WATERWISE

Florida Landscapes



Landscaping to Promote Water Conservation
Using the Principles of Xeriscape™

from Florida's water management districts

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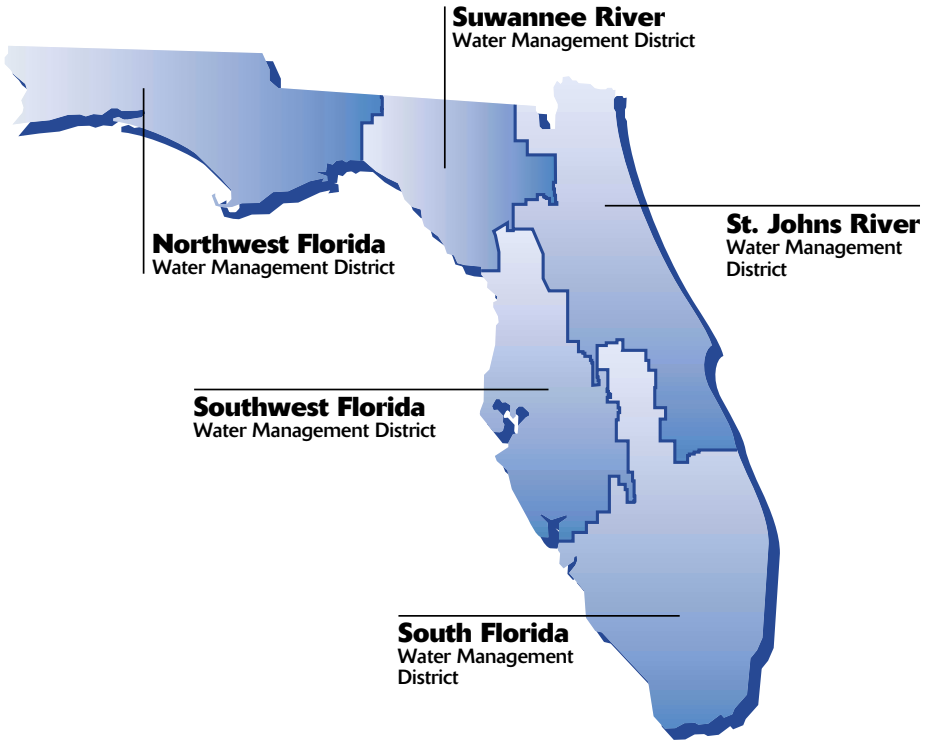

Credits

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W A T E R W I S E

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Contents

Introduction 2

What Is Xeriscape Landscaping? 2

The Seven Principles of Xeriscape 4

Plan and Design 4

Obtain a Soil Analysis 6

Choose Proper Plants 7

Florida's Plant Communities 8

Use Turf Wisely 13

Irrigate Efficiently 13

Outdoor Water Conservation Tips 15

Use Mulches 15

Perform Proper Maintenance 16

A Landscape Example 19

Plant Lists and Photography 20

Glossary 64

Bibliography ..... *inside back cover*

Introduction

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

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

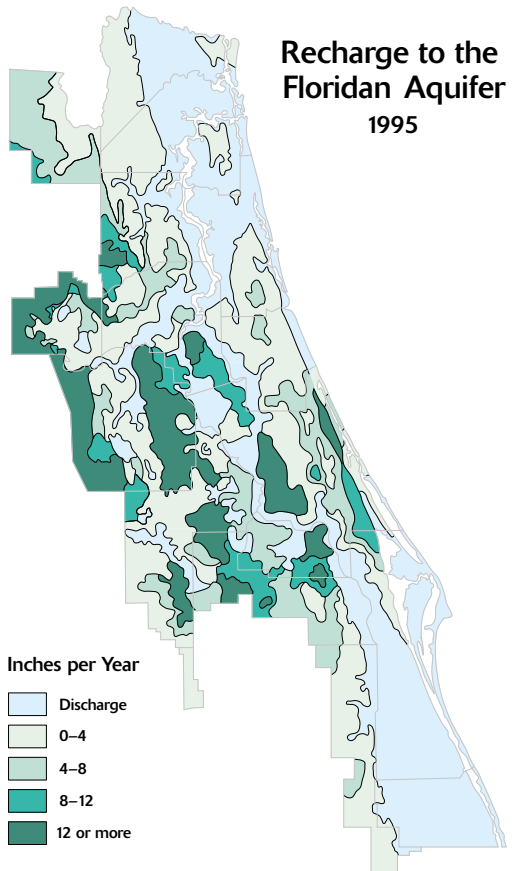
Achieving a natural, healthy balance in your landscape starts by putting the right plant in the right place. Matching plants to conditions that exist in your area helps them thrive, once established, with little or no irrigation or chemicals. The seven principles of Xeriscape are explained in this guide.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

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

What Is Xeriscape Landscaping?

