



# SHRUBS FOR HOME LANDSCAPING IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA

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The shrubs included in the following lists are selected for their suitability for home landscape plantings in Northwest Florida. These lists were developed for the purpose of recommending shrubs to plant for recovery after Hurricane Michael.

## **Using the Planting Lists**

Both the scientific and common names are given as well as typical heights and widths for adult plants. Consider the eventual size of plants in a landscape design and consider the location of plants relative to power lines and other structures. General moisture requirements are given. Locate plants with similar moisture requirements together. Consider light requirements throughout the year. Preferred light requirements are bolded in the below lists. Consider planting a combination of evergreen and deciduous plants to provide interest in the winter as well as seasonal variations. Special features of plants to include flowers, berries, fruit and attractiveness to wildlife are listed in the comments section. For additional information to include growth rate, soil pH, drought tolerance and salt tolerance, consult your county's UF/IFAS Extension office or consider using the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Florida-friendly Plant Database at [www.floridayards.org/fyplants/index.php](http://www.floridayards.org/fyplants/index.php).

## **Gardening with Native Plants**

They are adapted to the Northwest Florida environment to include the climate (temperatures, rainfall, humidity, etc.) and soils (often very sandy, mostly acidic). Planted in the right place, they can minimize maintenance work and costs to include watering, fertilizing and- soil amendment. Probably the most important reason to use native plants though is that these plants are required for food and habitat for our native wildlife, many of which require specific native plants to thrive.

## EVERGREEN SHRUBS

This list contains shrubs that normally maintain their leaves in the winter as well as palms of less than 10 ft. height. These plants can play a very important role in the winter garden.

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Mature Height/Width	Moisture Requirements	Light Requirements	Comments	Native?
<i>Abelia X grandiflora</i> Glossy Abelia	6' – 10' high 6' – 10' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b> to part shade	Semi-evergreen, white to pink flowers periodically spring through fall, attractive foliage and inflorescences on several cultivars	No
<i>Acca sellowiana</i> Pineapple Guava	8' – 15' high 8' – 15' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b> to part sun	Flowers with white petals and prominent red stamens, edible fruit, attractive to wildlife, may be trimmed to a hedge	No
<i>Agarista populifolia</i> Fetterbush, Pipestem	8' – 12' high 5' – 10' wide	Well drained to wet	Part shade to <b>shade</b>	Fragrant white flowers in spring, arching branching structure	Yes
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> Groundsel Bush, Saltbush	8' – 12' high 6' – 12' wide	Well drained to wet	<b>Sun</b>	White fluffy flowers in fall attractive to butterflies, high salt tolerance, somewhat loose structure	Yes
<i>Callistemon</i> spp. Bottlebrush	6' – 30' high 6' – 15' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b> to part sun	Red flowers spring, summer and fall, attractive to birds and pollinators, medium wind resistance	No
<i>Camellia</i> spp. Camellia	3' – 20' high 5' – 20' wide	Medium drained	<b>Part shade</b> to shade	Attractive foliage and beautiful flowers of many shapes, sizes and colors, bloom in fall/winter when few other plants are flowering, slow growing	No
<i>Cephalotaxus harringtonia</i> Japanese Plum Yew	3' – 10' high 5' – 10' wide	Well drained	<b>Part shade</b> to shade	Attractive dark foliage	No
<i>Conradina</i> spp. False Rosemary, Scrub Mint	2' – 4' high 2' – 4' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b>	Lavender flowers, bluish/grey foliage, evergreen, attractive to butterflies	Yes
<i>Fatsia japonica</i> Japanese Aralia, Fatsia	5' – 8' high 3' – 10' wide	Well drained	Part shade to <b>shade</b>	Large attractive dark green leaves, interesting white flowers	No
<i>Gardenia jasminoides</i> Gardenia	4' – 8' high 4' – 8' wide	Well drained	<b>Part shade</b> to sun	Attractive foliage, fragrant white flowers in summer	No
<i>Ilex glabra</i> Gallberry	6' – 8' high 8' – 10' wide	Medium drained to wet	<b>Part shade</b> to sun	Small white flowers in spring followed by black berries on female shrubs, attractive to birds and other wildlife.	Yes

