



Low-Maintenance Landscape Plants for South Florida¹

Jody Haynes, John McLaughlin, Laura Vasquez, Adrian Hunsberger²

Introduction

This publication was developed in response to requests from participants in the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods (FYN) program in Miami-Dade County for a list of recommended landscape plants suitable for south Florida. The resulting list includes over 350 low-maintenance plants. The following information is included for each species: common name, scientific name, maximum size, growth rate (vines only), light preference, salt tolerance, and other useful characteristics.

Criteria

This section will describe the criteria by which plants were selected. It is important to note, first, that even the most drought-tolerant plants require watering during the establishment period. Although this period varies among species and site conditions, some general rules for container-grown plants have been determined experimentally. They are as follows: 6 months for a 1-gallon plant; 1 year for a 3-gallon plant; and 6-12 months per inch of trunk diameter for larger trees.

The term "low-maintenance" refers to a plant that does not require frequent maintenance—such as

regular watering, pruning, or spraying—to remain healthy and to maintain an acceptable aesthetic quality. A low-maintenance plant has low fertilizer requirements and few pest and disease problems. In addition, low-maintenance plants suitable for south Florida must also be adapted to—or at least tolerate—our poor, alkaline, sand- or limestone-based soils.

An additional criterion for the plants on this list was that they are not listed as being invasive by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC, 2001), or restricted by any federal, state, or local laws (Burks, 2000). Miami-Dade County does have restrictions for planting certain species within 500 feet of native habitats they are known to invade (Miami-Dade County, 2001); caution statements are provided for these species.

Both native and non-native species are included herein, with native plants denoted by †. Some plants listed also tolerate wet soil conditions or even periodic flooding; these are denoted by §. Also, a variety of plants that are not commonly available in south Florida nurseries or garden centers were intentionally included with the hope that increased demand will generate increased supply; plants that are commonly available are denoted by *.

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 2. Jody Haynes. FYN Program Extension Agent, UF/Miami-Dade County Extension; John McLaughlin. Urban Horticulture Program Assistant, UF/Miami-Dade County Extension; Laura Vasquez. FYN Program Assistant, UF/Miami-Dade County Extension; Adrian Hunsberger. Urban Horticulture Agent, UF/Miami-Dade County Extension

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This list is also posted on the Miami-Dade County FYN website, at the following URL: <http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/programs/fyn/publications/dtpl.htm>. Photos and more detailed information for each species can be obtained from this online version of the list.

Categories

Plants were evaluated according to their function or role in the landscape, and were then assigned to one or more of the following categories: A. Perennials; B. Annuals; C. Shrubs & Hedges; D. Flowering & Shade Trees; E. Fruit Trees; F. Palms, Cycads & Palm-like Plants; G. Ornamental Grasses; H. Groundcovers; I. Vines; J. Epiphytes; and K. Herbs & Vegetables. A definition of each category follows.

A. Perennials. Perennials are typically herbaceous plants that live three or more years. They often bear attractive flowers, and many can be used as groundcovers (37 perennials are listed in Table 1).

B. Annuals. An annual is a plant that typically lives for one year or less. Although most annuals require moist soil, a few are considered low-maintenance. In south Florida, many annuals are cool-season plants, and, thus, will not tolerate the heat and/or wet/humid conditions of summer. Only drought-tolerant annuals are included (18 annuals are listed in Table 2).

C. Shrubs & Hedges. A shrub is typically a woody plant with several stems. However, a wide variety of plants can function as shrubs. A hedge is simply a row of closely planted shrubs that form a border or boundary; hedges may require some pruning to maintain proper form or function (117 shrubs and hedges are listed in Table 3).

D. Flowering & Shade Trees. A tree is a woody plant that is usually very large (tall or wide or both) and usually bears a single trunk. Flowering trees are those that are cultivated primarily for their showy flowers, whereas shade trees often lack significant floral displays (59 flowering and shade trees are listed in Table 4).

E. Fruit Trees. Fruit trees are typically grown or cultivated for their edible fruit. To ensure healthy, productive fruit trees, it may be necessary to feed and/or water them during fruit set (13 fruit trees are listed in Table 5).

F. Palms, Cycads & Palm-Like Plants. Palms are predominantly tropical and subtropical evergreen trees, shrubs, or woody vines of the Family Palmae (also known as Family Arecaceae). Palm stems are generally unbranched, bear a single growing point, and are topped by a crown of pinnate (feather-shaped) or palmate (fan-shaped) leaves bearing conspicuous parallel venation. In a few cases, entire palm genera are considered low-maintenance, including *Brahea*, *Coccothrinax*, *Copernicia*, *Livistona*, *Phoenix Sabal Thrinax*, and *Washingtonia*. Although many palms require regular fertilization, the species listed herein require less than most (44 palms are listed in Table 6).

Cycads are cone-bearing evergreen plants of the Division Cycadophyta; they are often mistakenly considered palms. Note, the cycads included on this list are resistant to the cycad aulacaspis scale, which is a serious pest of cycads in the genus *Cycas* which includes the sago palms (20 cycads are listed in Table 6).

Palm-like plants are those that superficially resemble palms but belong to unrelated plant families (four additional palm-like plants are listed in Table 6).

G. Ornamental Grasses. Ornamental grasses typically grow in tuft-like clumps and bear numerous small flowers on tall stalks that rise above the blade-like leaves. Many are quite showy and are welcome additions to a non-traditional landscape (14 ornamental grasses are listed in Table 7).

H. Groundcovers. This category includes a diverse group of unrelated plants that are used to cover areas of ground for aesthetic purposes (*e.g.*, in shady areas where grass will not grow). Groundcovers also function to stabilize soil, or to provide focal points at the front of planting beds. Generally planted in dense stands, groundcovers can be vines, small shrubs, annuals, perennials, or grasses (59 groundcovers are listed in Table 8).

I. Vines. Vines are weak-stemmed plants that derive their support from climbing, twining, or creeping along a surface. Although most people think of vines as climbing vertically, a few species also grow horizontally and can function as groundcovers. Some vines have aggressive growth habits, so they need to be watched carefully to prevent them from growing out of control (25 vines are listed in Table 9).

J. Epiphytes. Epiphytes are plants that grow on other plants (e.g., trees) or objects (e.g., rocks and boulders) for support or anchorage, but not for water or nutrients. This category includes orchids, ferns, bromeliads, and some cacti (11 epiphytes are listed in Table 10).

K. Herbs & Vegetables. Herbs are plants whose leaves, stems, or roots are used as flavoring in food or as non-traditional medicines, while vegetables are plants that produce edible parts (roots, stems, leaves, or fruit) that are grown for food. Although not included in most landscapes, some herbs and vegetables have ornamental value (four herbs and two vegetables are listed in Table 11).

Selecting the "Right" Plant

Putting the right plant in the right place is of foremost importance in creating a healthy and successful low-maintenance landscape. However, this principle is dependent upon one's ability to accurately select the right plant species for a given location. Common names are often misleading, and sometimes more than one plant species may be referred to by the same or similar common name. Therefore, whenever possible it is best to refer to scientific names when researching and selecting plants for your south Florida Landscape.

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Table 1. Low-Maintenance Perennials, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size (inch)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Aglaonema * <i>Aglaonema commutatum</i>	18	Partial to full shade	Low	Small, herbaceous perennial with fleshy stems, branching from the base, and slender-stalked leaves up to about 12 inches long. Flowering stems have a narrow, pale green spathe enclosing a small white spadix. Other <i>Aglaonema</i> also drought tolerant.
Scarlet milkweed * § <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	36-48	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Erect, evergreen perennial with narrow, elliptical leaves and terminal clusters of scarlet and orange flowers spring to fall. Attracts butterflies Spring to Fall. Can tolerate wet soil.
Butterfly weed * † <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	18-36	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Native perennial with orange, summertime flowers. Essential component of a butterfly garden. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.
Cast iron plant * <i>Aspidistra elatior</i>	36	Partial to full shade	Moderate	Grown for its deep green foliage. Named for its ability to tolerate harsh, adverse conditions. Spreads to form clumps. Excellent for shady areas.
Star begonia, winter begonia * § <i>Begonia heracleifolia</i>	24-36	Partial to full shade	None	Rhizomatous (spreads by rhizomes) begonia with large, hairy, deeply lobed, toothed, bronzy green leaves and fragrant, white to pink flowers on long, reddish stalks. Caution: <i>Begonia cucullata</i> is FLEPPC Category II invasive. ⁵
White begonia * § <i>Begonia popenoei</i>	24-48	Partial to full shade	None	Rhizomatous begonia with huge, round, dark glossy green leaves to two feet wide and large white, fragrant flowers held in large panicles well above foliage.
Castor bean begonia * § <i>Begonia ricinifolia</i>	24-36	Partial to full shade	None	Rhizomatous begonia with apple green leaves shaped like stars and with rings of red hairs around leaf petioles. Winter blooms are deep pink.
Strawflower <i>Brachteantha bracteatum</i>	36	Full sun	Low	Annual or short-lived perennial with erect habit. Weak, hollow stems. Thin green leaves bear golden yellow blooms up to two inches in diameter at branch tips summer to early fall. Good groundcover or small shrub.
Spiral ginger § <i>Costus scaber</i>	72	Partial shade	Low	Tall spiral ginger with attractive roundish jade green leaves with fuzzy underside, and long, hard, waxy 8" to 12" red bracts with small, yellow flowers that peek out as bracts open from bottom up. Long lasting flower; excellent cut flower.

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Crossandra * <i>Crossandra infundibuliformis</i>	12-36	Partial to full shade	Low	Simple leaves arranged in opposite pairs and bearing erect spikes of showy yellow to red flowers, with petals opened flat into a hand-like shape.
African iris § <i>Dietes iridioides</i>	24-36	Full sun	Low	Drought tolerant perennial, though extra water needed when in bloom. Easy to grow. Attractive white flowers with blue and brown shading appear in spring. Forms spreading clumps. Also known as <i>D. vegeta</i> ; <i>D. bicolor</i> has yellow flowers.
Twinflower † <i>Dyschoriste angusta</i>	6-18	Full sun	Low	Native perennial with small, delicate, purple flowers. Grows best in dry sand. Plant close together for best cover.
Dwarf crown-of-thorns * <i>Euphorbia milii</i>	12-36	Full sun	High	Small Thai dwarf varieties used as bedding plants and groundcovers. See full description in Table 3.
Indian blanket * † <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	12-24	Full sun	High	Colorful native annual or perennial. As easily grown as it is beautiful. Considerable variation in flower color; typical variety bears red flowers with yellow-tipped petals. Plant in open site with good drainage. Good for beach-front plantings.
Whirling butterflies <i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>	24-48	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Herbaceous perennial that grows in loose, bushy clump. Stems slender, wiry, and covered with tiny hairs. Leaves spoon-shaped with toothed margins. Flowers above foliage on long spikes; open white at dawn, fading to rose-pink by day's end. Requires well-drained soil.
Moss verbena <i>Glandularia puchella</i>	12	Full sun to partial shade	Unknown	Freely branching, sprawling perennial with 3-lobed, finely dissected, aromatic leaves and clusters of pink, lilac, purple or white flowers. Requires well-drained soil. Attracts butterflies. Good bedding plant.
Tampa verbena * † <i>Glandularia tampensis</i>	18-24	Full sun	Low	Native, sprawling, short-lived perennial. Sometimes treated as annual. Flowers purplish-pink. Also known as <i>Verbena tampensis</i> .
Rain lilies † <i>Habranthus</i> spp.	24-48	Full sun	Moderate	Flowers yellow, pink, red or white produced spring/summer after rain. Goes dormant in cool season, requiring very little water. Flowers best when crowded.
Beach sunflower † <i>Helianthus debilis</i>	36-48	Full sun	High	Erect or prostrate, spreading plant with sandpaper-like leaves and 2.5 - three-inch yellow flowers. Suitable for beach-front plantings. Good for attracting butterflies.

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Daylily * <i>Hemerocallis spp.</i>	12-24	Full sun or partial shade	Moderate	Clump-forming perennial with grass-like leaves and lily-like flowers from late spring to fall, depending on variety. Available in yellow, orange, red, pink, purple, and near-white. Only certain varieties succeed in south Florida (Evergreen, Semis).
Amaryllis * <i>Hippeastrum spp.</i>	24	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Spectacular trumpet-shaped, tropical lilies. Many species and varieties. Moderately drought tolerant.
Beach elder † <i>Iva imbricata</i>	24-36	Full sun	High	Scraggly, coarse, shrubby perennial. Good for beach-front plantings.
Shrimp plant * <i>Justicia brandegeana</i>	36-60	Full sun to full shade	None	Perennial or shrub with stems topped with 6" spikes of red, rusty brown, or green bracts containing small, white, shrimp-like flowers. A related species bears yellow bracts. Unique, adaptable, easily grown plant. Also known as <i>Beloperone guttata</i> .
Kalanchoe * <i>Kalanchoe blossfeldiana</i>	12	Partial shade	Moderate	Small, shrubby African species. Multiple, upstretched branches covered with round to rectangular, deep green leaves with red margins and notched tips. Thick racemes of small, deep red, cylindrical flowers appear from winter to early summer; may also be pink, yellow, or orange. Can be weedy.
Statice <i>Limonium sinatum</i>	18	Full sun	Low	Bushy, upright perennial. Dense rosettes of oblong, deeply waved, dark green leaves and masses of tiny, papery flowers on winged stems summer/ early fall. Fairly slow growing. Available in golden, lemon-yellow, white, cream, salmon-pink, purple or blue spikelets.
Pennyroyal † <i>Piloblephis rigida</i>	6-24	Full sun	Low	Low-growing perennial. Not picky about soil, but likes it dry. Small, shrimp-like flowers emerge from green, scale-like bracts. Attractive to butterflies. Also known as <i>Pycnothymus rigidus</i> and <i>Satureja rigida</i> .
Plumbago * <i>Plumbago auriculata</i>	36-72	Full sun	Low	Attractive light blue flowers in terminal spikes. Drought tolerant once well established. Prone to root and stem rots. Freely draining soil and good air circulation.
Florida mountainmint † <i>Pycnanthemum floridanum</i>	48	Full sun to partial shade	None	Erect, loosely-branched, shrublike perennial. Leaves smell like spearmint or camphor. Tiny, lavender flowers in dense terminal clusters. Attracts butterflies.