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

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



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

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

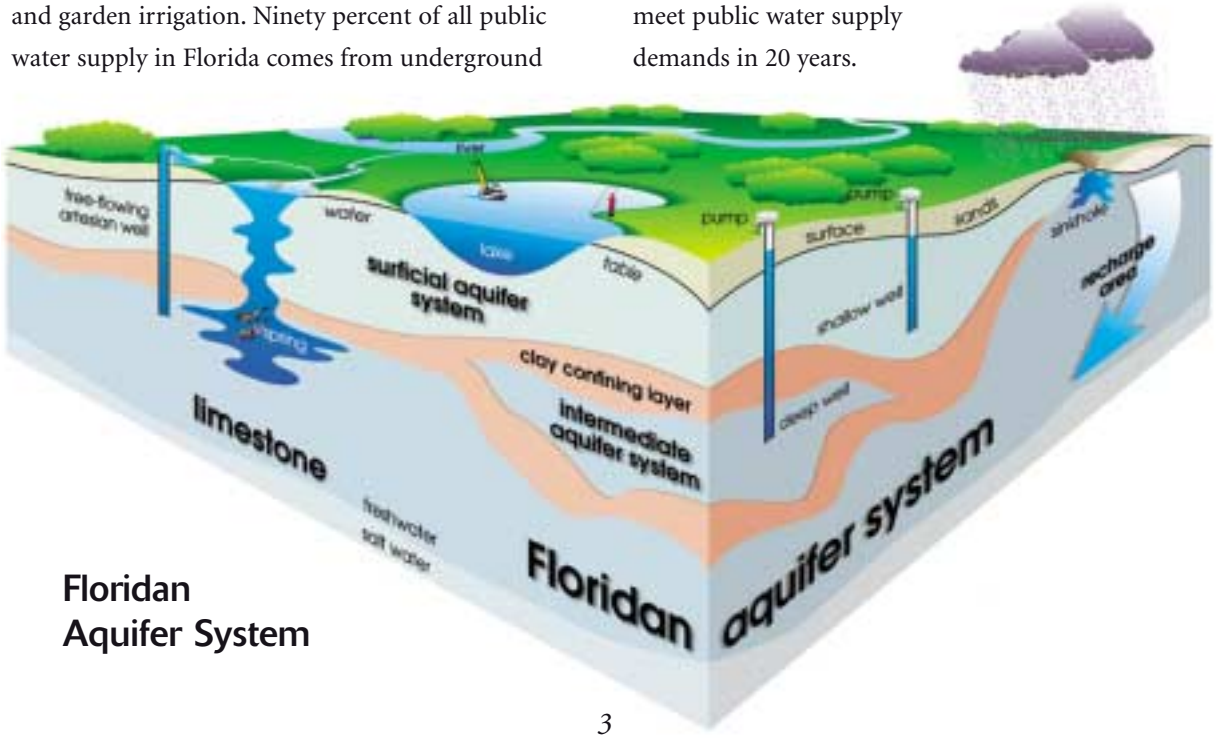
Conserving our water supply and reducing water pollution have become important issues in our growing communities. Despite Florida's humid climate and abundant surface water bodies, water shortages do occur here. Demand can overtake supply, and regional droughts force Floridians to practice water conservation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

In many Florida households, as much as half of household water is used outdoors, mostly for lawn and garden irrigation. Ninety percent of all public water supply in Florida comes from underground sources, primarily the Floridan aquifer. The aquifer's resources are limited. Each day we pump billions of gallons from the Floridan **aquifer**, but the rate at which the groundwater system refills, or recharges, from rain is far less. On average, Florida receives 54 inches of rainfall yearly.

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

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

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



Floridan Aquifer System

The Seven Principles of Xeriscape

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Plan and Design

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

Inventory the site, identifying

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

KNOW HOW IT GROWS

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

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

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

HOW WILL YOU USE IT?

