Perennials for Pollinators

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What is a perennial plant?

- Lives for more than 2 years
- Woody or herbaceous
Selection and Use

- Purchase untreated plants
- Plant in masses
- Note mature size
- Year-round blooms
- 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
Why 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
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

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
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
• American beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*
• Seagrape, *Coccoloba uvifera*
• Yaupon holly, *Ilex vomitoria*
• Wild coffee, *Psycotria 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*
Fall Blooms

- Climbing aster, *Ampelaster carolinianus*
- Marlberry, *Ardisia escallonioides*
- Blanketflower, *Gaillardia pulchella*
- Spotted mint, *Monarda punctata*
- Goldenrod, *Solidago spp.*
- Spiderwort/Dayflower, *Tradescantia ohiensis*
Year-Round (or nearly) Blooms

- Beach sunflower, *Helianthus debilis*
- Scorpion’s Tail, *Heliotropium angiospermum*
- Southern bee blossoms, *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*
- Cabbage palm, *Sabal palmetto*
  (not really a tree, but...)
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!
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, *Conoclinum coelestinum* (blue, year-round)
- Lyre-leaf sage, *Salvia lyrate* (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

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