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Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size (inch)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Firecracker plant * <i>Russelia equisetiformis</i>	24-48	Full sun	High	Grown for weeping habit, masses of small, red tubular flowers, and scale-like leaves. Often used in planters. Requires freely draining soil. <i>Russelia sarmentosa</i> is similar, although with actual leaves and smaller red flowers that are highly attractive to butterflies.
Stonecrop <i>Sedum spectabile</i>	24	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Hardy plant, well adapted for rockeries, with showy fall flowers. Many cultivars (white, pink or red); at least one with variegated leaves.
Blue porterweed * † <i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>	12-36	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Native, small, shrubby perennial. Flowers highly attractive to butterflies--must for any butterfly garden. Name derived from traditional foamy, porter-like beverage brewed from the plant.
Pink porterweed * <i>Stachytarpheta mutabilis</i>	60-96	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Small, shrubby perennial with somewhat weedy habit. Flowers highly attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. Variety <i>violacea</i> is violet-flowered form.
Mexican sunflower * <i>Tithonia deversifolia</i>	60-72	Full sun	Low	Warm-season annual or perennial. Leaves coarse, three-lobed, and covered in soft, downy fuzz. Flowers orange to red-orange.
Society garlic * <i>Tulbaghia violacea</i>	24-36	Full sun to partial shade	None	Clump-forming, herbaceous perennial with narrow, grayish leaves and large clusters of lavender flowers. Related to garlic.
Purpletop verbena * <i>Verbena bonariensis</i>	36-72	Full sun to light shade	Low	Erect, clump-forming perennial with stiff, widely branched stems. Small, purple flowers in clusters held high above foliage. Best when densely planted. Attracts butterflies.
Verbena * <i>Verbena x hybrida</i>	36-72	Full sun	Low	Erect, clump-forming perennial or annual with stiff, widely branching stems. Flowers purple and borne in rounded clusters. Treat as annual. Powdery mildew and whiteflies may be occasional problems. Good bedding plant.
Rain lily * <i>Zephyranthes spp.</i>	6-15	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Charming, clump-forming, flowering bulbs. Most species have open flowers like small Asiatic lilies and are deciduous. Can be white, yellow or various shades of warm pink. All bear one flower to a stem, and most close their petals at night.

⁵ Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) defines Category I invasive plants as those plants that are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives; FLEPPC Category II plants are those that have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species.

⁶ Miami-Dade County restricts certain species from being planted within 500 feet of the native habitats that they are known to invade; these plants are allowed to be planted in home landscapes as long as they are more than 500 feet from the designated native habitat(s).

Table 2. Low-Maintenance Annuals, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size	Light Preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Scarlet milkweed * § <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	3-4'	Full sun to partial shade	Low	See description in Table 1.
Orach, French spinach <i>Atriplex hortensis</i>	2-6'	Full sun	Unknown	Usually grown for its tender, spinach-like leaves. Leaves can be green, yellowish-green, red or purple. Sometimes grown as bedding plant.
Strawflower <i>Brachyantha bracteatum</i>	3'	Full sun	Low	See description in Table 1.
Cosmos * <i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>	5-6'	Full sun	Low	Feathery-leaved annual from Mexico and far southern USA. Showy, daisy-like flowerheads in summer and fall, in shades of pink, red, purple or white. May require staking. May not survive rainy season.
Indian blanket * † <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	1-2'	Full sun	High	See description in Table 1.
Gazania * <i>Gazania rigens</i>	6-24"	Full sun	Moderate	Mat-forming plant with crowded rosettes of mostly unlobed leaves that are green above and whitish beneath. Orange flowerheads with a black eye spot at petal bases.
Moss verbena * <i>Glandularia puchella</i>	12"	Full sun to partial shade	Low	See description in Table 1.
Tampa verbena * † <i>Glandularia tampensis</i>	18-24"	Full sun	Low	See description in Table 1.
Globe amaranth * <i>Gomphrena globosa</i>	1-2'	Full sun	Low	Small, branching annual with hairy leaves and bright purple, pink, or white, clover-like flowers. Benefits from mulching.
Sunflower * <i>Helianthus annuus</i>	3-10'	Full sun	Low	Fast-growing, upright annual. Large, daisy-like, 12" wide yellow flowerheads with brown centers borne in summer. Coarse, leggy plants with heavily veined leaves.
Annual lion's ear <i>Leonotis nepetifolia</i>	8'	Full sun to light shade	Low	Coarse-textured, rather gangly, erect, loosely branching summer annual. Smooth leaves with toothed margins. Bright red, tubular, downward-curving flowers encircle stem at intervals. Self-seeds easily, but not considered invasive. Attracts butterflies.
Butter daisy * <i>Melampodium divaricatum</i>	6-24"	Full sun	Low	Small, summer annual with small, yellow flowers and bright green foliage. Prolific self-seeder. Great bedding and border plant. Also known as <i>M. paludosum</i> .

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Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size	Light Preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Moss rose, rose moss * <i>Portulaca grandiflora</i>	4-8"	Full sun	High	Small, annual, low-growing succulent with small, lance-shaped, fleshy, bright green leaves on reddish stems. Yellow, pink, red, or orange flowers in summer; close at night and on cloudy days. Suitable as groundcover, in rockery, or as border.
Black-eyed Susan * † <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	3'	Full sun to light shade	Low	Typical daisy-like perennial or annual (depending on variety). Large, yellow-orange to reddish-orange flowers with darker centers. Attracts butterflies. Does not tolerate prolonged, wet, humid weather.
Ornamental sages * <i>Salvia spp.</i>	1-5'	Full sun	Low	Semi-woody, mostly herbaceous shrubby annuals with fuzzy leaves and spikes of blue, red, pink, or white flowers. Wilt and lose leaves during drought, but recover when rain returns. Attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Most do not tolerate prolonged wet, humid weather.
Verbena * <i>Verbena x hybrida</i>	3-6'	Full sun	Low	See description in Table 1.
Zinnia * <i>Zinnia elegans</i>	30"	Full sun	Low	Coarse, upright, bushy annual with lance-shaped leaves and daisy-like flowers in a rainbow of colors. Requires well-drained soil and good air circulation. Powdery mildew occasional problem when humid; newer varieties resistant. Leaf spot during rainy season possible problem. Also known as <i>Zinnia violacea</i> .
Mexican zinnia * <i>Zinnia haaeana</i>	1-2'	Full sun	Low	Upright, bushy annual. Small, narrow leaves. Daisy-like flowers in white, orange, yellow, red, mahogany, or bicolor (gold, maroon, purple, brown, cream, and pink). Good annual groundcover.
<p>⁵ Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) defines Category I invasive plants as those plants that are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives; FLEPPC Category II plants are those that have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species.</p>				
<p>⁶ Miami-Dade County restricts certain species from being planted within 500 feet of the native habitats that they are known to invade; these plants are allowed to be planted in home landscapes as long as they are more than 500 feet from the designated native habitat(s).</p>				

Table 3. Low-Maintenance Shrubs and Hedges, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name Scientific name	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Chenille plant * § <i>Acalypha hispida</i>	6-12	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Medium to large shrub with large, oval, evergreen leaves. Separate male and female plants. Females have long, velvety clusters of purple, bright red, or crimson flowers resembling fluffy cattail. Can wilt in full sun during drought.
Copperleaf * <i>Acalypha wilkesiana</i>	8-12	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Purple/red, green and pink foliage. Excellent for hedge or border, but can be over-powering.
Desert rose* <i>Adenium obesum</i>	3-7	Full sun	Moderate	Very showy flowers year-round, particularly during hot, dry weather. Must have perfect drainage since this plant is very prone to root and stem rots. Will lose leaves during cool weather. Excellent for rock gardens. Scales occasional pest.
Century plant * <i>Agave americana</i>	6-8	Full sun	High	Dramatic foliage and form. Evergreen, silver/gray to blue-green foliage. Showy, green-brown fruit. Armed with spines. Gritty, free-draining soil required. Blooms anywhere from 12-20 years of age, then dies. Excellent for rock gardens. Many other agaves available; some are variegated; all are drought tolerant. <u>Caution:</u> Sisal hemp, <i>A.sisalana</i> , is a FLEPPC Category II invasive. ⁵
Purple allamanda * <i>Allamanda blanchetii</i>	10	Full sun	None	Evergreen, vining shrub with purple, tubular flowers. Attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. Also known as <i>Allamanda violacea</i> .
Bush allamanda <i>Allamanda neriifolia</i>	3-5	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Colorful, bright yellow, trumpet flowers. Glossy leaves in whorls of 3-6 on smooth stems, which bleed milky sap if cut. Attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds.
Shell ginger * § <i>Alpinia zerumbet</i>	6-8	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Tall stems topped with drooping inflorescences bearing white, pink, red, and yellow, shell-shaped flowers. Forms dense clumps. Green and variegated forms. Best growth in moist soil, but can tolerate drought. Benefits from mulch.
Bird's nest anthurium * § <i>Anthurium salviniae</i>	3-5	Partial to full shade	None	Large, herbaceous shrub or epiphyte consisting of majestic cluster of long, erect, tropical-looking leaves with wavy margins. Flowers relatively insignificant. Other bird's nest anthuriums are also moderately drought tolerant, but may require high humidity.

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Marlberry † <i>Ardisia escallonioides</i>	5-20	Partial shade	High	Native plant with attractive foliage and berries. Can be used as small specimen tree or barrier shrub. Attracts birds. Does poorly in full sun. <u>Caution:</u> The related shoebutton ardisia, <i>A. elliptica</i> , and coral ardisia, <i>A. crenulata</i> , are FLEPPC Category I invasive. ⁵
West Indian sea lavender † <i>Argusia gnaphalodes</i>	4-6	Full sun	High	Rounded shrub with fine, grayish-green leaves and small white flowers. Also known as <i>Mallotonia gnaphalodes</i> .
Sea oxeye † <i>Borrichia arborescens</i>	2-4	Full sun	High	Yellow, daisy-like flowers. Widely used on banks and slopes. Excellent for beach-front plantings in sand. Elsewhere, use freely draining soil to prevent root rot. <i>Borrichia frutescens</i> is a native silver oxeye, and has similar requirements.
Bougainvillea * <i>Bougainvillea</i> spp.	5-30	Full sun	None	Very showy, thorny vine-like shrubs with best bloom during dry season. Numerous cultivars available in a striking array of colors, magenta being the most common. Some with variegated foliage. Best effect as a vine but can be trained as a shrub. Caterpillars occasional pest. Requires freely draining soil. Do not over-fertilize.
Yesterday-today- tomorrow * § <i>Brunfelsia grandiflora</i>	3-8	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Aptly named shrub with pansy-like flowers that open purple on the first day, then turn pale lavender on the second day, and finally white on the third day. Some leaf drop may occur during persistent drought.
Butterfly bush * <i>Buddleia officinalis</i>	6-12	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Fast-growing shrub with attractive pink, purple, or white flowers and gray-green leaves. Highly attractive to butterflies-hence the name. Nematodes occasional problem in sandy soils. <i>Buddleia madagascariensis</i> is also drought tolerant. Other <i>Buddleia</i> species typically do not grow well in south Florida.
Locust-berry † <i>Byrsonima lucida</i>	3-30	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Native shrub to small tree with spreading canopy. Attractive flowers are white/pink to yellow. Orange to yellow berries attract wildlife. Can be used as a hedge.
Dwarf poinciana * <i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i>	5-20	Full sun	Moderate	Large shrub to small tree. Showy, orange/yellow flowers during warmer months. Needs good drainage. Leaves and seeds poisonous.
Beautyberry * † <i>Callicarpa americana</i>	6-8	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Native shrub. Flowers insignificant, though long-lasting purple berries are quite attractive, and provide a good food source for birds.

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Giant milkweed § <i>Calotropis gigantea</i>	6	Full sun	Moderate	Large, thick, grayish-green leaves and purple to white, crown-like flowers. Tolerates poor soil, but requires excellent drainage. Host plant for monarch butterfly larvae.
Spicewood † § <i>Calyptanthes pallens</i>	5-25	Partial Shade	Moderate	Small, shrubby, native tree with burgundy-tinged new growth and insignificant white flowers. Can be sheared and grown as a hedge. Prefers moist soil.
Jamaica caper * † <i>Capparis cynophallophora</i>	18	Full sun to partial shade	High	Native, slow-growing, undemanding plant with attractive, white, fragrant, spider lily-like flowers. With time, can be shaped into attractive hedge.
Natal plum * <i>Carissa macrocarpa</i>	3-12	Full sun to light shade	High	Large shrub to small tree with attractive, thick, glossy foliage, fragrant, jasmine-like flowers, and edible fruit. The spiny leaves and stems make this a good barrier plant once established. Web blight is a problem if kept excessively wet.
Cat palm * § <i>Chamaedorea cataractarum</i>	3-8	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Mounding palm with elegant, dark green, glossy, feathery leaves. Can be used as a shrub or a hedge.
Bamboo palm * § <i>Chamaedorea erumpens</i>	6-10	Partial to full shade	None	Heavily clumping palm with tall, slender stems resembling bamboo canes. Can be used as a shrub or a hedge. Also known as <i>C. seifrizii</i> .
Cocoplum * † <i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i>	3-15	Full sun to partial shade	High	Native shrub with insignificant flowers, but new foliage is quite attractive. Often used as a hedge, but will thin if planted in too much shade. Spreading and erect forms available.
Snowberry † <i>Chiococca alba</i>	2-3	Full sun	Low	Native vining shrub with glossy green, elliptical to lanceolate leaves and tiny white flowers. <i>Chiococca parviflora</i> , the pineland snowberry, is a similar, but less common, native shrub.
Fiddlewood † <i>Citharexylum spinosum</i>	12-30	Full sun to partial shade	High	Native large, densely leafy shrub to small tree with glossy, elliptical leaves and small, white, fragrant flowers followed by round, orange-brown berries on female plants. Attractive to birds and other wildlife. Also known as <i>C. fruticosum</i> .
Pigeon plum * † <i>Coccoloba diversifolia</i>	5-30	Full sun to partial shade	High	Native evergreen large shrub to small tree with dense, narrowly rounded crown and attractive, peeling bark. Small, dark purple berries on female trees attractive to birds.
Sea grape * † <i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	10-50	Full sun	High	Native large shrub to medium tree with large, thick, saucer-like leaves bearing attractive venation. Also has edible fruit. On occasion, can be susceptible to a number of pests. Leaves can be messy. Good for beach-front properties.

