NATIVE SHRUBS FOR HOME LANDSCAPING IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA

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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*)

- 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

‘Shady Lady’
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
*Symphyotrichum 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!