



Creative Commons

Perennials for Pollinators



Theresa Badurek, Urban Horticulture Agent
UF/IFAS Extension, Pinellas County

UF | **IFAS Extension**
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

An Equal Opportunity Institution

What is a perennial plant?

- Lives for more than 2 years
- Woody or herbaceous



What is a pollinator?

- animals that aid in plant pollination (transfer of pollen from male to female flower/parts)
- pollination necessary for fruit set (wind/other)
- insects and wildlife
 - bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, wasps, other insects
 - hummingbirds and bats (humans?)



Plant Selection and Use

- Purchase untreated plants (insecticides can hurt pollinators)
- Plant in masses
- Note mature size
- Year-round blooms



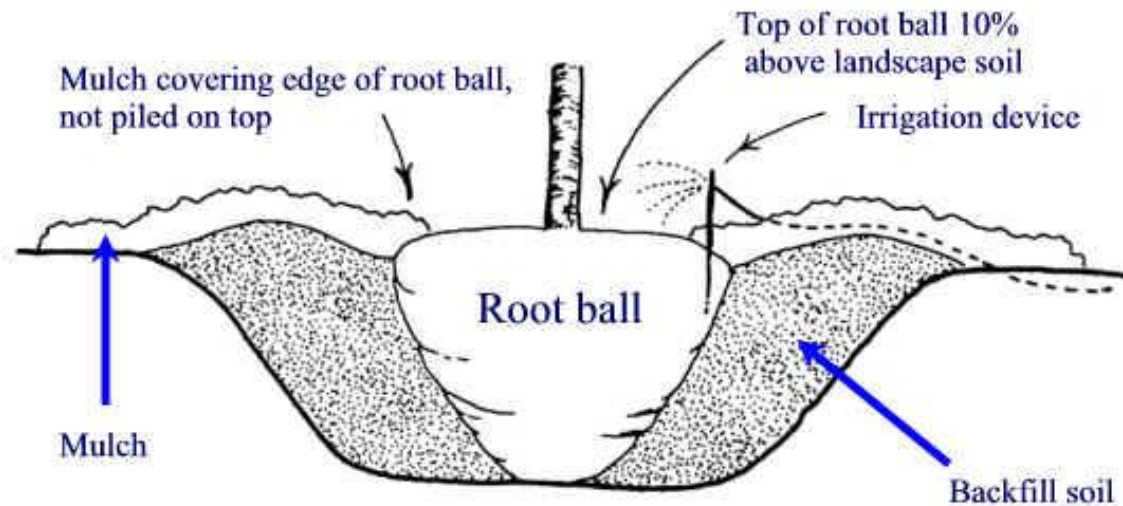
Selection and Use

- Flower colors for pollinators
 - Yellow, white, blue, purple – bees
 - Orange and red – hummingbirds
 - Bright and varied - butterflies



Planting

- Soil? pH test – plant accordingly
- Amend soil with compost if possible (bed not hole)
- Shave the rootball
- 10% of rootball above grade
- Mulch 2-3” up to edge of rootball





Water



- Group plants according to water needs
- Plan for no irrigation after establishment
- Plant at the start of rainy season
- 1 gallon of water per shrub, applied every 2-4 days in our area
- Continue about 4-5 months for 3 gallon shrub
- Then taper to rainfall only

Diversity Matters



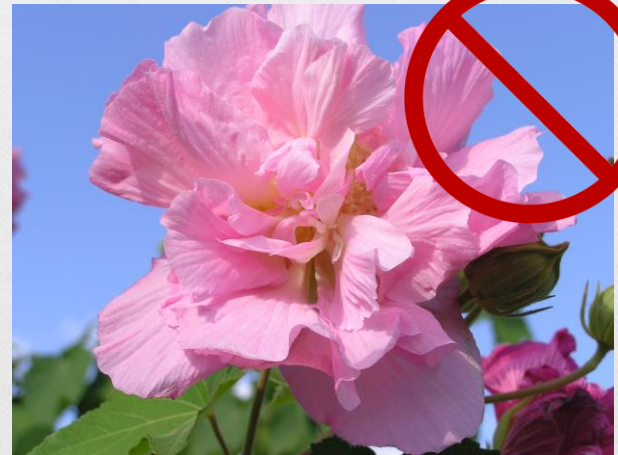
- Diversity of food for nutrition year-round
- Plants need a diversity of insects/animals for pollination
- Insects/animals need a diversity of plants



09/18/2015

No modern hybrids!