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Croton * <i>Codiaeum variegatum</i>	5-10	Full sun	Moderate	Grown for the colorful, variegated foliage in greens, yellows, reds and pinks. Scales can be a problem. Can be leggy, especially if grown in shade.
Coffee colubrina † <i>Colubrina arborescens</i>	20	Full sun to light shade	High	Native large, course-leaved shrub or small tree with open crown of large, tri-lobed leaves with inconspicuous green flowers and 3-seeded capsules. Attractive to butterflies and many other beneficial insects.
Buttonwood * † <i>Conocarpus erectus</i>	5-50	Full sun to partial shade	High	Native shrub or tree. Both green and silver leaved forms available; the latter is more attractive. Insignificant flowers followed by small, button-like seed pods. Scales can be a problem and foliage can be attacked by chewing insects. Can be used as a hedge but bottom is prone to thin out.
Ti plant * <i>Cordyline terminalis</i>	3-10	Full sun	None	Slender palm-like plant with unique long, narrow leaves in red, pink, white, or purple. Also known as "red sister."
Spiral ginger § <i>Costus scaber</i>	6	Partial shade	Low	See description in Table 1.
Christmas berry, ground holly † <i>Crossopetalum ilicifolium</i>	1	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Native, prostrate, evergreen shrub with small, holly-like, spiny leaves and attractive red berries.
Desert spoon <i>Dasyllirion wheeleri</i>	3-30	Full sun	High	Linear, grey-green leaves with toothed edges. Spectacular inflorescence bearing many creamy-white flowers may reach 30 inches after which the plant dies. Takes extreme drought, but must have excellent drainage and air circulation.
Varnish leaf † <i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	18	Full sun to partial shade	High	Grown for its attractive, stiff, shiny green leaves. Showy, yellowish, 3-winged capsules produced in terminal clusters; brown, pink or purple at maturity. Dense and fast growing. Used as free-standing specimen or hedge. Excellent for beach-front.
Dracaena * <i>Dracaena marginata</i>	15	Partial to full shade	None	Narrow, sword-like leaves with red margins. "Tricolor" cultivar has a cream stripe and red edge. Commonly grown as a house plant.
Golden dewdrop * <i>Duranta erecta</i>	5-18	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Sprawling, sometimes vine-like, evergreen shrub or small tree. Beautiful purple flowers and yellow, grape-like, poisonous fruit. Also known as <i>D. repens</i> .

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Lingaro <i>Elaeagnus philippensis</i>	3-15	Full sun	High	Shrubby, evergreen vine with attractive light green foliage, the underside a reddish brown. Small, fragrant, white flowers followed by edible fruit. Grows well on poor/calcareous soils. <u>Caution</u> : <i>E. pungens</i> is FLEPPC Category II invasive. ⁵
Beach creeper, golden creeper † <i>Ernodea littoralis</i>	1-3	Full sun	High	Intolerant of over watering, but excellent as a ground cover for beach-front. Flowers insignificant.
Coral bean tree * † <i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	3-15	Full sun	Low	Native perennial shrub to small tree. Deciduous, 3-lobed compound leaves. Showy scarlet blossoms on tall stalks in spring, followed by large beans that split to reveal bright red seeds. May grow into small tree in south Florida. All parts of this plant are poisonous.
White stopper * † <i>Eugenia axillaris</i>	5-20	Full sun to dense shade	High	Native large shrub or small tree with pale, whitish bark and aromatic foliage that can be overpowering. Small, white flowers in midsummer followed by small, purplish berries. Attractive to birds.
Redberry stopper † <i>Eugenia confusa</i>	6-18	Full sun to partial shade	High	Slow-growing native plant with attractive glossy leaves and red berries. Used as a specimen plant or hedge. Upright growth suitable for a restricted site.
Spanish stopper * † <i>Eugenia foetida</i>	18-36	Full sun to shade	High	Native large shrub or small tree. Densely clothed with small, rounded leaves. Smallest flowers and fruits of all stoppers, but still attractive to wildlife. Excellent foundation or specimen plant.
Red stopper † <i>Eugenia rhombea</i>	9	Full sun to shade	High	Native large shrub or small tree with reddish brown bark and elegant growth habit. Branches produced in flat sprays perpendicular to main trunk. Slow-growing and does not flower or fruit as a young plant.
Scarlet plume <i>Euphorbia fulgens</i>	5	Full sun to partial shade	High	Evergreen, arching shrub. Very showy red flowers all year. Needs excellent drainage. Ideal for a rock garden.
Crown-of-thorns * <i>Euphorbia milii</i>	1-3	Full sun	High	Slow-growing, thorny, semi-succulent shrub with bright green, obovate leaves and small to medium yellow, orange, or red flowers. Excellent in rock gardens. Often used as low hedge in coastal areas. Smaller Thai dwarf varieties have more attractive foliage and much more showy inflorescences; often used as bedding plants and groundcovers.

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Florida privet † <i>Forestiera segregata</i>	10	Full sun	High	Native shrub with insignificant flowers. Wildlife attracted to black fruit. Very tolerant of alkaline soils. Can be used as hedge plant in place of ligustrum.
Green aloe * <i>Furcraea foetida</i>	3-8	Full sun	High	Large rosette of thin narrow leaves up to 8' long. Requires freely draining soil. Inflorescence borne on 15-30" stem; flowers pungent. Rosette dies after flowering. New plants arise from bulbils. Variegated form available.
Thyallis * <i>Galphimia glauca</i>	3-5	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Versatile, evergreen, tropical shrub. Non-stop yellow flowers bloom year-round. Excellent for low hedges. Wood brittle. Requires sheltered position.
Star flower <i>Grewia occidentalis</i>	6-12	Full sun	Moderate	Adaptable evergreen shrub with deep green, oval, toothed, leathery leaves. Bears star-shaped, mauve-pink flowers about 1.5" across during spring and summer, followed by brownish, 4-lobed berries. Excellent plant for espaliers. Scale insects sometimes a problem.
Lignum vitae * † <i>Guaiaacum sanctum</i>	6-25	Full sun	High	Attractive, native, slow-growing large shrub to small tree, with blue flowers year-round but mostly in spring. Flowers followed by yellow seed pods which pop open to reveal shiny, bright red seeds. Extremely dense, prized wood. <i>Guaiaacum officinale</i> is a larger relative with blue flowers that turn white, and light green leaves with yellow petioles.
Firebush * † <i>Hamelia patens</i>	5-15	Partial shade to shade	Low	Produces attractive orange/red flowers at any time. Indifferent to soil, as long as drainage is good. Less shrubby and more tree-like in shade. Can be used as hedge, but pruning interferes with flowering. Highly attractive to butterflies.
Heliconia * § <i>Heliconia episcopalis</i>	3-7	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Smaller heliconia with tight, arrowhead-shaped inflorescence bearing dense but colorful bracts which begin red then fade to orange then yellow toward the tips. Year-round bloomer.
Heliconia * § <i>Heliconia latispatha</i>	6-15	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Tall heliconia with long-stalked, yellow-green, banana-like leaves with a red margin and erect inflorescence with widely spaced, triangular bracts that are yellow or orange at base, changing to scarlet at tips.
Lobster claw heliconia * § <i>Heliconia rostrata</i>	3-20	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Tall heliconia with long-stalked, green to bluish-green, 5' long banana-like leaves, and pendant inflorescence with zig-zagging bracts of scarlet and yellow.

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Chinese hat plant § <i>Holmskioldia sanguinea</i>	3-6	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Unique flowers are main interest of this scrambling shrub/vine: each is a narrow, orange-scarlet tube backed by a circular calyx, appearing in dense terminal clusters fall-spring. Leaves oval and slightly serrated. Rampant growth can be contained by pruning after flowering. Old canes can be removed. Loses leaves during drought.
Beach elder † <i>Iva imbricata</i>	2-3	Full sun	High	See description in Table 1.
Joewood † <i>Jacquinia keyensis</i>	10	Full sun to partial shade	High	Very slow-growing, native shrub with attractive foliage and year-round, showy, fragrant blooms. Good resistance to wind and salt spray. Some shade from hottest sun beneficial.
Primrose jasmine <i>Jasminum mesnyi</i>	5-10	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Rambling, open, evergreen shrub with long, arching stems that will climb if given support. Without support, grows as fountain-like mound. Fragrant, yellow, trumpet-shaped flowers. <u>Caution:</u> <i>J. dichotomum</i> and <i>J. fluminense</i> are FLEPPC Category I. ⁵
Downy jasmine <i>Jasminum multiflorum</i>	5-10	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Evergreen, branching vine that can be trained as a shrub. Stems and leaves covered with downy pubescence, giving the plant a grayish-green appearance. Small, white, star-shaped flowers in clusters year-round. <u>Caution:</u> <i>J. sambac</i> is FLEPPC Category II. ⁵
Peregrina <i>Jatropha integerrima</i>	15	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Deeply-lobed leaves and showy display of small red flowers throughout the year. Needs good drainage. Mites and scales can be problems. Poisonous.
Coral plant, physic nut * <i>Jatropha multifida</i>	6-20	Full sun to partial shade	High	Shrub to small tree with loose, spreading crown. Large, distinctive leaves with 7-11 narrow lobes, each divided into narrow, pointed segments. Flowers coral red, in flat-topped clusters on long stalks above foliage. All parts are poisonous.
Chinese juniper <i>Juniperus chinensis</i>	2-50	Full sun	Low-Moderate	Evergreen groundcover, shrub, or tree, depending on variety. Both adult and juvenile foliage found on adult trees. Berries fleshy and glaucous white.
Shrimp plant * <i>Justicia brandegeana</i>	3-5	Full sun to partial shade	None	See description in Table 1.
Crepe myrtle * <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	8-25	Full sun	None	Grown for peeling bark and outstanding late spring to summer blossom in various shades of pink, red purple and white. Miniatures used for edging; standards used as specimen plants. Aphids and powdery mildew can be problems.

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Barbados cherry * <i>Malpighia emarginata</i>	5-12	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Attractive shrub. Produces clusters of small, pink flowers, followed by red, cherry-sized, edible fruit that is tart in flavor and rich in vitamin C. Makes good hedge. Nematodes problem on sandy soils; plant bugs spoil fruit. Also known as <i>M. glabra</i> .
Monstera * § <i>Monstera deliciosa</i>	5-6	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Slow-growing vine or shrub with huge, broad, glossy, perforated and deeply cut leaves and woody stems with aerial roots. Mature plants bear thick, cream spathes followed by sweet-smelling, cone-like, edible fruit.
Simpson's stopper * † <i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i>	6-20	Full sun to partial shade	High	One of the most beautiful and ornamental native woody plants. Densely branched, densely leafy large shrub to small tree. Pure white, puffy flowers followed by large, bright orange berries that contrast with dark foliage. Attractive to birds.
Wax myrtle * † § <i>Myrica cerifera</i>	10-25	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Native clumping, fast-growing shrub to small tree with small, evergreen leaves, inconspicuous flowers, and waxy gray fruit attached to twigs. Leaves and fruit smell like bayberry. Tolerates periodic flooding. Natural insect repellent. Attracts birds.
Mazari palm <i>Nannorrhops ritchiana</i>	10-20	Full sun to partial shade	None	Medium-sized, shrubby palm with branching trunks and whitish-blue, fan-shaped leaves. Each stem flowers only once and dies back. Exceptionally cold-tolerant. Prefers cool, arid climate but tolerates south Florida quite well. Slightly susceptible to lethal yellowing disease.
Firespike <i>Odontonema strictum</i>	6	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Small, showy, evergreen shrub with sparse, thick, upright branches, shiny, dark green leaves with wavy margins, and 9-12" upright panicles of brilliant red, tubular flowers in late summer to early winter. Tolerates all but most severe droughts. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. <u>Caution:</u> Do not plant within 500 of native hardwood hammock in Miami-Dade County. ⁶
Prickly-pear cactus * <i>Opuntia</i> spp.	0.5-30	Full sun	High	Many species, from tiny plants with tuberous roots to over 30' tall trees. Branches constricted, forming broad/flattened or cylindrical "joints." Most have sharp spines and small bristles. Flowers generally yellow or red, followed by edible fruits (prickly pears). <u>Caution:</u> <i>O. aurantiaca</i> is a federal- and state-listed invasive species (Burks, 2000).

