast           | Aerial Roots, Deciduous | Bold woody vine that is well suited for arbors or trellises. Best suited for informal sites. May become invasive. Hummingbird attractor. May cause mild skin irritation.                          |
| Virginia Creeper<br><i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>  | 8a-11   | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | Spring                | Yellow - Green  | Fast           | Creeping, Deciduous     | Five rather than three leaflets distinguish it from poison ivy. Purple fruits and tiny flowers attract wildlife. Climbs by adhesive pads that may pock-mark paint or wooden surfaces.             |
| Yellow Jessamine<br><i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>       | 8a-9  | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | Winter - Spring       | Yellow          | Fast           | Twining Evergreen       | Can be trained to grow on a trellis, fence or arbor. Highly fragrant. Blooms best in full sun. Prune to prevent legginess. All parts of plant are poisonous.                                      |
| <b>NON-NATIVE SPECIES</b>                               |   |                   |                   |                       |                       |                 |                |                         |   |
| Allamanda, Yellow<br><i>Allamanda cathartica</i>        | 10a-11  | Low               | L                 | Full Sun              | All Year              | Yellow          | Fast           | Rambling, Evergreen     | Suitable for fences or espalier, but requires support as it can get leggy. Large fragrant blossoms. Can be susceptible to magnesium deficiency. All parts of plant are poisonous.                 |
| Bleeding Heart<br><i>Clerodendrum thomsoniae</i>        | 8a-11   | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | Summer                | White with Red  | Fast           | Twining, Evergreen      | Named for its delicate white and red flowers this vine will grow to fit the size of its support, but will require some pruning over time. Prefers well-drained soils.                             |
| Bougainvillea<br><i>Bougainvillea spp.</i>              | 9b-11   | Low               | H                 | Full Sun              | All Year              | Varies          | Fast           | Spiny, Evergreen        | A rambling, drought-resistant vine commonly used as espaliers. Wide variety of colors are available. Will not bloom if over watered. Blooms best in full sun. Be careful of thorns.               |
| Bower Vine<br><i>Pandorea jasminoides</i>               | 10b-11  | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | Late Spring - Summer  | Pink-Red        | Medium         | Twining, Evergreen      | Large vine that is well suited for oversized trellises. Prefers rich fertile soil and protection from strong winds. Fragrant funnel-shaped flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds.          |
| Bridal Bouquet<br><i>Stephanotis floribunda</i>         | 10b-11  | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun, Full Sun | Spring - Summer       | White           | Medium         | Twining, Evergreen      | Tidy trellis vine with funnel-shaped, waxy fragrant flowers and shiny, leathery leaves with fast-growing tendrils. Flowers are a favorite for bridal bouquets.                                    |
| Cat's Claw<br><i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>             | <b>INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants not recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17).</b> |                   |                   |                       |                       |                 |                |                         |   |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Blue Jacquemontia  
*Jacquemontia pentanthos*