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

Answer these questions:

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

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

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

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

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

THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

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

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

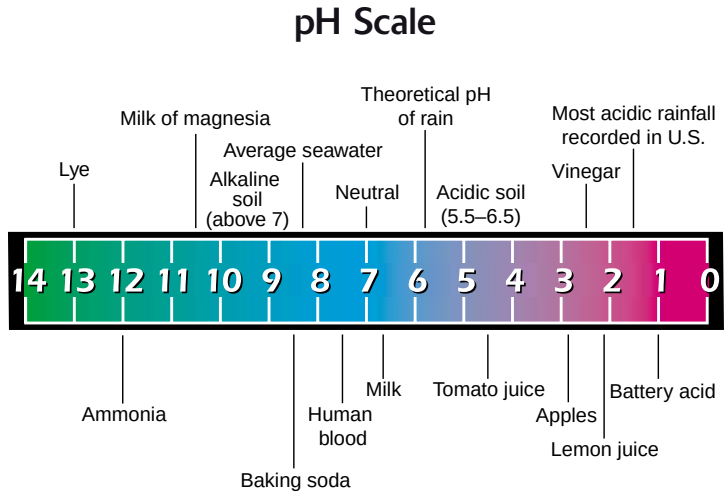
Plan for different seasons of the year to ensure year-round interest through blooms, color, foliage and shapes in the landscape. And, because landscapes are forever changing, plan accordingly. While waiting for that young live oak to grow into a dominant landscape element, plant sunny areas with annuals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

2. Obtain a Soil Analysis

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

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

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



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

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

Salt marsh

WHAT'S IN THE SOIL?

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

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

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

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

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

- pH
- Sand, clay or rich soil
- Drainage

To determine drainability, fill a hole with water and note how quickly it drains. Knowing the water table level can also be important; a high water table (close to the surface) could influence growing conditions. The highest water table level of the year is generally in August.

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

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

3. Choose Proper Plants

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

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

Learn each plant's

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

Match these factors with your soil and climatic conditions.

DO YOU NEED SALT-TOLERANT PLANTS?

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

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

Irrigation water may also be salty, or **saline**. In some areas, the water taken from the ground is naturally high in salt. Other areas suffer from saltwater intrusion, where salt water moves underground into freshwater aquifers due to overpumping of the aquifer. If the salinity level in irrigation water is too high, the water can kill plants. Also, be aware that some household water treatment systems add salt to the water to remove iron or other minerals. Don't use this water for plants.

Coastal upland

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

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

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

FLORIDA'S PLANT COMMUNITIES

Coastal Uplands

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

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

Pine flatwoods

Pine Flatwoods

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

The most dominant species include longleaf pine, slash pine or pond pine (depending on hydric conditions), saw palmetto, gallberry, fetterbush and tarflower. The forest floor has herbaceous species such as wiregrass, muhly grass, blazing star, violets and lilies — species adapted to both wet and dry conditions. Occasionally there are dahoon holly, persimmon, maple trees, loblolly bay and sweetbay.

Sandhills

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

Hardwood Forests

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

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

Upland mesic hardwood forests — Oak-hickory to pine-oak-hickory; range is through central to west-central Florida on rich upland soils and clay hills.

Forests of Abundant Cabbage Palms

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

Rocklands

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

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

Oaks and palmettos

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

Prairies

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

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

Scrub

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

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

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

Cypress Swamp Forests

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

Wetland Forests

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

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

Coastal Saline Wetlands

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

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

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

WHAT TO PLANT

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

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

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

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

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

Mixed hardwood

Cabbage palm, seagrapes and coontie fill this landscape.

PLANTING FOR EFFICIENT WATER USE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Use Turf Wisely

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

• Go light on the fertilizer. Fertilization stimulates growth and increases water needs. If you do fertilize, use a slow-release nitrogen product. Water-insoluble products won't be washed away like liquid or fast-release fertilizers, which can contaminate waterways through stormwater or irrigation runoff. The slow-release products stay in the soil to supply nutrients to plants on a gradual basis, over a longer period of time.

• Leave short grass clippings where they fall when you mow. This reduces the lawn's need for both water and fertilizer. However, remove thick patches of clippings, which will decay and kill the grass.

• Rise to new heights. That is, raise the height of your lawnmower blades to the highest setting. When you mow the grass, remove no more than one-third of the leaf blade. Cutting grass shorter than this may stress the grass and may also decrease the depth to which roots will grow, increasing the need for water. Most St. Augustine grass and bahia grass varieties should not be mowed below 3 inches in height.

• Keep a sharp cutting edge. When your lawnmower blades are sharp, they give a clean cut. Grass torn and shredded by dull blades suffers stress and requires more water.

• Consider alternatives to grass. Grass can be a useful plant. Use grass in areas where children or pets play, or for erosion control. In low-use areas, consider drought-tolerant-plant beds, **groundcovers**, mulch, walkways or other alternatives that require little or no water.