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Jacob's ladder <i>Pedilanthus tithymaloides</i>	6	Partial shade	High	Flowers insignificant; surrounded by showy, slipper-like red bracts. Zig-zag stems, with prominently keeled leaves. Well adapted to poor, dry soil. Variegated cultivars. Poisonous. Prune to avoid leggy appearance.
Selloum, tree philodendron * § <i>Philodendron selloum</i>	5-15	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Prostrate to upright trunks. Huge, deeply divided, dark green leaves. Called tree philodendron because it does not climb. Also known as <i>P. bipinnatifidum</i> .
Pittosporum * <i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	10-15	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Broad-leaved, evergreen shrub with bright green, glossy leaves (can be variegated) and clusters of small, white flowers that smell like orange blossoms. Moderate to fast grower.
Plumbago * <i>Plumbago auriculata</i>	3-6	Full sun	Low	See description in Table 1.
Podocarpus * <i>Podocarpus macrophylla</i>	5	Full sun to partial shade	None	Evergreen shrub or tree with needle-like leaves. Makes an excellent hedge. Bears small, bluish berries.
Aralias * <i>Polyscias</i> spp.	2-25	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Many species and cultivars used as shrubs, hedges and groundcovers. Foliage differs in form (usually compound), and can be variegated.
Elephant Bush <i>Portulacaria afra</i>	3	Full sun to partial shade	High	Grown for jade colored leaves and red stems. Rarely flowers in cultivation. Grow in gritty, freely draining soil. Provide good air circulation. Variegated form exists. Excellent for rock gardens.
Bahama wild coffee § <i>Psychotria ligustifolia</i>	6-9	Partial to full shade	Low	Small, understory shrub with dull green leaves. Related to gardenia and similar in overall appearance. Flowers abundant over much of the year, followed by decorative red berries.
Wild coffee * † § <i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	6-9	Partial to full shade	Low	Small, native, understory shrub similar to <i>P. ligustifolia</i> , but with distinctive, glossy, dark green leaves with deeply impressed side veins.
Velvetleaf wild coffee † § <i>Psychotria sulzneri</i>	6-9	Partial to full shade	Low	Native small shrub similar in all respects to <i>P. nervosa</i> , but with velvety, deep blue-green foliage.
White indigoberry † <i>Randia aculeata</i>	1.5-10	Full sun to partial shade	High	Native shrub with no outstanding features. Fragrant flowers and white berries on female plants. Main attribute is ability to grow under adverse conditions.

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Buckthorn <i>Rhamnus</i> spp.	15	Full sun	High	Deciduous plant with glossy, dark green, oval leaves up to 3" long. Insignificant green flowers followed by small fruit that change from red to black as they ripen. No outstanding landscape value, but well adapted to dry, infertile sites. Numerous spines make these plants useful as security screens.
Lady palm * § <i>Rhapis excelsa</i>	5-10	Partial to full shade	None	Small, densely clumping fan palm with numerous slender, dark brown trunks bearing distinctive fibers and leaf scar patterns. Small, deeply segmented, glossy, dark green leaves on thin, delicate petioles. Often used as shrub or potted plant.
Rosemary * <i>Rosemarinus officinalis</i>	3	Full sun	High	Evergreen, woody shrub with aromatic, needle-like leaves and gray, scaly bark. Easy to propagate from cuttings. Widely used as herb or nontraditional medicine. Upright forms perform best in south Florida.
Firecracker plant * <i>Russelia equisetiformis</i>	2-4	Full sun	High	See description in Table 1.
Scrub palmetto * † <i>Sabal etonia</i>	3-5	Full sun	Moderate	Small, native, trunkless, solitary, shrub-like fan palm. Bears large clusters of small, purplish black fruit. Grows best in sandy soils.
Dwarf blue palmetto * † § <i>Sabal minor</i>	2-4	Partial shade	Moderate	Small, native, trunkless, shrub-like palm resembling <i>S. etonia</i> , but smaller and with bluish-green leaves. Can tolerate wet soils.
American elderberry † <i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	10-15	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Native bushy, multi-stemmed, wide-spreading shrub with deciduous, compound leaves. Tiny, star-shaped, white flowers followed by shiny, blue-black fruit. Provides colorful autumn display of yellows, oranges, and reds in south Florida. Branches brittle. Caution: Forms dense thickets by suckering from roots.
Inkberry † <i>Scaevola plumieri</i>	2-4	Full sun to partial shade	High	Native plant with succulent leaves. Insignificant, small, pink/white flowers. Spreads by underground stems. Well-suited to sandy soils at beach-front. Caution: <i>Scaevola sericea</i> (= <i>S. taccada</i> v. <i>sericea</i> , <i>S. frutescens</i>) is FLEPPC Category I invasive. ⁵
Dwarf schefflera * <i>Schefflera arboricola</i>	6-15	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Many cultivars, some with variegated foliage. Used as specimen or informal hedge. Takes pruning well. Mealybugs and scales can be a problem. Caution: <i>Schefflera actinophylla</i> is FLEPPC Category I invasive ⁵ and is prohibited in Miami-Dade County.

Table 3. Low-Maintenance Shrubs and Hedges, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name Scientific name	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Candle bush * <i>Senna alata</i>	8	Full sun	Low	Large, pinnate leaves. Terminal, 6" yellow flower spikes appear in late summer and fall. Also known as <i>Cassia alata</i> . <u>Caution:</u> <i>Senna pendula</i> is often sold as <i>Cassia bicapsularis</i> and is FLEPPC Category I invasive. ⁵
Desert senna <i>Senna polyphylla</i>	12	Full sun	Low	Small tree with a beautiful cascading habit. Prefers well-drained soil. Small, yellow flowers mostly in dry season. <u>Caution:</u> <i>Senna pendula</i> is FLEPPC Category I. ⁵
Cassia * <i>Senna</i> spp.	5-15	Full sun	Low to Moderate	Spectacular flowering shrubs with yellow flowers. Several species available; once listed as <i>Cassia</i> , but all shrubs have been moved to <i>Senna</i> . <u>Caution:</u> <i>Senna pendula</i> is FLEPPC Category I. ⁵
Saw palmetto * † § <i>Serenoa repens</i>	3-8	Full sun to partial shade	High	Native clumping fan palm with subterranean, prostrate, or upright trunks. One of the most abundant native palms in Florida. Green and silver forms available. Spreading tendency can be a problem when left uncontrolled. Petioles are heavily armed.
Necklace-pod * † <i>Sophora tomentosa</i>	6	Full sun	High	Large, densely branched, native shrub with natural rounded shape. Bears clusters of yellow flowers at tips of branches. Fast-growing and easily cultivated. Seeds poisonous.
Blue porterweed * † <i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>	1-3	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	See description in Table 1.
Pink porterweed * <i>Stachytarpheta mutabilis</i>	5-8	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	See description in Table 1.
White bird-of-paradise * § <i>Strelitzia nicolae</i>	8-20	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Named for the appearance of the spectacular flowers. Foliage dark green, banana-like. Drought tolerant once established.
Orange bird-of-paradise * § <i>Strelitzia reginae</i>	3-5	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Named for spectacular flowers. Foliage gray-green, fan-like. Drought tolerant once established. Scales can be a problem.
Marmalade plant <i>Streptosolen jamesonii</i>	6	Full sun	Low	Fast-growing, evergreen shrub grown for showy yellow to dark orange flowers produced winter to spring. Needs open, sunny site with excellent drainage. Sprawling growth benefits from support. Prune hard after flowering is complete.
Bay cedar † <i>Suriana maritima</i>	6-12	Full sun	High	Native, small-leaved, evergreen shrub or small tree. Clusters of small, leathery leaves and attractive, peeling bark. Will grow in sand or on bare rock. Good choice for ocean and beach-front sites.

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Common name Scientific name	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
African milkbush <i>Synadenium grantii</i>	16	Full sun	High	Large shrub to small tree. Fleshy leaves and stems, becoming woody with age. Showy clusters of red flowers. Milky latex is poisonous.
Cape honeysuckle <i>Tecomaria capensis</i>	2-10	Full sun to light shade	High	Sprawling, rampant, evergreen, sometimes vine-like shrub. Compound leaves with 5-7 toothed, diamond-shaped leaflets. Clusters of brilliant red-orange to scarlet, tubular flowers. Can be pruned to shrub, trained to espalier, or grown as vine or ground-cover. Requires well-drained soil.
Tetrazygia, West Indian lilac * † <i>Tetrazygia bicolor</i>	6-12	Full sun to light shade	Low	Extremely ornamental native shrub or small tree. Beautiful white and yellow flowers followed by purple-black berries, highly attractive to birds. Elegant, glossy, dark green foliage. Cannot be used as hedge because branches die when pruned.
Limeberry <i>Triphasia trifolia</i>	3-10	Full sun	Moderate	Small, glossy, trifoliate leaves. Fragrant, diminutive white flowers. Edible red berries. Well adapted to rocky, calcareous soil.
Walter's viburnum, black haw † <i>Viburnum obovatum</i>	12-30	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Native large shrub to small tree with attractive, pure white blossoms in spring, before leaves fully developed. Flowers followed by berries that turn from green to pink to red to purplish-black in the fall. Ideal as a hedge.
Spanish bayonet * † <i>Yucca aloifolia</i>	5-20	Full sun or partial shade	High	Trunk-forming yucca with dangerously pointed, strap-like leaves. Trunks often topped with large, upright clusters of creamy white flowers. Spreads to form thicket.
Bear grass, Adam's needle † <i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	3-6	Full sun	High	Leaves resembling long green spears edged with white threads form basal rosette. White, bell-shaped flowers bloom in terminal spikes from mid to late summer.
Spineless yucca * <i>Yucca elephantipes</i>	12-15	Full sun	High	Attractive form. Leaves with soft spines. Showy, white, fragrant blooms. Requires freely draining soil.
Spanish dagger <i>Yucca gloriosa</i>	3-4	Full sun	High	Stout, erect stem bears tufted crown of stiff, spear-like, gray-green to green leaves. White, bell-shaped flowers in long, terminal spikes--summer through fall. <u>Caution:</u> Leaves bear dangerously sharp pointed tips.
Cycad * <i>Zamia amblyphyllidea</i>	3-4	Partial shade	High	Mounding, clumping cycad with elegant leaves to 4' and bearing wide, paddle-shaped leaflets. Requires well-drained soil.

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Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Florida coontie * † <i>Zamia floridana</i>	1-5	Full sun to shade	High	Florida's only native cycad. Host for rare atala hairstreak butterfly. Comes in a variety of sizes, narrow to wide leaflets. Separate male and female plants; both bear reddish-brown cones; male cone small, elongate; female cone larger and wider. Also known as <i>Z. pumila</i> , <i>Z. integrifolia</i> , <i>Z. sylvatica</i> , <i>Z. umbrosa</i> . Requires well-drained soil.
Cardboard "palm" <i>Zamia maritima</i>	3-6	Full sun to partial shade	High	Medium sized cycad with broad, stiff, cardboard-like leaflets. Commonly planted in south Florida as shrubs, specimen plants, or in large planters. Name recently changed from <i>Z. furfuracea</i> . Can be weedy if both male and female plants are in the same vicinity. Requires well-drained soil.
<p>⁵ Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) defines Category I invasive plants as those plants that are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives; FLEPPC Category II plants are those that have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species.</p> <p>⁶ Miami-Dade County restricts certain species from being planted within 500 feet the native habitats that they are known to invade; these plants are allowed to be planted in home landscapes as long as they are more than 500 feet from the designated native habitat(s).</p>				

Table 4. Low-Maintenance Flowering and Shade Trees, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Spineless acacia, cinnecord † <i>Acacia choriophylla</i>	30	Full sun	High	Native tree with dense, rounded crown, long, bipinnate leaves, and tiny yellow to golden "pom-pom-like" inflorescences. Also known as <i>A. choriophylloides</i> .
Sweet acacia * † <i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	15	Full sun	High	Small native tree with sweet-smelling, yellow, "pom-pom-like" inflorescences. Needs good drainage. <u>Caution:</u> Earleaf acacia, <i>A. auriculiformis</i> , is FLEPPC Category I. ⁵
Pineland acacia † <i>Acacia pinetorum</i>	4-12	Full sun	High	Dwarf, native, spiny shrub with delicate, gray to gray-green, bipinnate leaves and round, "pom-pom-like" inflorescences. Flowers have strong, sweet fragrance.
Blue acacia <i>Acacia sayel</i>	35	Full sun	High	Medium-sized tree with bluish/silver, bipinnate leaves, reddish bark, and slightly fragrant yellow "pom-pom-like" inflorescences produced throughout the year.

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Common name Scientific name	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Baobab <i>Adansonia digitata</i>	70	Full sun	Low	Strange African tree with massive trunk shaped like a bottle that is used to store water during dry periods. Deciduous in dry season. Large, white flowers hang on long stalks; open at night; bat-pollinated. When pollinated, produce large, football shaped (and sized), velvety seed pods. Not suitable for small lot.
Marlberry † <i>Ardisia escallonioides</i>	5-20	Partial shade	High	See description in Table 3.
Strongback † <i>Boufferea succulenta</i>	30	Full sun to partial shade	High	Native, rapidly growing, evergreen tree. Many small white flowers. Orange berries attract birds. Name commonly mistaken as "strongbark".
Black olive * <i>Bucida buceras</i>	30-40	Full sun to partial shade	High	Widely used as a shade tree. Fruit stains masonry. Leaves can be disfigured by mites, and caterpillars can be a nuisance. Roots not as invasive as many other trees.
Gumbo limbo * † <i>Bursera simaruba</i>	20-50	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Grown for attractive, peeling, bronze bark and appealing form. Cuttings take easily but are weak rooted. Not a strong tree.
Flame of the forest <i>Butea monosperma</i>	50	Full sun	High	Large, tropical, deciduous tree with large, 3-lobed, pinnate leaves. Crooked, sinuous trunk with gray bark. Spectacular, vivid reddish-orange to red flowers shaped like a claw or parrotbeak. Bluish-green, 5" long pods follow flowers.
Locust-berry † <i>Byrsonima lucida</i>	3-30	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	See description in Table 3.
Spicewood † <i>Calyptanthes pallens</i>	5-25	Partial Shade	Moderate	See description in Table 3.
Cinnamon bark † <i>Canella winterana</i>	10-30	Full sun to light shade	High	Small, slow-growing native tree with a dense, broad crown; thick, aromatic leaves; fragrant, purplish flowers; and red berries. Flower aroma resembles daffodils; inner bark aroma resembles cinnamon. All parts poisonous, except berries. Requires well-drained site and protection from cold. Also known as <i>C. alba</i> .
Ceylon senna, red cassia <i>Cassia roxburghii</i>	20-30	Full sun	Low	Fairly large "shower" tree with feather-like, pinnately compound leaves and twigs covered with fine, soft hairs. Produces clusters of pink, rose, or orange flowers in late spring and summer. 'Golden' and 'Apple blossom' cassias very similar, differing primarily in flower color.

