

Featured Native Plants in the Florida-Friendly Landscaping Downtown Garden

Fact Sheet
Residential Horticulture - 031
UF/IFAS Extension Orange County

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The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Demonstration Garden at the Orange County Administration Building showcases pollinator friendly plants with a focus on Florida native plants. It's located in a prominent location at the Orange County Administration Building in the heart of downtown Orlando, with an estimated one million visitors per year. Butterflies and bees can be seen visiting the flowers and the garden creates a relaxing space to enjoy while getting ideas for your home landscape. This garden helps to raise awareness of our Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program and the importance of integrating native plants that attract pollinators. This project has been funded in part by the

Florida Wildflower Foundation, managed by the University of Florida/IFAS Extension Orange County and maintained by the Master Gardener Volunteers.

Florida native plants bring life to the garden because the leaves, flowers, and fruits of the plants provide food for butterflies, bees, birds, hummingbirds, and other wildlife. Learn more about specific native plants and their ecological significance in Table 1. There is also a bird bath to provide water for the wildlife.

Table 1.

Common name	Scientific name	Ecological significance
Rose or swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Larval host plant for monarch, queen, and soldier butterfly; attracts bees
Corkystem passionvine	<i>Passifolia suberosa</i>	Larval host plant for Gulf fritillary, Julia, and zebra longwing butterfly; animals eat the fruit
Coontie	<i>Zamia integrifolia</i>	Larval host plant for atala butterfly (in South Florida) and echo moth
Muhly grass	<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	Provides shelter for wildlife, small birds eat the seeds
Firebush	<i>Hamelia patens</i>	Nectar plant for butterflies, hummingbirds, and bumble bees; birds eat the fruit
Wild coffee	<i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	Fruit for birds, flowers for pollinators
Beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	Larval host plant for azure butterfly and clearwing moth; Fruit for birds; flowers for pollinators; fruit used to make jelly
Yaupon holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Fruit for birds, flowers for pollinators
Flatwoods plum	<i>Prunus umbellata</i>	Fruit for birds and squirrels, flowers attract bees and pollinators, nesting site for birds

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping Demonstration Garden at the Orange County Administration Building provides an urban green space that can provide relaxation, support urban biodiversity, and counteract the urban heat island effect. Is also a certified Monarch Way Station and a Certified Wildlife Garden. To learn more about the story of this garden visit our blog. <https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/orangeco/2021/11/02/success-story-ffl-demonstration-garden-in-orange-county/>