5. Irrigate Efficiently

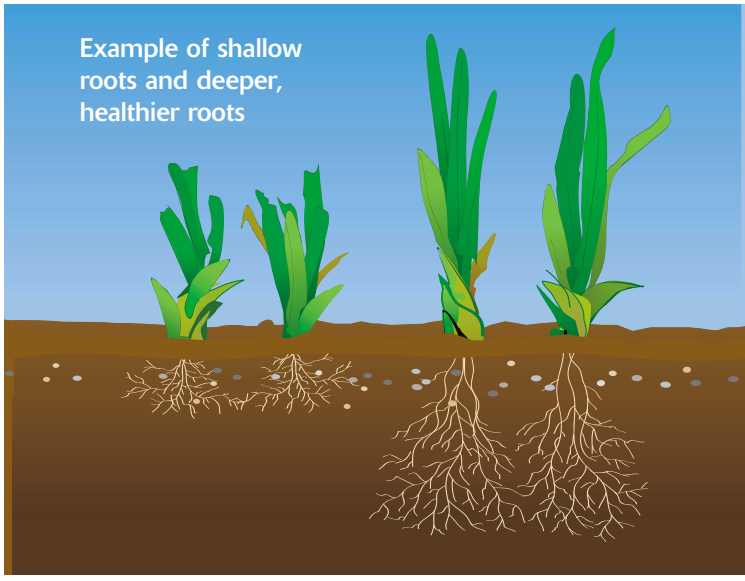
In many yards, the major oasis area is the grass. In some Florida locations, grass will need extra help from irrigation; in other areas, rainfall may be adequate.

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

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

• Use a rain gauge. Keep track of how much rain has fallen in your yard. Do not adhere to a rigid irrigation schedule. When it rains, you probably don't need to water. During periods of extended rainy weather, irrigation systems should be turned off.

• Irrigate only when plants or grass need it. Water plants that begin to show signs of stress. Signs of stress for grass include leaves wilting or grass blades folding in half, or soil from the root zone feeling dry. Your



Shasta daisies

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

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

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

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

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

OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

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

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

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

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

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

6. Use Mulches

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

• Helps retain moisture in the soil

• Decomposes slowly, adding nutrients to the soil

• Provides habitat or cover for beneficial soil organisms

• Shades soil from the baking sun, reducing the need for water

• Protects against soil erosion and compaction caused by rain

• Reduces weed growth

• Reduces maintenance chores; keeps lawn mowers and weed trimmers from damaging trees and other plants

• Looks good in the landscape


Spray head

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

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

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

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

7. Perform Proper Maintenance

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

NATURAL PEST MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seagrapes and palms

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

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

WEEDS

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

COMPOSTING

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

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

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

FERTILIZING

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

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

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

Nitrogen — grass clippings, compost, cottonseed meal
Phosphorus — compost, rock phosphate (many Florida soils are already phosphorus-rich)

An example of "hat racking," a pruning practice that stresses a plant and increases the plant's water needs.