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Common name Scientific name	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Floss silk tree * <i>Chorisia speciosa</i>	30-60	Full sun	Low	Awkwardly branched tree with 5-lobed leaves and swollen, spiny trunk. Drops leaves just prior to flowering. Flowers are large, pink to white, and produce a spectacular display. Not suitable for small lots.
Satinleaf * <i>Chrysophyllum oliviforme</i>	30	Full sun	Moderate	Very attractive native tree. Tops of leaves glossy, vivid green; underside covered with soft, coppery brown hairs. Can be difficult to establish.
Fiddlewood † <i>Citharexylum spinosum</i>	12-30	Full sun to partial shade	High	See description in Table 3.
Pigeon plum * † <i>Coccoloba diversifolia</i>	5-30	Full sun to partial shade	High	See description in Table 3.
Sea grape * † <i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	5	Full sun	High	See description in Table 3.
Coffee colubrina † <i>Colubrina arborescens</i>	20	Full sun to light shade	High	See description in Table 3.
Buttonwood * † <i>Conocarpus eretus</i>	5-50	Full sun to partial shade	High	See description in Table 3.
Mexican calabash <i>Crescentia alata</i>	30	Full sun	Moderate	Large lobed leaves. Insignificant flowers. Interesting form and fruits. Rough bark makes a good support for orchids.
Royal poinciana * <i>Delonix regia</i>	20-30	Full sun	Moderate	Large savanna-type tree with bipinnately compound leaves and brilliant red/yellow flowers in late spring. Requires plenty of room and freely draining site. Deciduous during winter. Roots can lift sidewalk. Limbs prone to break in storms. Sometimes called flamboyant tree.
Coral tree, tiger claw * <i>Erythrina variegata</i>	60-80	Full sun	Low	Broad, spreading, deciduous tree with many stout branches armed with black spines. Leaves large, and may be variegated green and yellow. Spectacular display of bright crimson flowers in dense clusters late winter or early spring.
Coral bean tree * † <i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	3-15	Full sun	Low	See description in Table 3.
White stopper * † <i>Eugenia axillaris</i>	5-20	Full sun to dense shade	High	See description in Table 3.
Redberry stopper † <i>Eugenia confusa</i>	6-18	Full sun to partial shade	High	See description in Table 3.

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Common name Scientific name	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Spanish stopper * †	18-36	Full sun to shade	High	See description in Table 3.
Eugenia foetida Eugenia rhombea	9	Full sun to shade	High	See description in Table 3.
Shortleaf fig † <i>Ficus citrifolia</i>	25-50	Full sun to partial shade	Unknown	Medium-sized, fast-growing, attractive, native figus tree. Lacks aerial roots, but still requires adequate room for root development. Also known as wild banyan tree.
Fern tree <i>Filicium decipiens</i>	20-35	Sun or Shade	None	Striking, albeit slow-growing, evergreen ornamental with dense, rounded crown. Small, white flowers. Compound leaves resemble fern fronds. Purple, olive-like fruit in clusters. Often two or three trunks.
Lignum vitae <i>Guaiacum officinale</i>	10-30	Full sun	High	See description in Table 3.
Lignum vitae * † <i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>	6-25	Full sun	High	See description in Table 3.
Longleaf blolly † <i>Guapira discolor</i>	30	Full sun to light shade	High	Attractive native shade tree, especially for beach-front. Hardy and adaptable. Greenish flowers insignificant. Female trees bear small, red berries.
Krug holly * † § <i>Ilex krugiana</i>	30	Partial shade	High	Native tropical holly with glossy foliage and black fruits. Well adapted to south Florida. Small, reddish berries ripen to black.
Jacaranda * <i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	30-50	Full sun	None	Outstanding, showy, lavender-blue, trumpet-shaped flowers in late spring, followed by lacy, fern-like foliage. Will succeed on poor soils if freely draining. Can be susceptible to root rot. Roots can lift sidewalk and wood may break in storms.
Chinese juniper <i>Juniperus chinensis</i>	2	Full sun	Low-Moderate	See description in Table 3.
Black ironwood † <i>Kruidodendrum ferreum</i>	30	Full sun to light shade	Low	Native evergreen tree with dark, emerald green, glossy leaves and small black berries. Narrow crown allows it to be planted in tight spaces.
Wild tamarind * † <i>Lysiloma latisiliquum</i>	40-60	Full Sun	Moderate	Attractive native, fast-growing tree, providing broken shade. Bipinnately compound leaves and small, white/pink, "pom-pom-like" inflorescences, followed by long, brown seed pods.
Horseradish tree <i>Moringa oleifera</i>	25	Full sun	Low	Attractive panicles of fragrant, cream-colored flowers, particularly when climate is dry. With prolonged drought, can lose leaves, but recovers. Needs good drainage.

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Common name Scientific name	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Simpson's stopper * † <i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i>	6-20	Full sun to partial shade	High	See description in Table 3.
Wax myrtle * † <i>Myrica cerifera</i>	10-25	Full sun to partial shade	Low	See description in Table 3.
Fried egg tree <i>Oncoba spinosa</i>	10-25	Full sun	Moderate	Spiny shrub or small tree. Finely serrated, dark green leaves. Prominent, sharp 1-2" spines. Showy 3" flowers with white petals surrounding prominent array of bright yellow stamens and bearing melon like fragrance. Large, hard-shelled berries.
Allspice * <i>Pimenta dioica</i>	40	Full sun	Low	Attractive, peeling bark and edible fruit. Glossy, deep green, oblong to elliptical leaves with prominent veins on undersides. Crushed foliage has clove-like scent.
Slash pine * <i>Pinus elliottii</i> var. <i>densa</i>	30-60	Full sun	Moderate	South Florida's only native pine. Difficult to establish. Best when planted in a group. Will not survive compacted soil. Borers and rust can be problems.
Jamaican dogwood † <i>Piscidia piscipula</i>	30-50	Full sun	High	Attractive, deciduous, native tree with dark green leaves and masses of white flowers prior to leafing out in spring. Poisonous.
Rusty pittosporum <i>Pittosporum ferrugineum</i>	20	Full sun	Moderate	Insignificant flowers, but colorful orange berries. Relatively pest- and disease-free.
Frangipani, plumeria * <i>Plumeria</i> spp.	25-40	Full sun	High	Unusual form and very showy, fragrant flowers. Good for sheltered coastal locations away from beach-front. Roots brittle. Larger trees more difficult to install. Leaves prone to rust (fungus) during wet season.
Podocarpus * <i>Podocarpus macrophylla</i>	5	Full sun to partial shade	None	See description in Table 3.
Live oak * † <i>Quercus virginiana</i>	40-50	Full sun	High	Impressive, undemanding, native tree--but not for small lots. Caterpillars, insect galls, and root rot sometimes problems.
Rain tree <i>Samanea saman</i>	30-40	Full	Low	Impressive tropical tree resembling live oak in form but faster growing. Attractive pink flowers with prominent red stamens, mostly spring to summer, followed by seed pods. Needs plenty of space for extensive roots; not for small lots.
Soapberry † <i>Sapindus saponaria</i>	20-60	Full sun	High	Native tree with broad crown, dense foliage, and attractive yellow fruit. Excellent shade tree for small yards. Seeds poisonous.

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Common name Scientific name	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
False mastic † <i>Sideroxylon foetidissimum</i>	50-70	Full sun	Moderate	Large tree with pale, bright yellow, fragrant flowers in summer. Fruit ripen in late winter. Principal landscape attributes are ability to thrive on infertile, alkaline soils and excellent resistance to storms. Also known as <i>Mastichodendron foetidissimum</i> .
Mahogany * † § <i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>	40-75	Full sun	Moderate	Attractive, storm-resistant tree. Prized, deep reddish-colored wood. Foliage and stems can be disfigured by insect pests. Falling woody cones can damage vehicles.
Tamarind * <i>Tamarindus indica</i>	50-90	Full sun	Moderate	Attractive feathery foliage, fissured bark, and yellow/red flowers. Pods contain edible pulp. Highly wind-resistant. May need chelated iron on limestone soils.
Tetrazygia, West Indian lilac * † <i>Tetrazygia bicolor</i>	6-40	Full sun to light shade	Low	See description in Table 3.
Walter's viburnum † <i>Viburnum obovatum</i>	12-30	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Native large shrub to small tree with attractive, pure white blossoms in spring, before leaves fully developed. Flowers followed by berries that turn from green to pink to red to purplish-black in the fall. Ideal as a hedge.
Wild lime † <i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>	20	Full sun	Moderate	Attractive tree with recurved spines, lime scented foliage, and insignificant yellow flowers. Attracts butterflies.
Indian jujube § <i>Zizyphus mauritiana</i>	40	Full sun	Moderate	Attractive weeping habit and fissured bark. Scattered small spines. Light green, miniature, apple-like fruit. Withstands drought and temporary inundation. Grows well on limestone soils. Rust disfigures leaves but not seriously.
<p>⁵ Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) defines Category I invasive plants as those plants that are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives; FLEPPC Category II plants are those that have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species.</p>				
<p>⁶ Miami-Dade County restricts certain species from being planted within 500 feet of the native habitats that they are known to invade; these plants are allowed to be planted in home landscapes as long as they are more than 500 feet from the designated native habitat(s).</p>				

Table 5. Low-Maintenance Fruit Trees, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name Scientific name	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Sugar apple * <i>Annona squamosa</i>	10-20	Full sun	None	Popular, semi-deciduous fruit tree with pale green flowers. Well-adapted to alkaline soils of Miami-Dade County. Large fruit has custard-like texture and is delicious when eaten fresh. Hand-pollinate to increase fruit set.
Atemoya * <i>Annona squamosa</i> X <i>A. cherimola</i>	25-30	Full sun	None	Hybrid of the sugar apple and the cherimoya. Fast growing tree with a short trunk. Fruit similar to sugar apple. Hand-pollinate to increase fruit set.
Jackfruit * <i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>	30-70	Full sun	None	Handsome and stately tree that grows to enormous size. Adapted to humid tropical and near-tropical climates. Produces enormous, green, pebbly fruit weighing up to 50 pounds each, inside which are small pieces of pineapple-tasting flesh surrounding numerous large seeds.
Longan * <i>Dimerocarpus longana</i>	30-40	Full sun	None	Smaller relative of lychee. Longan fruit is round or oval and larger than an olive. Thin, rough, caramel-colored shell is easily peeled. Longan pulp is translucent white and sweeter than lychee, but not as juicy. More commonly known as <i>Euphoria longana</i> .
American persimmon * † § <i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	50	Full sun	None	Native, slow-growing, deciduous tree with elliptical, two-tone leaves (dark green top; pale green underneath) and black, textured bark. Females produce 2" fruits that ripen to deliciously sweet. Choose named cultivars.
Loquat, Japanese plum * <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	10-30	Full sun	Moderate	Attractive tree with showy, fragrant, winter-time flowers, followed by excellent fruit. Over-use of fertilizer increases risk of fire blight disease.
Lychee * <i>Litchi chinensis</i>	30-40	Full sun	None	Dense, round-topped, slow-growing tree with smooth, gray, brittle trunk and limbs. Leathery, pinnate leaves; foliage and branches to the ground. Fruit with leathery rind, pink to strawberry-red in color and rough in texture. Edible portion or aril is white, translucent, firm and juicy. Can be unreliable in fruit production.
Mammee apple <i>Mammea americana</i>	60	Full sun	Moderate	Form resembles large magnolia with thick, broad, elliptical leaves. Small, fragrant, white flowers. Edible fruit with apricot-like flesh and poisonous seed. Requires adequate water when in fruit.

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Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Mango * § <i>Mangifera indica</i>	40-60	Full sun	None	Attractive, reddish inflorescences with tiny white flowers produced in late winter/early spring. Requires dry season for flowering and fruit set. Large, excellent tasting green, yellow, or red fruit. Need for water increases during fruit development. Choose only known, grafted varieties.
Spanish lime * <i>Melicococcus bijugatus</i>	85	Full sun	Moderate	Upright, attractive tree ideally suited to oolitic limestone of Miami-Dade and the Keys. Withstands extended drought once established. Male and female trees required for reliable fruit production.
Red mulberry † <i>Morus rubra</i>	70	Full sun	Low	Spreading crown with serrated, heart-shaped leaves with a rough upper surface. Copious amounts of fruit are relatively tasteless. Attractive to birds and other wildlife. Can be disfigured by leaf spotting diseases.
Avocado * <i>Persea americana</i>	40-60	Full sun	None	Dense evergreen tree, shedding many leaves in early spring. Grown for fruit. Needs excellent drainage. Need for water increases during fruit development. Seed-grown trees slow to bear fruit and do not come true. Choose only known, grafted varieties. Not well-adapted to heavy marl soils.
Canistel, egg fruit * <i>Pouteria campechiana</i>	20-40	Full sun	None	Large, open-growing, evergreen tree. Leaves or branches, if cut, have clear, milky sap. Yellow to bright orange fruit matures September - March. Flesh yellow, dry to moist consistency, depending on variety. <u>Caution:</u> Do not plant within 500' of hardwood hammock in Miami-Dade County. ⁶
<p>⁵ Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) defines Category I invasive plants as those plants that are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives; FLEPPC Category II plants are those that have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species.</p>				
<p>⁶ Miami-Dade County restricts certain species from being planted within 500 feet of the native habitats that they are known to invade; these plants are allowed to be planted in home landscapes as long as they are more than 500 feet from the designated native habitat(s).</p>				

Table 6. Low-Maintenance Palms, Cycads, and Palm-Like Plants, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name Scientific name	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Macaw palm, gru-gru palm * § <i>Acrocomia aculeata</i>	30	Full sun	High	Extremely fast-growing palm similar in overall appearance to queen palm, except with denser canopy and 4-6" sharp, black spines on trunk, petiole, and leaf rachis.
Seashore palm * <i>Allagoptera arenaria</i>	5-10	Full sun to light shade	High	Clumping palm with short prostrate or subterranean stems and graceful pinnate leaves, green above and silver below. Fruit arranged spirally on long stalk; cluster resembles pineapple. Excellent for beach-front. Prefers sandy soils.
Cohune palm * § <i>Attalea cohune</i>	20-50	Full sun	Low	Huge palm with extremely long pinnate leaves (to 33 feet each) that erupt from the trunk in a shuttle-cock shape. Cream-colored flower clusters followed by huge clusters of brownish yellow, woody fruits. Prefers moist soil; can tolerate drought.
Ponytail "palm" * <i>Beaucarnea recurvata</i>	10-30	Full sun to partial shade	High	Often mistakenly called a palm, this member of the agave family requires excellent drainage. Can tolerate some shifting shade. Also known as <i>Nolina recurvata</i> .
Bismarck palm * § <i>Bismarckia nobilis</i>	20-30	Full sun	None	Enormous palm with huge silvery-blue or green leaves. A native of Madagascar, this is an extraordinarily durable and highly adaptable palm.
Blue hesper palm * <i>Brahea armata</i>	50	Full sun	High	Tall palm with pastel bluish-white, palmate leaves. Trunk slightly swollen at base and up to 1.5 feet wide, bearing persistent leaf scars. Prefers well-drained soil and arid climate, but can tolerate south Florida's humidity. Not common.
Sierra Madre palm <i>Brahea decumbens</i>	6	Full sun to partial shade	High	Low-growing palm with prostrate trunk and large, blue, fan-shaped leaves. Prefers well-drained soil and arid climate, but can tolerate south Florida's humidity.
Bamboo cycad * <i>Ceratozamia hildae</i>	5-7	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Trunkless cycad with upright, bamboo-like leaves. Extremely cold tolerant. Green or brown emergent leaf forms. Requires well-drained soil.
Cycad * <i>Ceratozamia kuesteriana</i>	4-5	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Trunkless, shrubby cycad with brown emergent leaves. One of the few cycads that is completely spineless, making it a good plant for along sidewalks. Requires well-drained soil.
Cycad * <i>Ceratozamia latifolia</i>	6-12	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Large cycad with brown, red, or green emergent leaves. May attain a spread of nine feet. Requires well-drained soil.
Cycad <i>Ceratozamia robusta</i>	6-8	Full sun to partial sun	Low	Large cycad with green emergent leaves. Cold hardy. Requires well-drained soil.

