



This handout was compiled by UF/IFAS Extension Bay County and consists of groundcovers, annuals, and perennial plants recommended for use in Bay County and surrounding areas.

Please contact our office with questions or comments at 850-376-3023 or bay@ifas.ufl.edu.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Characteristics	Full-part Sun	Part-full Shade	Dry Soil	Moist Soil	Wet Soil	Butterfly	Bird	Native
Angelonia	<i>Angelonia angustifolia</i>	1-3' x 1-3'; spikes of tiny flowers in many colors; annual that may survive if mild temperatures	x		x	x				no
Perennial Peanut	<i>Arachis glabrata</i>	Groundcover less than 12" tall, spreads to colonize an area; yellow flowers; tolerates salt spray and short term saltwater flooding; nitrogen fixing legume	x		x					no
Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias perennis</i>	3-6', white to pink flowers, purplish stem; Monarch larval host; latex produced by plant potential irritant	x			x	x	x	x	yes
Butterfly weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	2-3' x 2-3', orange flowers; monarch butterfly larval host; latex produced by plant potential irritant	x		x			x	x	yes
Million Bells	<i>Calibrachoa</i> spp.	6-18" x 12-18"; low mounding or trailing habit; funnel shaped flowers attract hummingbirds; many colors and hybrids available; full sun but tend to look better in hottest part of summer with part shade	x			x		x	x	no
Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis</i> spp.	Size varies; yellow flowers; several types are native; State wildflower; some annual, some perennial	x		x	x		x	x	some
African Iris	<i>Diets iridioles</i>	2-4' x 1-2'; white flower in spring; tolerates flooding and dry conditions	x		x	x	x			no

UF/IFAS Groundcovers, Perennials, and Annuals for Northwest Florida 2019

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Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	1-3' x 2-3', purple or white flowers; well-drained soil; can use as cut flower; slight salt tolerance; tolerates occasional flooding	x		x			x	x	yes
Blue Daze	<i>Evolvulus glomeratus</i>	1-1.5' x 1-2'; deciduous perennial or annual; blue flowers; salt tolerant	x		x	x				no
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	2-4' x 1-3'; evergreen perennial; fine textured foliage in green or bronze; larval host plant for swallowtail butterfly	x		x	x		x		no
Blanket flower	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	1-3' x 2-3', orange, red, yellow flowers; well-drained soil, hot dry spot where nothing grows; salt tolerant	x		x			x		yes
Swamp sunflower	<i>Helianthus angustifolia</i>	2-4' x 2-4'; covered in small yellow flowers; can sucker and outcompete other flowers; bog, swampy areas, edge of pond; cut flowers	x		x	x	x	x	x	yes
Beach Sunflower	<i>Helianthus debilis</i>	1-2' x 3-4'; yellow flowers; well-drained soil, wind and salt tolerant; may dieback in N FL winter, likely to reseed; salt tolerant	x		x			x		yes
Daylily	<i>Hemerocallis</i> spp.	many colors, sizes, flower forms; divide clumps; cut flowers for a day; salt tolerant	x		x	x		x		no
Impatiens	<i>Impatiens</i> spp.	6"-1' x 1'; frost tender; shade plant that may reseed; some labeled for sun but may burn in FL		x		x				no
Beach Morning Glory	<i>Ipomea imperati</i>	Groundcover with white flowers; salt and drought tolerant	x		x					yes
Railroad Vine	<i>Ipomea pes-caprae</i>	Groundcover with leathery green leaves pink flowers; salt and drought tolerant; requires full sun and good drainage	x		x					yes
Blue Flag Iris	<i>Iris virginica</i>	4-6' x 1-3'; blue/purple flowers; swampy areas or areas that flood	x			x	x			yes
Sunshine Mimosa	<i>Mimosa strigillosa</i>	Groundcover less than 12" tall; pink powderpuff blooms; drought and salt spray tolerant; nitrogen fixing legume	x		x	x		x		yes

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Partridgeberry	<i>Mitchella repens</i>	Native groundcover with small green leaves; white flower in the winter followed by bright red berries in the spring and summer		x	x	x	x		x	yes
Dotted Horsemint	<i>Mondard punctata</i>	2-4' x 2-4'; cut back to control size and get repeat bloom; likes neglect, do not over water/fertilize; can use as cut flower; attracts many pollinators; moderate salt spray tolerant	x		x	x		x	x	yes
Basil	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	1-2' x 1-2'; frost tender; pollinators like flowers but usually pinch if using as a culinary herb	x			x				no
Cinnamon fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	2-5' x 2-4'; deciduous fern; bogs, swamps, swales		x		x	x			yes
Royal fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	6-7' x 6-7'; fern tolerates more sun than most; evergreen if winter temperatures are mild (above 45°F)		x		x	x			yes
Passionflower vine or Maypop	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	vine with tendrils; interesting purple flowers; maypop fruit is edible; larval host gulf fritillary butterfly; may sucker up from roots	x		x	x		x	x	yes
Pentas	<i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	2-4' x 2-3'; frost tender but may overwinter; many colors; hummingbirds attracted to flowers; salt tolerant	x			x		x	x	no
Frogfruit	<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>	Groundcover less than 12" tall; small purplish flowers; full sun to part shade	x			x		x		yes
Black eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.	1-3' x 1-3'; short lived perennial; re-seeds, well-drained soil required, limited drought tolerance	x		x	x		x	x	x
Scarlet Sage	<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	3-4' x 2-3'; red is common color but others available; summer to fall bloom; attracts hummingbirds; re-seeds	x		x	x		x	x	yes
Sedum Angelina	<i>Sedum rupestres</i> 'Angelina'	2-4" x 6-12"; evergreen perennial groundcover; bright yellow foliage and flowers in spring; foliage may bronze in winter; succulent will trail over pots	x		x	x				no

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Coleus	<i>Solenostemon</i> hybrids	1-3' x 1-3'; frost tender; grown for foliage color; different cultivars available some for sun and some for shade; can put in flower arrangement, stem will root in water; salt tolerant	x	x		x	x			no
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago</i> spp.	2-6' x 1-2'; summer to fall bloom; attracts beetles, bees, etc.; birds come to eat insects; cut back in summer before bloom to get more compact; some spread by rhizomes (seaside) and seed; can use as cut flower; some types are salt tolerant	x		x	x		x		yes
Stoke's Aster	<i>Stokesia laevis</i>	1-2' x 1-2'; evergreen perennial; blue/purple flowers; deadhead for repeat blooms	x		x	x		x		yes
Asiatic Jasmine	<i>Trachelospermum asiaticum</i>	Evergreen groundcover; green or variegated foliage available; salt tolerant; prune annually for best appearance	x		x	x				no
Society Garlic	<i>Tulbbahia violacea</i>	1-2' x 1-2'; lavender flower; leaves have garlic scent; drought tolerant	x		x					no
Zinnias	<i>Zinnia</i> spp.	tender; easy to grow from seed, may re-seed unless sterile cultivar; salt tolerant	x		x	x		x	x	no

References:

Nelson, Gil. "Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants." 2003. University Press of Florida.

"20 Easy-to-Grow Wildflowers" 2018. Florida Wildflower Foundation

"The Florida Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design. 2010. University of Florida.

"Salt Tolerant Plants" North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Pender County Extension Urban Horticulture Leaflet 14