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

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

PRUNING

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

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

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

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

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

A Landscape Example

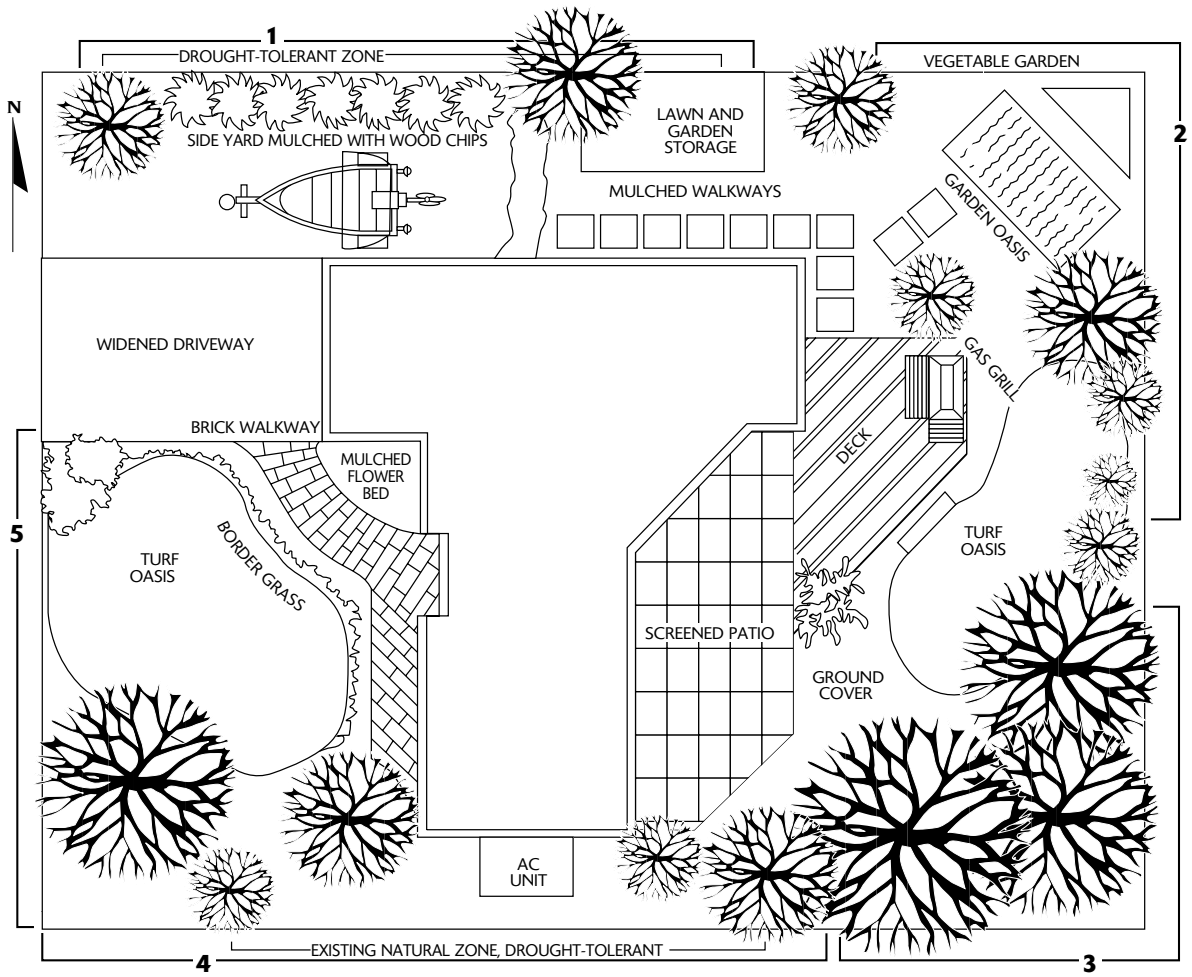
1. Our drought-tolerant natural zone next to the driveway has mulch and low-water shrubs instead of grass. This zone continues along the length of the house and eliminates watering, mowing and edging chores in low-use areas. Notice how the shrubs serve as a buffer to our northern neighbor and as camouflage for the storage area.

2. Our turf area in the backyard is located in the landscape's lowest spot, which is where there is plenty of naturally occurring moisture. Alternatives to grass include a garden, a deck or a screened patio. These additions don't need water and reduce landscape maintenance chores.

3. More drought-tolerant groundcovers and shrubs hug the back of our **practical turf area**. These plants give privacy to our patio and deck while providing shade, and they are water-efficient.