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Common name Scientific name	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Cat palm * § <i>Chamaedorea catractarum</i>	3-8	Full sun to partial shade	Low	See description in Table 3.
Bamboo palm * § <i>Chamaedorea erumpens</i>	6-10	Partial to full shade	None	See description in Table 3.
Stolon chamaedorea * <i>Chamaedorea stolonifera</i>	3-4	Partial shade	None	Sparsely clumping rainforest palm from Central America. Nearly entire leaves and raised annular rings on slender stems quite attractive. Grows best in well-drained soil. Drought tolerant. Forms large stands vegetatively by stolons.
Red leaf palm * <i>Chambeyronia macrocarpa</i>	20	Full sun to partial shade	None	Rainforest palm from New Caledonia. New leaf is bright red to maroon, fading to dark, glossy green. Requires shade when young and well-drained soil. Two forms: green crownshaft and yellow/cream crownshaft (latter often called <i>C. hooker</i>).
Silver palm * † <i>Coccothrinax argentata</i>	3-8	Full sun	High	Small, slow-growing native palm. Round, palmate leaves with silvery undersides. Numerous small, purplish-black fruit produced nearly year-round.
Old man palm * <i>Coccothrinax crinita</i>	8-12	Full sun	High	Slow-growing Cuban palm bearing characteristic dense "beard" of gray or straw-colored fibers on trunk. Leaves large, round, palmate. Fruit glossy purple-black.
Coconut palm * § <i>Cocos nucifera</i>	30	Full sun	High	Popular tropical palm. "Maypan" and "Fiji Dwarf" varieties resistant to Lethal Yellowing. Select plants/trees grown only from certified seed. Do not grow from seed collected locally.
Bailey copernicia palm * <i>Copernicia baileyana</i>	30	Full sun	High	Slow-growing palm from Cuba. Huge, stiff, blue-green leaves top massive, slate gray trunk that resembles concrete.
Cuban wax palm * § <i>Copernicia hospita</i>	25	Full sun	High	Handsome palm of moderate dimensions. Gray, waxy, fan-shaped leaves on spiny petioles. Prefers well-drained soil and arid climate, but can tolerate south Florida's humidity and short periods of inundation. Not common. Available in green and blue forms.
Cuban petticoat palm * <i>Copernicia macroglossa</i>	8-15	Full sun	High	Another Cuban palm. Old leaves retained on trunk form characteristic skirt or petticoat.

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Common name Scientific name	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Carnauba wax palm § <i>Copernicia prunifera</i>	30	Full sun	Moderate	Moderately sized palm with open crown of silvery-white, fan-shaped leaves. Trunk smooth on top third, but bears persistent leaf bases on bottom two-thirds. Wax on leaves used to make heat-resistant carnauba wax. Prefers well-drained soil and arid climate, but can tolerate south Florida's humidity and short periods of inundation.
Virgin's "palm" * <i>Dioon edule</i>	3-6	Full sun	High	Medium-sized Mexican cycad. Similar in overall appearance to king sago, but with lighter green leaves. Very cold tolerant. Forms offsets at base that grow into separate trunks. Requires well-drained soil.
Cycad * <i>Dioon mejiae</i>	5	Full sun to partial shade	High	Medium-sized cycad. Larger than <i>D. edule</i> , but smaller than <i>D. spinulosum</i> . New leaves bear soft, golden hairs. Suitable replacement for queen sago. Requires well-drained soil.
Cycad <i>Dioon rzedowskii</i>	5-10	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Rare, medium-sized cycad from Mexico. Similar to, but much smaller than, <i>D. spinulosum</i> . Use as specimen or accent plant. Requires well-drained soil.
Cycad * <i>Dioon spinulosum</i>	8-30	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Largest American cycad. Similar in overall appearance to queen sago. Grows best in filtered sunlight. Requires well-drained soil.
African oil palm * § <i>Elaeis guineensis</i>	30-50	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Tall palm with long, feathery, pinnate fronds. Trunk smooth on top, rough on bottom from persistent leaf bases. Fruit orange, ripen to black; held tight near trunk; high in oil content. Not suitable for small lot.
Cycad * <i>Encephalartos ferox</i>	6	Partial shade	High	Medium-sized South African cycad with subterranean trunk. Long, glossy, dark green, spiny leaves with leaflets resembling holly leaves. Impressive, large, bright red cones produced on males and females. Offsets form at base of plant. Requires well-drained soil.
Cycad * <i>Encephalartos gratus</i>	15	Full sun	High	Large, trunk-forming cycad from South African. Long, glossy, dark green, spiny leaves. Offsets form at base of plant. Requires well-drained soil.
Cycad * <i>Encephalartos hildebrandtii</i>	12	Full sun	High	Large South Africa cycad. Long, glossy, dark green, upright, spiny leaves. Smaller than <i>E. gratus</i> . Offsets form at base of plant. Requires well-drained soil.
Cycad <i>Encephalartos villosus</i>	6-10	Partial to full shade	Moderate	Medium-sized, clumping, trunkless cycad with long, graceful, glossy dark green leaves. Females bear large, orange cones. Not common. Requires well-drained soil.

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Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Cuban belly palm * <i>Gastrococos crispera</i>	30	Full sun	Moderate	Graceful palm with spiny trunk and leaves. Slow-growing at first, increasing as trunk forms. Trunk distinctly swollen in middle. Orange, golf-ball sized fruit.
Palm <i>Guihaia argyrata</i>	2-4	Partial to full shade	Low	Small, slow-growing, clumping, trunkless palm with fan-shaped leaves, green above and silvery brown below. Can be mistaken for <i>Rhapis</i> . Not common.
Sagisi palm * § <i>Heterospatha elata</i>	30	Full sun to partial shade	None	Tall rainforest species from the Philippines and adjacent islands. Slow-growing when young; grows quite fast once trunk forms. Bears crown of gracefully arching leaves. Many small, white fruit produced nearly continuously upon maturation.
Doum palm, gingerbread palm * <i>Hyphaene coriacea</i>	20-30	Full sun	None	Coarse palm with arching, palmate, gray-green leaves that have spiny petioles. Trunk with persistent leaf bases. Unique among palms, in that it branches up to two or three times. Orange, pear-shaped fruit in long clusters.
Cycad <i>Lepidozamia peroffskyana</i>	20	Partial to full shade	None	Tall Australian cycad. Elegant, glossy green leaves grow to 10 feet long, with narrow leaflets to 12 inches long. Use as specimen or accent plant. Requires well-drained soil.
Chinese fan palm * § <i>Livistona chinensis</i>	15-40	Full sun to partial shade	None	Medium-sized palm with large, palmate, light green leaves split at the tips. Relatively fast growing. Produces large quantities of olive-shaped blue fruit. Petioles spiny.
Australian ribbon palm * § <i>Livistona decipiens</i>	30	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Tall, slender palm with graceful, deeply segmented, fan-shaped leaves bearing long, thin ribbons. Best when protected from strong winds.
Dwarf livistona palm <i>Livistona muelleri</i>	12-18	Full sun	Low	Medium-sized palm with stout trunk and crown of large, stiff, erect, bluish-green, deeply segmented, fan-shaped leaves. Striking red, branched inflorescences followed by equally striking blue, olive-sized fruit. Not common.
Footstool palm * § <i>Livistona rotundifolia</i>	30-40	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Tall, slender, fan palm with broad, nearly symmetrical, shallowly segmented leaves. Bright red fruit borne on long, thin, arching, stalk.
Mazari palm * <i>Nannorrhops ritchiana</i>	10-20	Full sun to partial shade	None	See description in Table 3.

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Common name Scientific name	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Madagascar "palm"* <i>Pachypodium lamerei</i>	6-15	Full sun	High	Tall-growing, sparsely branching cactus look-alike. Spiny trunks bear showy white flowers upon maturity. Not a palm. Other <i>Pachypodium</i> also drought tolerant.
Screw pine, screw palm * § <i>Pandanus utilis</i>	15-25	Full sun	High	Many-branched, palm-like plant with saw-toothed leaves that resemble pineapple. Prefers moist conditions, but can tolerate drought. Not a palm. Occasionally susceptible to Lethal Yellowing disease. Other <i>Pandanus</i> also drought tolerant.
Canary Island date palm * § <i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	30-50	Full sun	Low	Tall, robust date palm with huge rounded crown of long, arching, pinnate leaves. Best for avenue plantings; not suitable for small lot. <u>Caution:</u> <i>Phoenix reclinata</i> is FLEPPC Category II invasive. ⁵
Pygmy date palm * § <i>Phoenix roebelinii</i>	6-8	Full to partial sun	None	Dwarf date palm with elegant, pinnate fronds bearing impressive spines at base. Commonly planted in south Florida, often near the front door or in pool enclosures. <u>Caution:</u> <i>Phoenix reclinata</i> is FLEPPC Category II invasive. ⁵
Cliff date palm <i>Phoenix rupicola</i>	20	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Medium-sized palm with gracefully arching, dark green, feathery leaves. Like all <i>Phoenix</i> , has large spines at leaf base. Fruit 3/4" long, purplish-red in color. Requires well-drained soil. <u>Caution:</u> <i>Phoenix reclinata</i> is FLEPPC Category II invasive. ⁵
Palm <i>Pseudophoenix lediniana</i>	20	Full sun	Moderate	Medium-sized palm with long, graceful, pinnate leaves and smooth, gray trunk distinctly swollen in middle. Related to <i>P. sargentii</i> , but much faster growing.
Buccaneer palm * † <i>Pseudophoenix sargentii</i>	10	Full sun	High	Slow-growing native palm. Grows naturally in sandy or limestone soils in areas that receive little rainfall. Gray trunk and prominent gray-green crownshaft, topped by sparse crown of silvery-blue-green leaves. Produces red, grape-sized fruit.
Cherry palm, wine palm * <i>Pseudophoenix vinifera</i>	20-30	Full sun	Moderate	Similar to <i>P. lediniana</i> , except slower growing and more robust overall. Produces many red, grape-sized fruit.
Traveller's tree * § <i>Ravenala madagascariensis</i>	30	Full sun	Low	Bright green, banana-like leaves up to 10 feet long, forming two opposite rows and held on long, tightly overlapping stalks. Spreading form reminiscent of flat fan of foliage. Clusters of white flowers between leaf bases in summer. Not a palm.

Table 6. Low-Maintenance Palms, Cycads, and Palm-Like Plants, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name Scientific name	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Lady palm * § <i>Rhapis excelsa</i>	5-10	Partial to full shade	None	See description in Table 3.
Puerto Rican hat palm * <i>Sabal causiarum</i>	50	Full sun	Moderate	Large palm with massive, smooth gray trunk up to 4 feet in diameter. Large, fan-shaped leaves up to 6 feet long, deep green in color, deeply segmented, drooping at ends. Not for small lots.
Scrub palmetto * † <i>Sabal etonia</i>	3-5	Full sun	Moderate	See description in Table 3.
Dwarf blue palmetto * † § <i>Sabal minor</i>	2-4	Partial shade	Moderate	See description in Table 3.
Cabbage palm * † § <i>Sabal palmetto</i>	25-50	Full sun to partial shade	High	Common native palm with rounded crown of fan-shaped leaves and smooth or rough trunk. Highly adaptable. Florida's state "tree." Plant only from containers or known field-grown plants. Do not plant cabbage palms taken from natural stands.
Saw palmetto * † § <i>Serenoa repens</i>	3-8	Full sun to partial shade	High	See description in Table 3.
Keys thatch palm * † § <i>Thrinax morrissii</i>	15	Full sun to partial sun	High	Native to Florida Keys and the Caribbean. Grows naturally in alkaline soils, sometimes on limestone outcrops. Leaves are bluish-green above and silvery below. Small white fruit produced in the fall.
Florida thatch palm * † § <i>Thrinax radiata</i>	25	Full sun to partial sun	High	Native to Florida and the Caribbean. Grows naturally in sand or on limestone. Differs from <i>T. morrissii</i> by having leaves that are green on both sides.
Veitchia palm * § <i>Veitchia</i> spp.	50	Full sun	None	Fast-growing palms from South Pacific. Widely planted in south Florida. High tolerance of hurricane-force winds. Wide adaptability to varying soil, water, and nutrient conditions. <u>Caution:</u> Avoid <i>Adonidia merrillii</i> (also known as <i>Veitchia merrillii</i>), due to its high susceptibility to Lethal Yellowing disease.
Washingtonia palm * <i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	50	Full sun	High	Tall, common fast-growing palm. Leaves large, palmate, with toothed petioles. <u>Caution:</u> Do not plant within 500 feet of beaches or coastal wetlands in Miami-Dade County. ⁶
Cycad * <i>Zamia amblyphlloidea</i>	3-4	Partial shade	High	See description in Table 3.
Florida coontie * † <i>Zamia floridana</i>	1-5	Full sun to shade	High	See description in Table 3.