<i>Ilex vomitoria</i> Yaupon Holley	Varied height Varied width	Well drained to wet	Sun to <b>part shade</b>	Small white flowers in spring followed by red berries on female shrubs, low growing cultivars make excellent hedges, can be shaped into various forms	Yes
<i>Illicium floridanum</i> Florida Anise	6' – 20' high 3' – 6' wide	Well drained	<b>Part shade</b> to shade	Beautiful dark maroon flowers in spring followed by non-edible star-like seeds, variegated cultivars available	Yes
<i>Illicium parviflorum</i> Ocala Anise, Yellow Anise	6' – 20' high 3' – 6' wide	Well drained	Sun to <b>part shade</b>	Insignificant yellow flowers in spring followed by non-edible star-like seeds, makes an excellent hedge	Yes
<i>Lantana depressa</i> Pineland Lantana	3' – 6' high 3' – 6' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b>	Yellow flowers throughout the year, usually only found in native nurseries. Many other lantana species are invasive and not recommended.	Yes
<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i> Texas Sage	3' – 5' high 3' – 5' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b>	Silvery grey leaves, semi-evergreen, lavender flowers in summer, prefers hot, dry location	No
<i>Loropetalum</i> spp. Loropetalum	Varies up to 15' high	Well drained	<b>Sun</b> to part shade	Attractive strap-like flowers in spring, some have attractive reddish foliage, some cultivars stay short while others can grow into small trees	No
<i>Lyonia ferruginea</i> Rusty Lyonia	10' – 25' high 5' – 10' wide	Well to medium drained	<b>Sun</b> to part shade	Whitish flowers in spring, rusty colored new foliage, attractive to butterflies	Yes
<i>Lyonia lucida</i> Shiny Lyonia, Fetterbush	3' – 10' high 2' – 5' wide	Well to medium drained	<b>Sun</b> to part shade	Whitish flowers in spring, attractive to butterflies	Yes
<i>Mahonia</i> spp. Oregon Hollygrape, grapeholly, Mahonia	3' – 10' high 3' – 4' wide	Well drained	Part shade to <b>shade</b>	Yellow fragrant flowers in winter/spring followed by bluish berries attractive to wildlife, holly like foliage	No
<i>Myrica cerifera</i> Wax Myrtle	10' – 40' high 20' – 25' wide	Well drained to wet	<b>Sun</b> to part shade	Attractive to birds and butterflies, takes pruning well and makes an excellent hedge	Yes
<i>Nerium oleander</i> Oleander	4' – 18' high 3' – 15' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b> to part shade	High salt tolerance, attractive flowers that bloom prolifically over a long period, poisonous, oleander caterpillars may ravage shrub	No
<i>Osmanthus fragrans</i> Tea Olive	15' – 30' high 15' – 20' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b> to part shade	Fragrant white flowers, holly like foliage, several species/cultivars available	No
<i>Philodendron</i> spp. Philodendron	6' – 12' high 2' – 15' wide	Species dependent	Part sun to <b>shade</b>	Large tropical leaves, fast growing, may be damaged in a hard freeze	No