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

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



TREES

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

SOIL MOISTURE *Dry* *Moist* *Wet*

LIGHT *Full Sun* *Partial Sun* *Shade*

GROWTH RATE *Slow* *Medium* *Fast*

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

TREES

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

SOIL MOISTURE 💧 *Dry* 💧💧 *Moist* 💧💧💧💧 *Wet*

LIGHT ☀ *Full Sun* ⛅ *Partial Sun* ☁ *Shade*

GROWTH RATE ▮▯▯▯▯ *Slow* ▮▮▮▯▯ *Medium* ▮▮▮▮▮ *Fast*

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

TREES

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

SOIL MOISTURE 💧 *Dry* 💧💧 *Moist* 💧💧💧💧 *Wet*

LIGHT ☀ *Full Sun* ⛅ *Partial Sun* ☁ *Shade*

GROWTH RATE ▮▯▯▯▯ *Slow* ▮▮▮▯▯ *Medium* ▮▮▮▮▮ *Fast*

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

TREES

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

SOIL MOISTURE 💧 *Dry* 💧💧 *Moist* 💧💧💧💧 *Wet*

LIGHT ☀ *Full Sun* ⛅☀ *Partial Sun* ☁ *Shade*

GROWTH RATE ▮▯▯▯▯ *Slow* ▮▮▮▯▯ *Medium* ▮▮▮▮▮ *Fast*

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

TREES

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

SOIL MOISTURE 💧 *Dry* 💧💧 *Moist* 💧💧💧💧 *Wet*

LIGHT ☀ *Full Sun* ⛅ *Partial Sun* ⛅ *Shade*

GROWTH RATE *Slow* *Medium* *Fast*

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

Sweetbay
Magnolia virginiana

Tulip tree
Liriodendron tulipifera

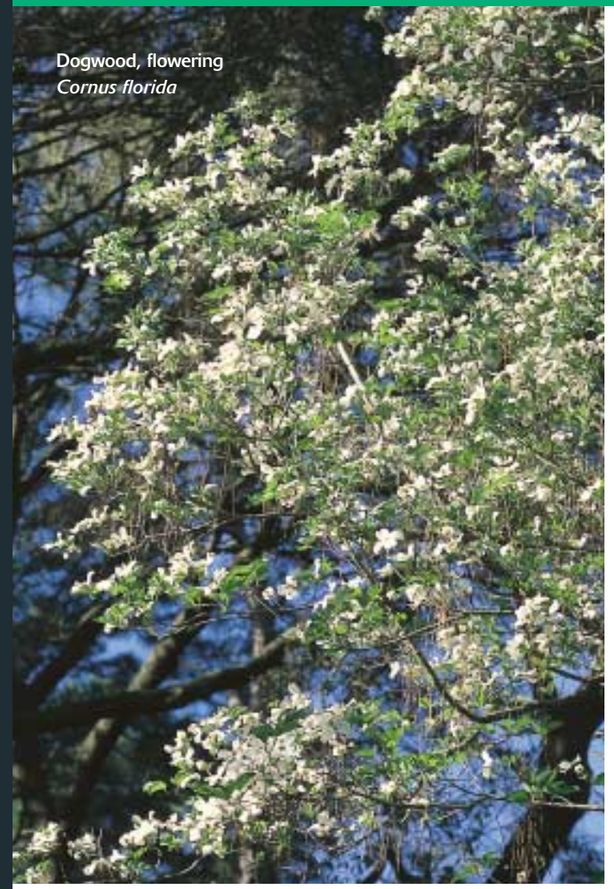
Elm, winged
Ulmus alata

Maple, Florida sugar
Acer saccharum subsp. *floridanum*

Wild lime
Zanthoxylum fagara

Southern catalpa
Catalpa bignonioides

Trees



Dogwood, flowering
Cornus florida

Plum, flatwoods
Prunus umbellata

Jerusalem thorn tree
Parkinsonia aculeata

Fiddlewood
Citharexylum fruticosum

Cypress, pond
Taxadium ascendens

Oak, live
Quercus virginiana

Cypress, bald
Taxodium distichum

Maple, silver
Acer saccharinum

Paradise tree
Simarouba glauca

Sweetgum
Liquidambar styraciflua

Palm-like

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

SOIL MOISTURE 💧 *Dry* 💧💧 *Moist* 💧💧💧💧 *Wet*

LIGHT ☀ *Full Sun* ⛅ *Partial Sun* ☁ *Shade*

GROWTH RATE *Slow* *Medium* *Fast*

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

Palm-like

Saw palmetto
Serenoa repens

Cardboard palm
Zamia furfuracea

European fan palm
Chamaerops humilis

Pindo palm
Butia capitata

Canary Island date palm
Phoenix canariensis

King sago
Cycas revoluta

Cabbage palm
Sabal palmetto

Thatch palm, Florida
Thrinax radiata

Shrubs

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

SOIL MOISTURE 💧 *Dry* 💧💧 *Moist* 💧💧💧💧 *Wet*

LIGHT ☀ *Full Sun* ⛅ *Partial Sun* ☁ *Shade*

GROWTH RATE *Slow* *Medium* *Fast*

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

Shrubs

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

SOIL MOISTURE Dry Moist Wet | LIGHT Full Sun Partial Sun Shade | GROWTH RATE Slow Medium Fast

