

NATIVE SHRUBS FOR HOME LANDSCAPING IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA

Jody Wood-Putnam, Bay County Master Gardener

Julie McConnell, Horticultural Agent
UF/IFAS Extension Bay County



The Foundation for The Gator Nation
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Why Use Native Plants?

- Adapted to our environment: climate (temperatures, rainfall, humidity, etc.) and soils (often very sandy, mostly acidic)
 - May require less maintenance:
 - Less watering
 - Less fertilizing
 - No need for soil amendment
- Food and habitat for native wildlife
 - Diversity of native plants leads to diversity of native wildlife



Evergreen Shrubs

Pipestem, Fetterbush, Florida Leucothoe

Agarista populifolia



- Height: 8 - 12 feet
- Spread: 5 - 10 feet
- Evergreen, multi-stemmed arching foliage
- Acidic soils
- Well drained to wet
- **Shade** to partial shade
- Fragrant white flowers in spring
- Can be pruned to form hedge

Groundselbush

(*Baccharis halimifolia*)



- Height: 8 to 12 ft
- Spread: 6 to 12 ft
- Full sun
- Variable soils
- Semi-evergreen
- Whitish flowers followed by fluffy white seed clusters
- Attractive to butterflies
- Salt tolerant

False-rosemary, Scrub Mint

(*Conradina canescens*)



- Height: 2-4 feet
- Spread 2-4 feet
- Evergreen perennial
- Full Sun
- Dry sandy soil
- Drought tolerant
- Profusely blooming aromatic, lavender flowers
- Visited by butterflies and hummingbirds

Golden-Dewdrop, Skyflower

Duranta repens



- Height: 18 feet
- Spread: 18 feet
- Borderline cold hardy in Bay County; evergreen in mild winters, die-back in hard freeze
- Average soil
- Regular moisture
- Sun to part shade
- Blue or white flowers in spring
- Yellow berries in summer through fall
- Attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds
- May have spines
- Berries are poisonous to humans
- Use as specimen or in borders

Firebush

(*Hamelia patens*)



- Evergreen shrub or small tree
- Borderline cold hardy in Bay county; plant in protected area
- Height: up to 20 feet
- Part shade to sun
- Reddish-orange flowers
- Evergreen red-tinged foliage
- Heat/drought tolerant
- Attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds

St John's Wort, St Andrew's Cross, etc. (*Hypericum* spp.)



- Heights vary
- Generally sun to part sun
- Generally bloom summer, some through fall
- Many native species

Gallberry, Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*)



- Height: 6-8 feet
- Spread: 8-10 feet
- Evergreen
- Part shade to sun
- Acidic moist soil
- Inconspicuous white flowers
- Flowers attractive to bees



Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*)



- Evergreen shrub or small tree
- Height: 3 - 30 feet
- Spread: 6 - 20 feet
- Shade to sun
- Insignificant flowers spring to summer
- Dioecious
- High salt tolerance

Florida Anise

(*Illicium floridanum*)



'Shady Lady'



- Height: 6-20 feet
- Spread: 3-6 feet
- Evergreen, erect, medium green aromatic foliage
- Moist, sandy, acid soil
- Shade to part shade
- Deep red or white flowers in spring

Ocala Anise, Yellow Anise

Illicium parviflorum

- Height: 6-20 feet
- Spread: 3-6 feet
- Evergreen, erect, medium green aromatic foliage
- Moist, sandy, acid soil
- Shade to part shade
- Not salt tolerant
- Insignificant yellow flowers in spring
- Star-shaped seed – not edible
- Use as a hedge or in naturalistic understory settings



Shiny Lyonia

Lyonia lucida

- Height: 3-15 feet
- Spread: 2-5 feet
- Well-drained acidic soil
- Partial shade to sun
- Shiny evergreen foliage
- Aromatic white to pink flowers in spring
- Bee and butterfly nectar plant
- Forms multi-stemmed arching colony



Wax Myrtle

Myrica cerifera



- Native evergreen small tree or shrub with aromatic foliage
- Height: 15 - 25 feet
- Spread: 20 - 25 feet
- Growth: Moderate/Rapid
- Bluish-grey berries
- Adaptable, prefers rich, moist acid soil
- Sun to part shade
- Suckers
- Excellent cover for birds
- High salt tolerance
- Use as screen or prune to form small specimen tree

Chapman's Rhododendron

Rhododendron Chapmanii

Rhododendron Minus

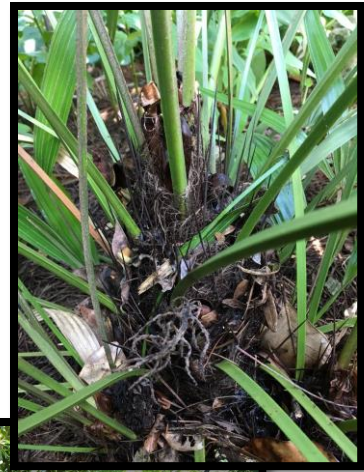


- Height: 6 to 10 feet
- Spread: 6 to 10 feet
- Evergreen
- Part shade
- Dark green broadleaf foliage
- Showy pink clusters of flowers in late spring and sometimes later
- FL Endemic, Endangered
- Use in a woodland setting and as a specimen plant
- Small specimen shrub