<i>Pittosporum tobira</i> Pittosporum	8' – 12' high 12' – 18' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b> to part shade	Glossy leaves, often pruned as a hedge, whitish fragrant flowers in spring	No
<i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i> Podocarpus	30' - 40' high 20' – 25' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b> to part shade	Attractive dark green foliage, small fruit attractive to birds, high salt tolerance, slow growing, high wind resistance, may be pruned to desired shape/height	No
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i> Firethorn	10' – 15' high 8' – 12' wide	Well to medium drained	<b>Sun</b> to part sun	Attractive white flowers followed by bright red/orange berries, often trained to a trellis, has thorns	No
<i>Raphiolepis</i> spp. Indian Hawthorn	2' – 10' high 2' – 6' wide	Well to medium drained	<b>Sun</b> to part sun	Attractive flowers in spring followed by fruits attractive to wildlife, wide variations between cultivars	No
<i>Rhapidophyllum hystrix</i> Needle Palm	8' high 5' – 10' wide	Medium drained	Sun to <b>part shade</b> to shade	Attractive to birds and other wildlife, has sharp spines on trunk	Yes
<i>Rhododendron</i> spp./cvs. Azalea	3' – 12' high 3' – 10' wide	Well drained	<b>Part shade</b>	Wide variety available with many colors of flowers attractive to birds and butterflies, most bloom in spring	No
<i>Rosa</i> spp. Rose	1' – 20' high 2' – 8' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b>	Wide variations between cultivars, often have thorns, hips attractive to birds	Varies
<i>Rosmarinus</i> spp. Rosemary	3' – 6' high 4' – 5' wide	Well to medium drained	<b>Sun</b> to part shade	Aromatic greyish foliage, edible	No
<i>Russelia</i> spp. Firecracker PLant	3' – 5' high 2' – 12' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b>	Wispy foliage with red or yellow tubular flowers in summer, attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds, may be damaged in hard freeze	No
<i>Sabal minor</i> Blue Stem Palmetto, Dwarf Palmetto	4' – 9' high 4' – 8' wide	Well to medium drained	Sun to <b>Part shade</b> to shade	Flowers/fruits attractive to birds and butterflies, bluish foliage, excellent for retention areas and drainage swales	Yes
<i>Serenoa repens</i> Saw Palmetto	3' – 10' high 4' – 10' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b> to shade	Attractive to birds and other wildlife, attractive silver foliage palmettos available, high salt tolerance	Yes
<i>Ternstroemia gymnanthera</i> Cleyera	12' – 20' high 5' – 10' wide	Well drained	Part shade to <b>shade</b>	Attractive shiny foliage, often used as a hedge	No
<i>Vaccinium darrowii</i> Darrow's Blueberry, Evergreen Blueberry	2' – 3' high 2' – 3' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b> to part shade	Bluish foliage, small whitish flowers in spring followed by blue edible berries, attractive to birds	Yes

<i>Viburnum obovatum</i> Walter's Viburnum	Varied height	Well drained	<b>Sun</b> to shade	White flowers in spring. Makes an excellent hedge, can be pruned into shapes well, attractive to wildlife	Yes
<i>Viburnum odoratissimum</i> Sweet Viburnum	15' – 30' high 15' – 25' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b> to shade	White flowers in spring attractive to hummingbirds, berries attractive to birds, may be used as hedge	No
<i>Viburnum odoratissimum</i> 'awabuki' Awabuki Viburnum	15' – 20' high 15' – 20' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b> to part shade	Fragrant, white flowers in spring, fruit attractive to wildlife, attractive shiny, large leaves, often trimmed as a hedge	No
<i>Viburnum tinus</i> Laurestinus Viburnum	6' – 12' high 2' – 4' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b> to part shade	Fragrant, pink/white flowers in spring followed by blue/black fruit, attractive to birds and butterflies, dense, upright form excellent for use as specimen or hedge	No
<i>Yucca aloifolia</i> Yucca, Spanish Bayonet	3' – 12' high 3' – 6' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b> to part shade	Attractive white flowers in spring to summer, attractive to butterflies, high salt tolerance	Yes
<i>Zamia floridana</i> Coontie	1' – 5' high 3' – 5' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b> to shade	Attractive to butterflies, produces interesting cones, high salt tolerance	Yes

### DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

This list contains low woody plants with several permanent stems, which normally lose their leaves in the winter. These shrubs can provide much seasonal interest to a landscape. Also included in this list are some shrubs that may die back to the ground in a cold winter but usually return in the spring.

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Mature Height/Width	Moisture Requirements	Light Requirements	Comments	Native?
<i>Asimina</i> spp. Pawpaw	Variable height Variable width	Well to medium drained	<b>Sun</b> to shade	Attractive to butterflies, some have attractive flowers, some have edible fruit, difficult to transplant	Yes
<i>Buddleia lindleyana</i> Lindley's Butterfly Bush	4' – 6' high 4' – 6' wide	Well drained	<b>Sun</b>	Lavender flowers attractive to butterflies, greyish foliage, spreads through suckering	No