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

Shrubs

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

SOIL MOISTURE 💧 *Dry* 💧💧 *Moist* 💧💧💧💧 *Wet*

LIGHT ☀ *Full Sun* ⛅ *Partial Sun* ☁ *Shade*

GROWTH RATE *Slow* *Medium* *Fast*

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

Shrubs

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

SOIL MOISTURE 💧 *Dry* 💧💧 *Moist* 💧💧💧💧 *Wet*

LIGHT ☀ *Full Sun* ⛅ *Partial Sun* ☁ *Shade*

GROWTH RATE *Slow* *Medium* *Fast*

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

Shrubs

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

SOIL MOISTURE 💧 *Dry* 💧💧 *Moist* 💧💧💧💧 *Wet*

LIGHT ☀ *Full Sun* ⛅ *Partial Sun* ☁ *Shade*

GROWTH RATE ▮▯▯▯▯ *Slow* ▮▮▮▯▯ *Medium* ▮▮▮▮▮ *Fast*

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

American beautyberry
Callicarpa americana

Sweet olive
Osmanthus fragrans

Florida-anise
Illicium floridanum

Plumbago
Plumbago auriculata

Shrubs

Simpson stopper
Myrcianthes fragrans

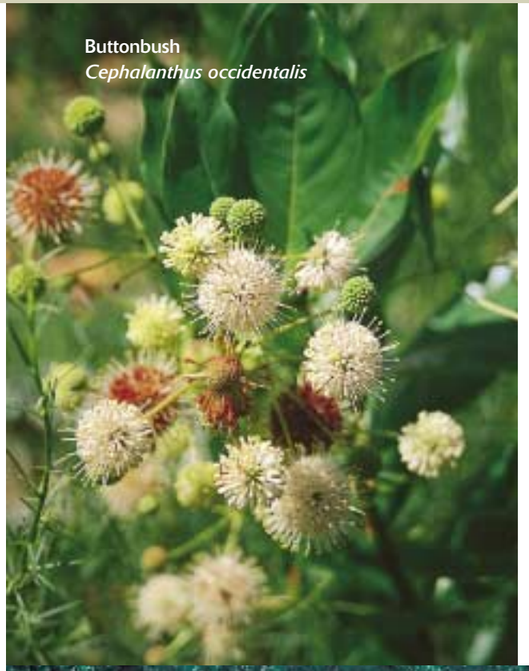
Florida flame azalea
Rhododendron austrinum