Needle Palm

Rhapidophyllum hystrix

- Height: 3 to 5 feet (occasionally to 10 feet)
- Evergreen palmate foliage
- Growth rate: slow
- Inconspicuous white flowers
- Moist poorly drained soils
- Shade to sun
- Moderate salt tolerance
- Watch 8 to 10 inch “needles” on short trunk
- Use as specimen shrub or in mass planting or border.
- Endangered Florida plant



Saw Palmetto

(*Serenoa repens*)



- Height: 3-4 feet
- Spread: 3-8 feet
- Evergreen palmate leaves
- Adaptable
- Sun to part shade
- Hummingbird nectar plant
- Watch for “saw” on stems

Silver Saw Palmetto



Blue Stem Palmetto

(*Sabal minor*)



- Height: 4-9 feet
- Spread: 4-8 feet
- Evergreen palmate leaves
- Sun to part shade
- Black fruit produced on long stems and eaten by wildlife
- Hummingbird nectar plant

Darrow's Blueberry

(*Vaccinium darrowii*)



- Height: 2 - 3 feet
- Small, Evergreen woody-stemmed shrub
- Part shade to sun
- Acidic, well-drained sandy soils
- Pinkish white flowers in spring
- Spreads from underground suckers



Walter's Viburnum

(*Viburnum obovatum*)



- Height: 8 to 25 feet
- Semi-evergreen
- Part shade to sun
- Average soils
- Prefers moist conditions
- White flower clusters in early spring; attractive to butterflies
- Foliage provides cover for wildlife



Spanish Bayonet

Yucca aloifolia

- Height: 5 to 10 feet
- Evergreen
- Part shade to sun
- Well drained sandy soils
- Prefers dry conditions
- White flower clusters
- Stiff, sharp leaves
- High salt tolerance
- Use as accent plant or place in location to discourage foot traffic



Yucca filamentosa



Coontie

Zamia pumila



- Height: 3 feet
- Spread: 4 feet
- Dark green evergreen foliage
- Use as ground cover or small border shrub
- Well drained soil
- Very hardy
- Full sun to shade
- Dioecious (male and female plants)
- Fruit: rusty red cones
- Butterfly larval food
- Good salt tolerance

Deciduous Shrubs

American Beautyberry

(*Callicarpa americana*)



- Height: 6-8 feet
- Spread: 6-8 feet
- Deciduous
- Tolerant of soils and moisture variation
- Part shade
- Can be severely pruned
- Small pale lavender blooms in spring
- Purple, pink or white berries in fall

Sweet Shrub, Strawberry Shrub

Calycanthus floridus



- Height: 10 feet
- Spread: 8 feet
- Deciduous, suckering shrub
- Well-drained soil
- Sun to part shade
- Fragrant deep reddish brown flowers in spring/summer
- Yellow fall foliage
- Aromatic foliage
- Use as specimen plant or in border where one can enjoy the fragrant flowers



Photo by Ron Houser

Buttonbush

Cephalanthus occidentalis



- Height: 6 to 20 ft
- Spread: 6 to 8 ft
- Part shade to full sun
- Prefers moist soils
- Fragrant whitish flowers attractive to butterflies and bees

Coral Bean, Cherokee Bean

(*Erythrina herbacea*)



- Height: 5-10 feet
- Deciduous, dies back to ground in winter in Bay county
- Partial shade to sun
- Average soil
- Beautiful red flowers in late spring/summer
- Attractive (yet poisonous) red seeds in summer
- Branches have thorns
- Can have gigantic root
- Hummingbird/butterfly plant

Swamp Hibiscus, Scarlet Hibiscus

(*Hibiscus coccineus*)



- Height: 7 feet
- Partial shade to sun
- Moist to wet soils
- Flowers in summer
- Dies back to ground in winter
- Native perennial wildflower

Oak Leaf Hydrangea

Hydrangea quercifolia



- Height: 6-10 feet
- Spread: 6-8 feet
- Deciduous
- Sun to shade
- Acidic well-drained soil
- Large coarse textured leaves spring through fall
- Large white flower heads in summer, may last for months
- Beautiful reddish/purplish fall foliage
- Low salt tolerance
- Use for woodland plantings

Virginia Willow, Virginia Sweetspire

Itea virginica



- Height: 3-8 feet
- Spread: 2-4 feet
- Deciduous
- Moist soils and well-drained soils after established
- Part shade to sun
- Red/purple fall foliage
- Fragrant clusters of white flowers in late spring/summer
- Spreads through suckers



Native Azaleas

Rhododendron spp.



- Deciduous shrubs that generally do best in filtered shade
- 5 – 20 ft height
- Moist, acidic well-drained soil
- White, pink, yellow, orange fragrant flowers in spring
- Attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds
- Low salt tolerance
- Use as specimen or in mass

Winged Sumac

Rhus copallinum



- Height: 10-25 feet
- Spread: 5-15 feet
- Deciduous multi-stemmed shrub
- Dry, sandy soils
- Full sun
- Fast growing
- White-green flowers in spring and early fall
- Dull red berries
- Bright red fall color
- Non poisonous
- Fruits eaten by wildlife
- Use for naturalistic settings and in back of large shrub beds
- Can be aggressive

Climbing Aster

Symphotrichum carolinianum



- Height: 1-12 feet
- Spread: 2-4 feet
- Viney, sprawling shrub
- Lavender flowers in fall
- Attractive to butterflies
- Adaptable but preferring moist soils
- Sun to part shade
- Pruning promotes flowering and healthy growth.

Many native plant
options, sure to be some
that fit in your yard

Thank you!