<i>Callicarpa Americana</i> Beautyberry	6' – 8' high 6' – 8' wide	Well drained	<b>Part shade to shade</b>	Insignificant light purple flowers, attractive purple berries, attractive to birds and wildlife, yellow fall foliage	Yes
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i> Carolina Allspice, Sweetshrub	6' – 9' high 6' – 12' wide	Well to medium drained	<b>Part Shade to shade</b>	Dark red fragrant flowers in summer, prefers organic soils, yellow fall foliage	Yes
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> Buttonbush	6' – 20' tall 6' – 8' wide	Medium drained to wet	<b>Sun to Part shade</b>	Attractive to hummingbirds/butterflies, white flowers in spring/summer, excellent around retention areas	Yes
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i> Sweet Pepperbush	4' – 8' high 4' – 8' wide	Well drained to wet	Sun to <b>Part shade</b> to shade	Fragrant white flowers in summer attractive to butterflies and other pollinators	Yes
<i>Hamelia patens</i> Firebush	5' – 20' high 5' – 8' wide	Well to medium drained	Sun to <b>shade</b>	Red/orange flowers in fall, attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds, dies back in winter to return spring	Yes
<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i> Scarlet Hibiscus	4' – 6' high 2' – 5' wide	Well to medium drained	<b>Sun to part shade</b>	Large, beautiful red flowers	Yes
<i>Hibiscus spp.</i> Hibiscus	4' – 12' high 3' – 10' wide	Well to medium drained	<b>Sun to part shade</b>	Large beautiful flowers of many colors from spring to fall, may be injured in freeze	No
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i> Bingleaf/French Hydrangea	6' – 10' high 6' – 10' wide	Well to medium drained	Part shade to <b>shade</b>	Large pink to blue flower panicles during late spring and summer	No
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> Panicle Hydrangea	15' – 25' high 10' – 20' wide	Well drained, moist soil	Sun to <b>part sun</b>	Large attractive flower panicles start green, turn white/cream then rosy pink as they mature, can also be grown in tree form, moderate growth rate	No
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> Oakleaf Hydrangea	6' – 10' high 6' – 8' wide	Well to medium drained	<b>Sun to shade</b>	Large attractive cream flower panicles in summer turning rosy pink/bronze as they mature, some have colorful fall foliage	Yes
<i>Itea virginica</i> Virginia Sweetspire	3' – 8' high 2' – 4' high	Well drained to wet	Sun to <b>part shade</b> to shade	White flowers in spring, excellent for borders of retention areas and ditches, attractive fall foliage color	Yes
<i>Malvaviscus arboreus</i>	6' – 12' high 3' – 4' wide	Well to medium drained	<b>Sun</b>	Fast growing, red flowers in fall until a freeze, may die back to the ground in hard freeze to return in spring.	No

Turk's Cap					
<i>Rhododendron austrinum</i> Florida Azalea	6' – 10' high 4' – 8' wide	Well drained	<b>Part sun</b>	Fragrant orange flowers in spring, attractive to birds and butterflies	Yes
<i>Rhododendron canescens</i> Pinxter Azalea	8' – 12' high 6' – 10' wide	Well drained	<b>Part sun</b>	Fragrant pink flowers in spring, attractive to birds and butterflies	Yes
<i>Senna bicapsularis</i> Christmas Senna	6' – 12' high 6' – 12' wide	Well to medium drained	<b>Sun</b>	Yellow flowers attractive to pollinators, butterfly host plant, may be damaged in hard freeze.	No
<i>Spiraea</i> spp. Bridal Wreath, Spirea	3' – 5' high 3' – 4' wide	Well to medium drained	Sun to <b>part sun</b>	Attractive white flowers in spring, excellent accent for spring blooming azaleas	No
<i>Symphoricarpos carolinianum</i> Climbing Aster	1' – 12' high 2' – 4; wide	Well drained to wet	<b>Sun</b> to shade	Lavender flowers in fall, attractive to birds and butterflies	Yes
<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i> Sparkleberry	6' – 25' high 4' – 15' wide	Well to med drained	Sun to <b>part shade</b> to shade	Whitish flowers in spring followed by dark blue berries attractive to birds and other wildlife, attractive fall color	Yes
<i>Vaccinium elliotii</i> Elliott's Blueberry	12' high 5' wide	Well drained	Sun to <b>part shade</b>	White flowers in spring followed by edible blue berries, attractive to birds and other wildlife, red fall color	Yes

## References

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Florida-friendly Plant Database, [www.floridayards.org/fyplants/index.php](http://www.floridayards.org/fyplants/index.php)

Various publications from [www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu)

- The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design,  
[www.fsl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN\\_Plant\\_Selection\\_Guide\\_2015.pdf](http://www.fsl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_2015.pdf)

Dirr, Michael A., *Dirr's Trees and Shrubs for Warm Climates*, Timber Press, Inc., 2002.

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