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Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size (feet)	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Cycad <i>Zamia herreriae</i>	3-4	Full sun	High	Medium-sized, rare, subterranean cycad from southern Mexico and Central America. Has good landscape potential, with long, stiffly erect, slightly twisting leaves and shrub-like appearance. Requires well-drained soil.
Cycad <i>Zamia inermis</i>	3-5	Full sun	High	Medium-sized, rare, stem-forming cycad from Veracruz, Mexico. Has good landscape potential, with long, upright leaves and shrub-like appearance. Requires well-drained soil.
Cycad <i>Zamia loddigesii</i>	3	Full sun	High	Small, durable cycad from Mexico. Similar in appearance to cardboard palm, but with narrower leaflets. Extremely drought tolerant. Requires well-drained soil.
Cardboard "palm" * <i>Zamia maritima</i>	3-6	Full sun to partial shade	High	See description in Table 3.
Cycad * <i>Zamia vazquezii</i>	3-4	Partial shade	Low	Small to medium fern-like cycad with delicate green or brown emergent leaves. Name recently changed from <i>Z. fischeri</i> . Requires well-drained soil.
Zombie palm * <i>Zombia antillarum</i>	8-20	Full sun	High	Tall, clumping palm with characteristic narrow trunks bearing rings of 2-3" yellow-beige spines attached to woven, fabric-like leaf sheathes. Leaves palmate and mid-green. Produces clusters of olive-sized, white fruit.
<p>⁵ Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) defines Category I invasive plants as those plants that are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives; FLEPPC Category II plants are those that have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species.</p>				
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Table 7. Low-Maintenance Ornamental Grasses, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Big bluestem § <i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	4-6'	Full sun	Moderate	Perennial, upright, bunch grass forming large clumps. Stems with blue at base. Leaves blue-green in early summer, maturing to copper or orange-brown in fall. Bronze to purplish seed heads, to 3 inches late summer. Tolerates flooding in summer.

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Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Indian wood-oats <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	2-5'	Full sun to partial shade	None	Attractive, clump-forming grass with wide leaves and nodding, arching clusters of flat, oat-like seedheads. Resembles small sea-oats. Dried flowerheads highly prized. Also grown as groundcover in shaded areas.
Pampas grass * § <i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	6-10'	Full sun	Low	Impressive, graceful, fountain-like clumps. Large, 12-18" tall plumes erupt from foliage in mid-summer. Will tolerate poorly drained soil and brief flooding. Dried flowerheads highly prized. <u>Caution:</u> Purple pampas grass, <i>C. jubata</i> , is invasive.
Lemongrass * § <i>Cymbopogon citratus</i>	3-6'	Full sun to light shade	Low	Elegant, fragrant, clumping grass with thin, strap-like, yellow-green leaves that release citrus aroma when crushed. Prefers moist soil; moderate drought tolerance.
Lilyturf * <i>Liriope muscari</i>	1-2'	Partial shade	Moderate	Grass-like foliage and trumpet shaped flowers borne on erect stems in blue, purple, pink, or white, depending on species or cultivar. Cold tolerant. Needs freely draining soil. Mulch to control weeds. Variety 'Evergreen Giant' can take full sun.
Creeping lilyturf * <i>Liriope spicata</i>	6-18"	Partial shade	Moderate	Similar to lilyturf, but with a creeping rather than upright habit.
Pink muhly grass, hairgrass * † § <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	2-3'	Full sun to partial shade	High	Compact, tuft-forming grass with fine, pink feather-like flowerheads held high above the leaves.
Blue muhly grass § <i>Muhlenbergia lindheimeri</i>	1-2'	Full sun	High	Similar to pink muhly grass, but with bluish-gray foliage and purplish to gray flowerheads. Prefers dry, but will tolerate wet soil. Excellent groundcover for poor, sandy soils.
Mondo grass * <i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>	6-24"	Partial to full shade	High	Dark green to blackish, glossy leaves. Small, lavender flowers followed by iridescent, blue-black berries. Good border plant, especially under trees where turfgrass will not grow.
Beach panic grass <i>Panicum amarum</i>	1-2'	Full sun	High	Clumping grass with flower stalks rising above foliage. Grows well in sand. Good for beach-front.
Oriental fountain grass * <i>Pennisetum orientale</i>	1-2'	Full sun to partial shade	High	Low-growing, compact fountain grass with pink or white, fluffy inflorescence in summer and fall. Prefers well-drained soil. <u>Caution:</u> The related <i>P. purpureum</i> is a FLEPPC Category I invasive. ⁵

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Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Sand cordgrass * † <i>Spartina bakeri</i>	4-6'	Full sun	High	Large, bunch-forming grass with thin, brownish-green, rolled, wire-like, sand-papery leaves. Highly adaptable and underutilized. Good for beach-front.
Fakahatchee grass * † § <i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	4-5'	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Large, native grass. Rich green foliage erupts from fountain-like clumps. Distinctive flowers rise above leaves on slender stems in midsummer. Easy to grow. Virtually free of pests. Prefers moist soil, but has good drought tolerance.
Dwarf Fakahatchee grass * † § <i>Tripsacum floridana</i>	2-4'	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Native grass similar to <i>T. dactyloides</i> , but smaller.
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Table 8. Low-Maintenance Groundcovers, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Bromeliad * <i>Aechmea rubens</i>	12-24"	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Medium-sized, vase-shaped bromeliad, with green leaves. Flowers appear in summer as tall, red and orange spikes, followed by berries. Related species also drought-tolerant.
Aloe vera * <i>Aloe barbadensis</i>	1-2'	Full sun to partial shade	High	Medicinal aloe; sap from leaves used for treating burns. Clump-forming succulent with fleshy green leaves. Flowers in winter and spring.
Soap aloe <i>Aloe saponaria</i>	1-2'	Full sun	High	Stemless rosette that spreads by offset rosettes. Lance-shaped, succulent leaves are pale-green with white speckles and armed with sharp, dark brown teeth. Tubular yellow, orange or red flowers borne on purplish stalk. Requires well-drained soil. Perfect for rock gardens and seaside gardens. Attracts hummingbirds. Other aloes also drought tolerant.

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Common name Scientific name	Size	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Big bluestem § <i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	4-6'	Full sun	Moderate	See description in Table 7.
Perennial peanut * § <i>Arachis pintoii</i>	3-4'	Full sun to deep shade	Moderate	Low, non-twining legume with oval-shaped leaflets and yellow pea-like flowers. Stems grow along ground, rooting at nodes when in contact with soil. Will shed leaves during drought. Can tolerate waterlogged soils or frequent flooding, as well as wide range of soils. Grows better under shaded conditions than in full sun. Also known as <i>A. glabrata</i> and <i>A. hypogaea</i> .
Star begonia, winter begonia * § <i>Begonia heracleifolia</i>	2-3'	Partial to full shade	None	See description in Table 1.
White begonia * § <i>Begonia popenoei</i>	2-4'	Partial to full shade	None	See description in Table 1.
Castor bean begonia * § <i>Begonia ricinifolia</i>	2-3'	Partial to full shade	None	See description in Table 1.
Beach bean † <i>Canavalia rosea</i>	6-12'	Full sun	High	Attractive purple flowers. Excellent ground cover for beach-front locations, although it can grow into surrounding shrubs or over fences.
Hottenrot fig <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	6"	Full sun	High	Prostrate succulent with long, spreading, narrow stems and crowded, erect leaves bearing finely serrated reddish margins. In spring and summer it produces three-inch diameter pale yellow flowers that age to dull pink. Brownish, fig-like fruit follow.
Dwarf carissa * <i>Carissa macrocarpa</i>	12-18"	Full sun to partial shade	High	See description in Table 3.
Indian wood-oats <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	2-5'	Full sun to partial shade	None	See description in Table 7.
Snowberry † <i>Chiococca alba</i>	2-3'	Full sun	Low	See description in Table 3.
Christmas berry, ground holly † <i>Crossopetalum ilicifolium</i>	12"	Full sun to partial shade	Low	See description in Table 3.
Lemongrass * § <i>Cymbopogon citratus</i>	3-6'	Full sun to light shade	Low	See description in Table 7.

Table 8. Low-Maintenance Groundcovers, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name Scientific name	Size	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Seashore saltgrass <i>Distichlis spicata</i>	3-6"	Full sun	High	Small, spiky grass with leaves in a single plane. Useful on wet, saline soils. Host plant for wandering skipper butterfly larvae.
Miniature agave * <i>Dyckia brevifolia</i>	6-24"	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Rosette-forming terrestrial bromeliads. Leaves stiff, linear, spiny-margined and often strongly tinged reddish or brownish, or may be coated in silvery scales. Yellow, orange, or red bell-shaped flowers grow from edge rather than center of rosette. Forms large clumps. Suitable as bedding or rock garden plants.
Twinflower † <i>Dyschoriste angusta</i>	6-18"	Full sun	Low	See description in Table 1.
Beach creeper, golden creeper † <i>Ernodea littoralis</i>	1-3'	Full sun	High	See description in Table 3.
Dwarf crown-of-thorns * <i>Euphorbia milii</i>	6"	Full sun	High	Small Thai dwarf varieties used as bedding plants and groundcovers. See full description in Table 3.
Indian blanket * † <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	1-2'	Full sun	High	See description in Table 1.
Moss verbena † <i>Glandularia puchella</i>	6-8"	Full sun	High	See description in Table 1.
Fig marigold <i>Glottiphyllum depressum</i>	6"	Full sun	High	Light green, semi-cylindrical leaves 3-4" long. Large, yellow, daisy-like flowers produced in spring.
Guzmania * <i>Guzmania lingulata</i>	12-18"	Partial shade	Low	Small bromeliad with basal rosettes of broad, strap-like, apple-green leaves. Striking bracts surround clusters of tubular, white to yellow flowers in summer. Other <i>Guzmania</i> also drought tolerant.
Beach sunflower * † <i>Helianthus debilis</i>	3-4'	Full sun	High	See description in Table 1.
Daylily * <i>Hemerocallis</i> spp.	1-2'	Full sun or partial shade	Moderate	See description in Table 1.
Dwarf yaupon holly * † <i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	1-3'	Full sun	High	Dwarf cultivar of native holly. See description in Table 3.
Railroad vine † <i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>	3-8"	Full sun	High	Native, coarse, sprawling, vine with smooth, fleshy leaves and large, rosy pink flowers.

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Common name Scientific name	Size	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Beach morning glory † <i>Ipomoea stolonifera</i>	6"	Full sun	High	Twining vine grows over sand dunes. Blooms from spring to fall, with white flowers opening each morning and closing in the afternoon. Ideal for beach-front.
Beach elder † <i>Iva imbricata</i>	2-3'	Full sun	High	See description in Table 1.
Chinese juniper <i>Juniperus chinensis</i>	2-50'	Full sun	Low-Moderate	See description in Table 3.
Shore juniper <i>Juniperus conferta</i>	6-12"	Full sun to partial shade	High	Prostrate, spreading groundcover. Soft foliage a mixture of fresh, clear green and pale blue with aromatic, needle-like leaves. Berries pale green. Tolerates seaside conditions and grows rapidly.
Kalanchoe * <i>Kalanchoe</i> spp.	6"-12'	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Over 200 species, varying greatly from small, leafy succulents to huge, tree-like plants. Valued for decorative, hairy foliage. Bell-shaped flowers in early spring, followed by small, seed-bearing capsules. <u>Caution:</u> Do not plant life plant, <i>K. pinnata</i> , within 500 feet of hardwood hammock in Miami-Dade County. ⁶
Gopher apple † <i>Licania michauxii</i>	4-12"	Full sun	High	Native, low-growing groundcover. Leaves oblong, yellow-green. Flowers small, borne in clusters. Fruit white, turning brown as it ripens. Little landscape appeal.
Lilyturf, lirioppe * <i>Liriope muscari</i>	1-2"	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	See description in Table 7.
Creeping lilyturf, dwarf lirioppe * <i>Liriope spicata</i>	6-18"	Partial shade	High	See description in Table 7.
Pink muhly grass, hairgrass * † § <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	2-3'	Full sun to partial shade	High	See description in Table 7.
Blue muhly grass § <i>Muhlenbergia lindheimeri</i>	1-2'	Full sun	High	See description in Table 7.
Bromeliad * <i>Neoregelia cruenta</i>	3'	Full sun	Low	Variable, large, stemless bromeliad with thick, leathery, orange leaves with red tips and spiny margins. Flowers inconspicuous. Other <i>Neoregelia</i> also drought tolerant.
Mondo grass * <i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>	6-24"	Partial to full shade	High	See description in Table 7.