Coral Honeysuckle  
*Lonicera sempervirens*



Crossvine  
*Bignonia capreolata*



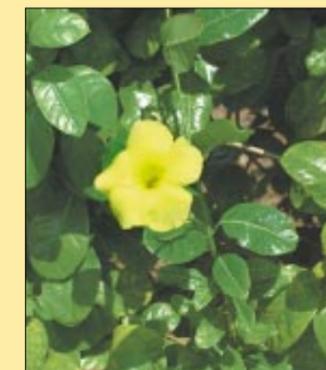
Muscadine Grape  
*Vitis rotundifolia*



Virginia Creeper  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*



Yellow Jessamine  
*Gelsemium sempervirens*



Allamanda  
*Allamanda cathartica*



Bougainvillea  
*Bougainvillea spp.*

# VINES

| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                               | Florida<br>Hardiness<br>Range   | Watering<br>Needs | Salt<br>Tolerance | Light<br>Range | Flower<br>Season   | Flower<br>Color     | Growth<br>Rate | Plant<br>Type          | Comments   |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------|--|
| Ceriman<br><i>Monstera deliciosa</i>                          | 10-11   | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Summer             | White               | Slow           | Perennial<br>Evergreen | Commonly found growing up tree trunks. Large, glossy leaves with deep splits and oblong holes. Creamy Jack-in-the-pulpit-like flower. Edible fruit takes over a year to ripen.         |
| Confederate Jasmine<br><i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>     | 8a-10b  | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | Spring             | White               | Medium         | Spreading<br>Evergreen | Popular pest-resistant trellis vine with showy, very fragrant flowers and thick, glossy evergreen leaves. Exudes white sap when cut. Also works well as a groundcover for large areas. |
| Dwarf Confederate Jasmine<br><i>Trachelospermum asiaticum</i> | 8a-10b  | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | Spring             | Yellow -<br>White   | Medium         | Evergreen              | Forms dense, tangled mats when used as a groundcover. Small flowers have jasmine-like fragrance. Cannot tolerate extended freezes. Can be aggressive in growth.                        |
| Fig, Creeping<br><i>Ficus pumila</i>                          | 8a-11   | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | Spring             | Green               | Medium         | Climbing,<br>Evergreen | Aggressively attaches to masonry and walls. Tolerates freezing temperatures for short durations. Very drought tolerant once established. Commonly used in topiaries.                   |
| Garlic Vine<br><i>Cydista aequinoctialis</i>                  | 10b-11  | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | Spring -<br>Fall   | Lavender,<br>Pink   | Medium         | Climbing,<br>Evergreen | Attractive, trumpet-shaped flowers. Prefers well-drained soil. Takes hard pruning after flowering. Crushed leaves smell like garlic.   |
| Herald's-Trumpet<br><i>Beaumontia grandiflora</i>             | 10a-11  | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Spring             | White               | Medium         | Twining,<br>Evergreen  | Large heavy vine suitable for arbors, screens or on a strong trellis. Large, fragrant flowers and large, glossy, dark green leaves. Good drainage is necessary for flower production.  |
| Incense Passion Flower<br><i>Passiflora x 'incense'</i>       | 9a-11   | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | All Year           | Deep<br>Purple      | Medium         | Tendrils,<br>Evergreen | Vigorous fairly pest-free vine suitable for walls, fences or on a trellis. Large showy, fragrant flowers and edible fruit. Prefers well-drained soils. Protect from strong winds.      |
| Japanese Honeysuckle<br><i>Lonicera japonica</i>              | <b>INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT. See Plants not recommended for Landscaping (pages 15-17).</b> |                   |                   |                |                    |                     |                |                        |  |
| Mandevillea<br><i>Mandevilla spp.</i>                         | 9b-11   | Low               | M                 | Partial Sun    | All Year           | Pink                | Medium         | Twining,<br>Evergreen  | Long blooming screening vine with trumpet-shaped flowers. Cold sensitive. Requires full sun and well-drained soils for best flowering. Blooms heaviest in summer.                      |
| Marine Ivy<br><i>Cissus antarctica</i>                        | 8a-11   | Low               | H                 | Full Sun       | Spring             | Green               | Medium         | Tendrils,<br>Evergreen | Woody or semi-woody vine to 30 feet long with tuberous roots. Inconspicuous flowers. Vigorous, pest-free vine suitable for arbors. Very drought-tolerant once established.             |
| Queen's Wreath<br><i>Petrea volubilis</i>                     | 10a-11  | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | Winter -<br>Summer | Lavender,<br>Purple | Medium         | Twining,<br>Evergreen  | Popular, woody vine for lattices, arbors and trellises with persistent flowers and rough green leaves. Prefers rich, sandy soil. Used in South Florida as a wisteria substitute.       |
| Purple Passion Flower<br><i>Passiflora edulis</i>             | 9b-11   | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | All Year           | Lavender,<br>White  | Medium         | Tendrils,<br>Evergreen | Fruits are delicious raw or processed. This fruit gives Hawaiian Punch its distinctive taste. Will tolerate cool periods (40-55° F) and slight frosts (28° F) for short periods.       |
| Scarlet Passion Flower<br><i>Passiflora coccinea</i>          | 9b-11   | Low               | L                 | Full Sun       | All Year           | Red                 | Medium         | Tendrils,<br>Evergreen | Exotic, bright crimson flowers. Frost tender and requires protection from the winds. Prefers rich, well draining soil. Heavily damaged by nematodes. Requires strong support.          |
| Thunbergia<br><i>Thunbergia spp.</i>                          | 9b-11   | Low               | L                 | Partial Sun    | All Year           | Blue,<br>Purple     | Medium         | Twining,<br>Evergreen  | Vigorously aggressive vine with a cascading flower that makes this vine an excellent choice for high lattice work or arbors. Also known as Sky Flowers and Clock Vines.                |