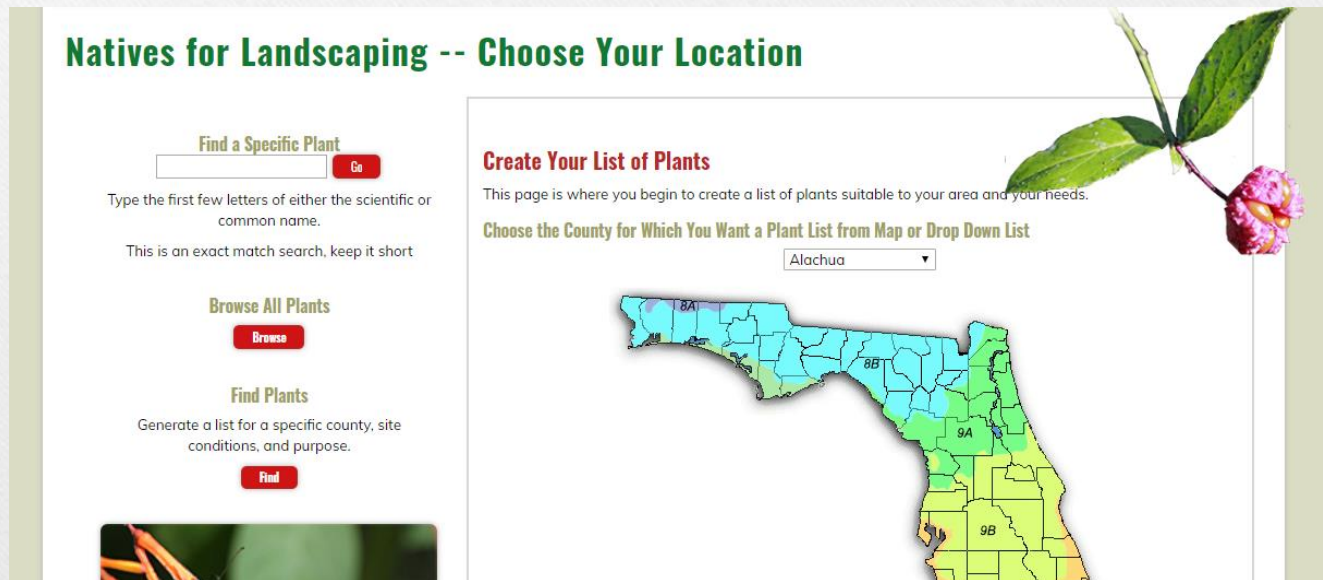
- Avoid double flowers
- **Avoid all** (even sterile) varieties of invasive plants



Confederate rose in bloom, Photo Credit: Santa Rosa County Extension

Natives- Less Work!

- Adapted to local climate, soil, insects



Natives for Landscaping -- Choose Your Location

Find a Specific Plant
 Go

Type the first few letters of either the scientific or common name.
This is an exact match search, keep it short

Browse All Plants
Browse

Find Plants
Generate a list for a specific county, site conditions, and purpose.
Find

Create Your List of Plants
This page is where you begin to create a list of plants suitable to your area and your needs.

Choose the County for Which You Want a Plant List from Map or Drop Down List
Alachua

8A 8B 9A 9B

<https://www.fnps.org/plants>

No Invasive Exotic Plants

- Invasive exotics cost state of FL hundreds of **millions** of dollars per year
- Alter native plant communities, crowd out native plants and animals
- Always a better native choice



Brazilian pepper-tree
Schinus terebinthifolius
Photo by Vic Ramey
© 2000 University of Florida

“Bee” Careful with Chemicals

- Learn to tolerate insects & some garden damage
- Identify pest before treatment
- Look for bee/pollinator safe label
- Bt products are organic but kill caterpillars
- Spray in the evening if needed



Water for Insects Too

- Puddling areas or stations



<https://blog.cwf-fcf.org/index.php/en/give-butterflies-a-place-to-drink/>

Photo: Sarah Coulber, CWF. Place your mud puddle in a sunny sheltered location.