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Common name Scientific name	Size	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Prickly-pear cactus * <i>Opuntia</i> spp.	6"-30'	Full sun	High	See description in Table 3.
Beach panic grass <i>Panicum amarum</i>	1-2'	Full sun	High	See description in Table 7.
Wild allamanda † <i>Pentallinon lutea</i>	1-2'	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	Native, fast growing, twining vine to 50' length. Lustrous, elliptical leaves with lighter colored midribs. Blooms year-round. Blossoms bright yellow, bell-shaped. Also known as <i>Urechites lutea</i> .
Baby rubber plant * † <i>Peperomia obtusifolia</i>	12-18"	Partial to full shade	Low	Native, bushy groundcover with fleshy leaves and occasional spikes of minute flowers. Plain green species or variegated cultivars, the latter with leaves marbled in gray-green and cream or gold.
Pennyroyal † <i>Piloblephis rigida</i>	6-24"	Full sun	Low	See description in Table 1.
Wart fern * § <i>Polypodium scolopendrium</i>	2'	Partial to full sun	None	Large, tropical fern with scaly, red-brown, creeping rhizomes and long-stemmed, leathery, pinnate fronds with large bumpy spores which give this fern its name.
Bromeliad * <i>Portea petropolitana</i>	3'	Full sun	Low	Large, stemless bromeliad with thick, heavily spined leaves. Tall flower spikes bear narrow, blue-violet flowers. Also known as <i>Aechmea petropolitana</i> and <i>P. gardneri</i> .
Moss rose, rose moss * <i>Portulaca grandiflora</i>	4-8"	Full sun	High	See description in Table 1.
Purslane * <i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	4-8"	Full sun	Moderate	Sprawling, low growing groundcover. Thick, reddish, fleshy stems and many yellow flowers. Cultivars with flowers in many different colors. Needs excellent drainage. Not long lasting.
Bromeliad <i>Puya berteroniana</i>	3'	Full sun	Low	Large bromeliad with blue-green, strap-like foliage and prostrate stems. During summer, metallic blue flowers with vivid orange stamens form dense panicles. Rosette of leaves dies after flowering, leaving offsets. Also known as <i>P. alpestris</i> .
Inkberry † <i>Scaevola plumieri</i>	2-4'	Full sun to partial shade	High	See description in Table 3.
Saw palmetto * † § <i>Serenoa repens</i>	3-8'	Full sun to partial shade	High	See description in Table 6.
Sea purslane † <i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i>	6-8"	Full sun	High	Native, sprawling, succulent groundcover. Small, light green to yellow, bead-like leaves. Good for beach-front properties.

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Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Sand cordgrass * † <i>Spartina bakeri</i>	4-6'	Full sun	High	See description in Table 7.
Carrion flower <i>Stapelia</i> spp.	6-12"	Partial shade	Moderate	Perennial succulents from southern Africa, resembling small cacti in growth habit, but without thorns. Flowers are wide open stars, elegant in their symmetry.
Yellow star jasmine <i>Trachelospermum asiaticum</i>	6"	Partial to deep shade	High	Durable, low-growing, viney groundcover with slender stems that form dense, tangled mats. Small, glossy green leaves and small yellow flowers with spicy, jasmine-like fragrance. Not a true jasmine.
Fakahatchee grass * † § <i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	4-5'	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	See description in Table 7.
Dwarf Fakahatchee grass * † § <i>Tripsacum floridana</i>	2-4'	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	See description in Table 7.
Florida coontie * † <i>Zamia floridana</i>	1-5'	Full sun to shade	High	See description in Table 3.
<p>⁵ Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) defines Category I invasive plants as those plants that are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives; FLEPPC Category II plants are those that have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species.</p>				
<p>⁶ Miami-Dade County restricts certain species from being planted within 500 feet of the native habitats that they are known to invade; these plants are allowed to be planted in home landscapes as long as they are more than 500 feet from the designated native habitat(s).</p>				

Table 9. Low-Maintenance Vines, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Growth rate	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Purple allamanda * <i>Allamanda blanchetii</i>	Moderate	Full sun	None	See description in Table 3.
Dutchman's pipe, calico flower * <i>Aristolochia elegans</i>	Fast	Partial to full shade	Low	Evergreen vine with heart-shaped, tri-lobed, glossy light green leaves and unusual, 3" white/purple, upside-down heart-shaped flowers.

Table 9. Low-Maintenance Vines, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Growth rate	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Bougainvillea * <i>Bougainvillea</i> spp.	5-30	Full sun	None	Very showy, thorny vine-like shrubs with best bloom during dry season. Numerous cultivars available in a striking array of colors, magenta being the most common. Some with variegated foliage. Best effect as a vine but can be trained as a shrub. Caterpillars occasional pest. Requires freely draining soil. Do not over-fertilize.
Beach bean † <i>Canavalia rosea</i>	Fast	Full sun	High	See description in Table 1.
Snowberry † <i>Chiococca alba</i>	Moderate	Full sun	Low	See description in Table 3.
Glory bower vine, bleeding heart <i>Clerodendrum thomsoniae</i>	Moderate	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Interesting vine with weak-stemmed habit, 4" oval green leaves, and spectacular sprays of white bracts tipped with red flowers. Flowers in shade.
Violet trumpet vine <i>Clytostoma callistegoides</i>	Fast	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Robust, evergreen, woody vine with bright glossy green leaves and 3" lavender to purple, trumpet-shaped flowers, followed by large, prickly seed pods. Needs lots of room; best to grow on fence or pergola. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.
Hyacinth bean, lablab bean <i>Dolichos lablab</i>	Moderate	Full sun	Low	Short-lived, perennial, twining vine with leaflets in threes and showy, bright purple flowers and pods. Grown for food in Asia and Africa; mature beans must be cooked in two changes of water to remove toxins. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.
Lingaro <i>Elaeagnus philippensis</i>	Moderate	Full sun	High	See description in Table 3.
Chinese hat plant <i>Holmskioldia sanguinea</i>	Fast	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	See description in Table 3.
Primrose jasmine <i>Jasminum mesnyi</i>	Fast	Full sun to partial shade	Low	See description in Table 3.
Downy jasmine <i>Jasminum multiflorum</i>	Fast	Full sun to partial shade	Low	See description in Table 3.
Pink allamanda, mandevilla * <i>Mandevilla splendens</i>	Moderate	Full sun	Moderate	Evergreen, twisting climber. Lustrous green leaves are wide and elliptical to rectangular, and 8" long. From end of spring to beginning of summer, bears deep reddish-pink flowers with yellow centers.

Table 9. Low-Maintenance Vines, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Growth rate	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Tropical wisteria <i>Millettia reticulata</i>	Fast	Full sun	Moderate	Very attractive, rose-pink to blue, pea-like flowers in terminal panicles during summer. Prefers freely draining soil. Mites and whiteflies possible pests.
Monstera * § <i>Monstera deliciosa</i>	Slow	Full sun to partial shade	Low	See description in Table 3.
Passionflowers * <i>Passiflora</i> spp.	Fast	Full sun to partial shade	None	Twining vines with glossy, bright green, 3-lobed leaves and large bluish-purple, blue, white, or red flowers, and flavorsome, egg-sized, deep orange fruit. Host for numerous butterfly larvae. <i>Passiflora incarnata</i> is native to Florida. <u>Caution:</u> <i>P. biflora</i> and <i>P. foetida</i> are FLEPPC Category II invasive. ⁵
Wild allamanda † <i>Pentalinon lutea</i>	Fast	Full sun to partial shade	Moderate	See description in Table 1.
Garlic vine * <i>Pseudocalymna alliaceum</i>	Moderate	Full sun	Low	Attractive, trumpet-shaped flowers in lavender, pink and white--spring through fall. Prefers well-drained soil. Takes hard pruning after flowering.
Flame vine <i>Pyrostegia venusta</i>	Moderate	Full sun	Low	Grown for spectacular, mainly winter/spring terminal panicles of bright orange flowers. Should be severely cut back after flowering. Scales can be a pest.
Mistletoe cactus † <i>Rhipsalis baccifera</i>	Slow	Light to full shade	None	Hanging epiphytic cactus with stems to six feet long. Bears flowers and "berries."
Mexican flame vine <i>Senecio confusus</i>	Fast	Full sun	Low	Woody, tropical, evergreen vine with thick, arrowhead-shaped, serrated leaves. In summer, covered with brilliant, orange to red, daisy-like flowers. Compact growth habit. Attracts butterflies.
Cup of gold, chalice vine <i>Solandra maxima</i>	Fast	Full sun to partial shade	High	Heavy, woody, evergreen vine with ropelike stems that branch frequently and root at nodes. Large, shiny leaves and large, yellow to golden, chalice-like flowers, 6-10" long, flaring open to 4-7"; fragrant at night; reminiscent of coconut. Blooms best in winter dry season. Requires sturdy support. Loses leaves during drought.
Jade vine * <i>Strongylodon macrobotrys</i>	Moderate	Full sun to partial shade	Low	Evergreen, twining vine with thick, woody stems, tri-lobed leaves. In spring and summer, produces spectacular aquamarine, claw-shaped flowers in huge hanging clusters to five feet long. Best when grown on sturdy pergola, where hanging flowers can be seen to best advantage.

Table 9. Low-Maintenance Vines, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Growth rate	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Cape honeysuckle <i>Tecomaria capensis</i>	Fast	Full sun to light shade	High	See description in Table 3.
Yellow star Jasmine <i>Trachelospermum asiaticum</i>	Moderate	Partial to deep shade	High	See description in Table 8.
<p>⁵ Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) defines Category I invasive plants as those plants that are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives; FLEPPC Category II plants are those that have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species.</p>				
<p>⁶ Miami-Dade County restricts certain species from being planted within 500 feet of the native habitats that they are known to invade; these plants are allowed to be planted in home landscapes as long as they are more than 500 feet from the designated native habitat(s).</p>				

Table 10. Low-Maintenance Epiphytes, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size	Light preference	Comments
Bird's nest anthurium * § <i>Anthurium salviniae</i>	3-5	Partial to full shade	Large, herbaceous shrub or epiphyte consisting of majestic cluster of long, erect, tropical-looking leaves with wavy margins. Flowers relatively insignificant. Other bird's nest anthuriums are also moderately drought tolerant, but may require high humidity.
Lady-of-the-night * <i>Brassavola nodosa</i>	15-18"	Bright, filtered light	Epiphytic orchid with short, slender stems concealed by tubular sheaths. Gray-green leaves usually erect, very fleshy, grooved on upper surface, and semi-cylindrical. Flowers long-lived, fragrant at night, 3.5-6" across, and vary from pale green or yellowish to nearly pure white.
Orchid * <i>Cattleya skinneri</i>	20"	Bright, filtered light	Stout, erect epiphyte with stiff, leathery leaves at top of each pseudobulb. Erect inflorescence emerges after several months of cool dry rest. Flowers are funnel-shaped tubes up to 3.5" across, typically evenly colored rose-purple. Numerous hybrids exist; all are drought tolerant.
Purple shell orchid * <i>Encyclia cochleata</i>	18"	Bright, filtered light	Epiphytic orchid with leathery, strap-like leaves. Flowers are dark purple blotches on the back of greenish-yellow, twisted sepals and petals.
Butterfly orchid † <i>Encyclia tampensis</i>	18"	Bright, filtered light	Rare, epiphytic orchid native to the Everglades. Flowers small, with greenish-red sepals and narrow, tubular, white/pink petals.
Staghorn fern * <i>Platynerium bifurcatum</i>	3-6'	Light to full shade	Epiphytic fern with large, flattened fronds growing out of large, smooth scales that wrap around trees or other structures, forming a large nest. Other <i>Platynerium</i> also drought tolerant.

Table 10. Low-Maintenance Epiphytes, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size	Light preference	Comments
Resurrection fern * † <i>Polypodium polypodioides</i>	6"	Light to full shade	Epiphytic fern that grows by rhizomes. Fronds deeply incised, green when wet and unfurled, but gray-scaly when dry. Plant gets its name for its ability to come back to life after being dried up. Will cover branches and trunks of trees. Also known as <i>Pleopeltis polypodioides</i> .
Mistletoe cactus † <i>Rhipsalis baccifera</i>	6'	Light to full shade	See description in Table 1.
Orchid * <i>Schomburgkia tibicinus</i>	1-6'	Bright, filtered light	Epiphytic orchid with impressive six-foot flower stalks. Flowers range from brownish-orange to magenta. Must be kept dry once new growth is fully developed.
Spanish moss <i>Tillandsia usneoides</i>	1-5'	Bright, filtered light	Weeping, hanging, gray-green epiphyte with tiny, narrow leaves and inconspicuous green flowers. Dries up during drought, but springs back to life when rain returns. Related ball moss, <i>T. recurvata</i> , also drought tolerant.
Air plants * <i>Tillandsia</i> spp.	2"-5'	Bright, filtered light	Hundreds of varieties, all having stiff, erect, linear, gray-green leaves. Thick-leaf varieties more drought tolerant. All water and nutrients taken up through leaves. Roots used as wire-like anchors. Flowers on long stalks above foliage, often brightly colored. Some species are native.
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Table 11. Low-Maintenance Herbs and Vegetables, listed by category in alphabetical order by scientific name. (Note: * indicates plants commonly available in nurseries and/or garden centers in south Florida; † indicates Florida native plants; § indicates plants that can tolerate wet soils or occasional flooding.)

Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Dill * <i>Anethum graveolens</i>	3-5'	Full sun	None	Erect, freely branching, annual herb with fine, lacy, blue-green foliage. Seeds produce herb. Flowers small, yellow, and borne in large, rounded, umbrella-like clusters. May bolt quickly to flowering during prolonged drought.
Orach, French spinach <i>Atriplex hortensis</i>	2-6'	Full sun	None	See description in Table 1.
Pigeonpea <i>Cajanus cajan</i>	10-12'	Full sun	Unknown	Perennial woody shrub, mostly grown as an annual for its peas. Tolerates poor soils. Fixes nitrogen in the soil.

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Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Size	Light preference	Salt tolerance	Comments
Coriander, cilantro * <i>Coriandrum sativum</i>	2-3'	Full sun	None	Fine, feathery foliage source of cilantro. Dried seeds are coriander. Small, white or pink flowers borne in flat-topped clusters. Require well-drained soil. Suffers during humid, rainy weather; plant in fall or winter.
Rosemary * <i>Rosemarinus officinalis</i>	3'	Full sun	High	See description in Table 3.
Mexican tarragon <i>Tagetes lucida</i>	18-30"	Full sun or partial shade	Unknown	Semi-woody, bushy subshrub with many smooth, upright, unbranched stems. Yellow flowers in late fall. Requires well-drained soil. Soothing, aromatic herbal tea made from leaves. Also used in herbal vinegars.
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