WATERING NEEDS Low Medium High

LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade

GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

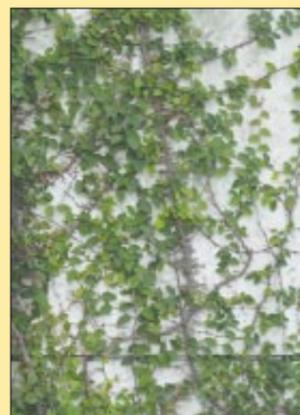
Note: soil moisture and light listed in order of plant preference



Ceriman  
*Monstera deliciosa*



Confederate Jasmine  
*Trachelospermum jasminoides*



Fig, Creeping  
*Ficus pumila*



Incense Passion Flower  
*Passiflora x 'incense'*



Mandevillea  
*Mandevilla spp.*



Queen's Wreath  
*Petrea volubilis*



Scarlet Passion Flower  
*Passiflora coccinea*



Thunbergia  
*Thunbergia spp.*

## 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.

**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 grow 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.

**oasis** — A restricted area of the landscape where specimen or colorful plants are used, although they may require more maintenance and water.

**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, or an area designed to receive stormwater runoff and pollution.

**saline** — Containing salt.

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

**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.

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

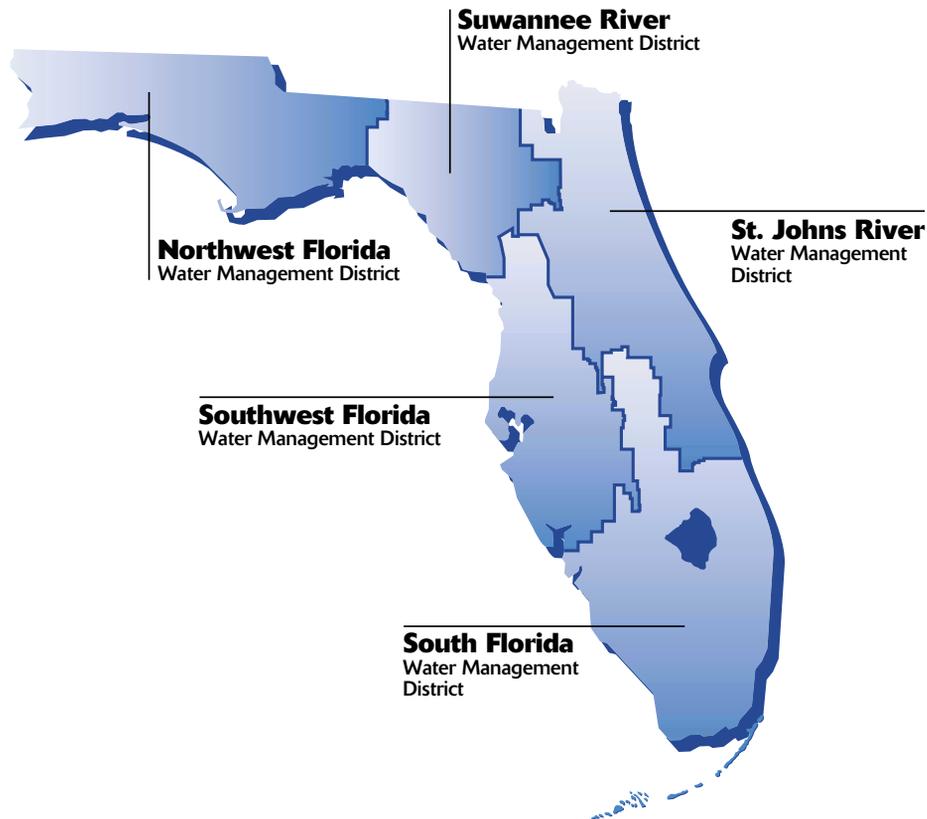
**wetlands** — Vegetated areas having high soil moisture year-round.

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

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**South Florida Water Management District**  
3301 Gun Club Road • West Palm Beach, Florida 33406  
561-686-8800 • FL WATS 1-800-432-2045 • [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)  
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 24680 • West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

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