Gallberry
Ilex glabra

Firebush
Hamelia patens

Seagrape
Coccoloba uvifera

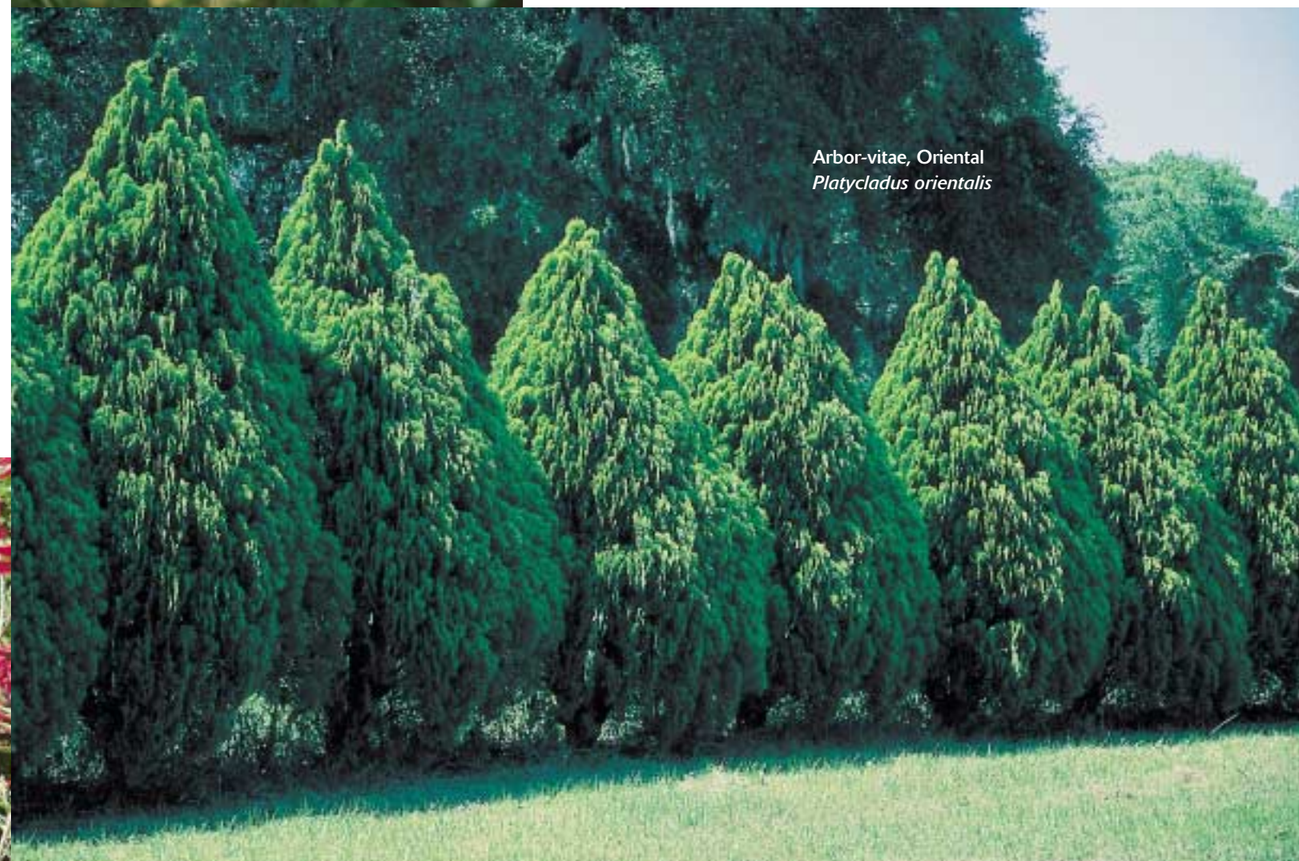
Coral bean
Erythrina herbacea



Buttonbush
Cephalanthus occidentalis

Firecracker plant
Ruesselia equisetiformis

Marlberry
Ardisia escallonioides



Arbor-vitae, Oriental
Platycladus orientalis

Groundcovers

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

SOIL MOISTURE 💧 *Dry* 💧💧 *Moist* 💧💧💧 *Wet*

LIGHT ☀ *Full Sun* ⛅ *Partial Sun* ☁ *Shade*

GROWTH RATE *Slow* *Medium* *Fast*

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

Groundcovers

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

SOIL MOISTURE 1 *Dry* 2 *Moist* 4 *Wet*

LIGHT *Full Sun* *Partial Sun* *Shade*

GROWTH RATE *Slow* *Medium* *Fast*

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

Groundcovers

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

SOIL MOISTURE 💧 *Dry* 💧💧 *Moist* 💧💧💧💧 *Wet*

LIGHT ☀ *Full Sun* ⛅ *Partial Sun* ☁ *Shade*

GROWTH RATE *Slow* *Medium* *Fast*

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

Periwinkle
Catharanthus roseus

Saltmeadow cord grass
Spartina patens

Powderpuff
Mimosa strigillosa

Sea oats
Uniola paniculata

Lily turf
Liriope spp.

Juniper
Juniperus spp.

Society garlic
Tulbaghia violacea

VINES

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

SOIL MOISTURE 💧 *Dry* 💧💧 *Moist* 💧💧💧💧 *Wet*

LIGHT ☀ *Full Sun* ⛅ *Partial Sun* ☁ *Shade*

GROWTH RATE ▮▯▯▯▯ *Slow* ▮▮▮▯▯ *Medium* ▮▮▮▮▮ *Fast*

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

Incense passion flower
Passiflora x 'incense'

Coral honeysuckle
Lonicera sempervirens

Coral honeysuckle
Lonicera sempervirens

Virginia creeper
Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Passion flower
Passiflora incarnata

FLOWERS

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

SOIL MOISTURE 💧 *Dry* 💧💧 *Moist* 💧💧💧💧 *Wet*

LIGHT ☀ *Full Sun* ⛅ *Partial Sun* ☁ *Shade*

GROWTH RATE ▮▯▯▯▯ *Slow* ▮▮▮▯▯ *Medium* ▮▮▮▮▮ *Fast*

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

FLOWERS

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

SOIL MOISTURE 1 *Dry* 2 *Moist* 4 *Wet*

LIGHT *Full Sun* *Partial Sun* *Shade*

GROWTH RATE *Slow* *Medium* *Fast*

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

FLOWERS

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

SOIL MOISTURE 💧 *Dry* 💧💧 *Moist* 💧💧💧💧 *Wet*

LIGHT ☀ *Full Sun* ⛅ *Partial Sun* ⛅ *Shade*

GROWTH RATE ▮▯▯▯▯ *Slow* ▮▮▮▯▯ *Medium* ▮▮▮▮▮ *Fast*

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

Verbena, moss
Glandularia pulchella

Blanket flower
Gaillardia pulchella

Spiderwort
Tradescantia ohiensis

Purple coneflower
Echinacea purpurea

Crinum lily
Crinum spp.

Aster, Stokes
Stokesia laevis

Flowers

Iris, blue flag
Iris hexagona

Beach sunflower
Helianthus debilis

Mistflower
Conoclinium coelestinum

Sage, tropical red
Salvia coccinea

Wild petunia
Ruellia caroliniensis

Butterfly weed
Asclepias tuberosa

Wild columbine
Aquilegia canadensis

Rain-lily
Zephyranthes simpsonii

Scarlet milkweed
Asclepias curassavica

Glossary

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

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

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

brackish — Somewhat salty.

conserve — To use only what is needed.

deciduous — Losing foliage in autumn or winter.

drawdowns — Lowered water levels.

ecotones — Regions where one ecosystem blends into another.

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

groundcovers — Small plants that live close to the ground.

groundwater — Water below the earth's surface.

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

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

hydric — Characterized by abundant moisture.

inorganic — Composed of matter other than plant or animal.

leach — To pass through by percolation.

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

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

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

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

potable — Water suitable for human consumption.

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

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

saline — Containing salt.

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

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

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

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

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

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

topography — Natural features of land.

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

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

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

wetlands — Areas containing much soil moisture.

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

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