Selected Plants



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Winter Blooms

- Spanish needles, *Bidens alba*
- Tickseed, *Coreopsis* spp.
- Goldenrod, *Solidago* spp.
- Blueberry, *Vaccinium* spp. (container!)
- Sweet acacia, *Vachelia farnesiana*
- Walter's viburnum, *Viburnum obovatum*



Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) collecting pollen from Spanish needles (*Bidens alba*). Photo credit: Josh Hillman





Spring Blooms



- American beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*
- Seagrape, *Coccoloba uvifera*
- Yaupon holly, *Ilex vomitoria*
- Wild coffee, *Psychotria nervosa*
- Saw palmetto, *Serenoa repens*
- Blueberry, *Vaccinium* spp. (container!)
- Walter's viburnum, *Viburnum obovatum*





Summer Blooms



- Partridge pea, *Chamaecrista fasciculata*
- Seagrape, *Coccoloba uvifera*
- Wild coffee, *Psychotria nervosa*
- Wild petunia, *Ruellia caroliniensis*
- Dwarf palmetto, *Sabal minor*
- Goldenrod, *Solidago spp.*
- Spiderwort/Dayflower, *Tradescantia ohiensis*
- Walter's viburnum, *Viburnum obovatum*



Jennifer Anderson, hosted by the
USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Ruellia caroliniensis
Photo by Patricia Howell



Fall Blooms



- Climbing aster, *Ampelaster carolinianus*
- Marlberry, *Ardisia escallonioides*
- Blanketflower, *Gaillardia pulchella*
- Spotted mint, *Monarda punctata*
- Goldenrod, *Solidago* spp.
- Spiderwort/Dayflower, *Tradescantia obiensis*



Year-Round (or nearly) Blooms

- Beach sunflower, *Helianthus debilis*
- Scorpion's Tail, *Heliotropium angiospermum*
- Southern beeblossom, *Oenothera simulans*
- Tropical sage, *Salvia coccinea*
- Porterweed, *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*





Trees

- Red maple, *Acer rubrum*
- Fiddlewood, *Citharexylum spinosum*
- Buttonwood, *Conocarpus erectus*
- Dahoon holly, *Ilex cassine*
- Cherry laurel, *Prunus caroliniana*
- Oaks, *Quercus* spp.
- Cabbage palm, *Sabal palmetto*
(not really a tree, but...)



Ipomoea pes-caprae subsp. *brasiliensis*
Photo by Shirley Denton



Groundcovers

- Beach Morning-glory, *Ipomoea imperati* and Railroad Vine, *Ipomoea pes-caprae* subsp. *brasiliensis*
- Sunshine mimosa, *Mimosa strigillosa*
- Turkey tangle fogfruit, *Phyla nodiflora*



- Sunny spots, bare sand, less mowing!



Photo by S. P. Turnipseed

Great Combo for Dry Sites

- Porterweed, *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis* (blue, spring-fall)
- Beach verbena, *Glandularia tampensis* (purple, year-round)
- Blazing star, *Liatris spicata* (purple, summer-fall)
- Beach sunflower, *Helianthus debilis* (yellow, spring-fall)
- Rosinweed, *Silphium asteriscus* (yellow, spring-fall)
- Cocoplum, *Chrysobalanus icaco* (white, year-round)
- Beautyberry, *Callicarpa Americana* (pink/white, spring-fall)
- Dwarf palmetto, *Sabal minor* (white, summer)
- Saw palmetto, *Serenoa repens* (white, spring-summer)

Great Combo for Dry-Wet Sites

- Mistflower, *Conoclinium coelestinum* (blue, year-round))
- Lyre-leaf sage, *Salvia lyrata* (purple, spring)
- Scorpion tail, *Heliotropium angiospermum* (white, year-round)
- Seaside goldenrod, *Solidago sempervirens* (yellow, summer-fall)
- Swamp sunflower, *Helianthus angustifolius* (yellow, fall)
- Wild coffee, *Psychotria nervosa* (white, spring-summer)
- Dwarf palmetto, *Sabal minor* (white, summer)
- Marlberry, *Ardisia escallonioides* (white, year-round)
- Saw palmetto, *Serenoa repens* (white, spring-summer)



Thank you!



Resources

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- UF/IFAS Photos, Creative Commons
- *Gardening with Perennials in Florida*,
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/MG/MG03500.pdf>
- *Florida Honey Bee Plants*,
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/IN/IN122300.pdf>
- *Plants for Native Bees of Florida*, Rachel Mallinger,
rachel.mallinger@ufl.edu
- Florida Native Plant Society Plant Selector,
<https://www.fnps.org/plants>
- *Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants*, Gil Nelson (book)

