

Landscaping with F

Featured here are just a few proven performers suggested by the Florida Wildflower Foundation. All are readily available from native plant nurseries — seek local sources for best flowering and regeneration. For more information and additional choices, see *Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants* by Gil Nelson or consult your local AFNN nursery (pp. 17-19).



B. Logan



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The Florida Wildflower Foundation thanks Gil Nelson, Brightman Logan, Nancy Rodlun, and Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor for contributing their knowledge, time, and photos to compile this feature.

Hardiness zones are based on the 1990 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, available at www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/. To see the effects of climate change since 1990, refer to: <http://www.arborday.org/media/zones.cfm>



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Top left: SG

Top: B. Logan

Above & top: B. Logan

1 Passionvine 🦋 🐛

(*Passiflora* spp) Climbing perennial herbaceous vine with showy, ornate lavender to whitish flowers from late spring through summer. Use on trellis or fence. Spreads 12-15'. **HARDINESS:** Zones 7 to 10. **SOIL:** Prefers rich acid to basic soils. **EXPOSURE:** Full sun to part shade.

2 Climbing Aster 🦋

(*Symphoricarpon carolinianum*) Sprawling or climbing, vine-like woody shrub with attractive lavender to bluish flowers. Prefers wet, organic soil, but adapts to drier locations once established. Up to 10' tall. Works well in informal and woodland settings, and along raised patios or decks. Excellent for wet areas along streams or ponds. **HARDINESS:** Zones 8 to 11. **SOIL:** Prefers moist organic soil, but will perform well in normal garden soils. **EXPOSURE:** Full sun, but tolerates part shade.

3 Spotted Beebalm 🦋 🦋

(*Monarda punctata*) Multi-stemmed perennial; each flowering stem presents showy pink/lavender spotted flowers. 3' tall with a spread of 2-3'. Attracts pollinators. Use for ground cover, butterfly gardens, edges. A good, fragrant cut flower. **HARDINESS:** Zones 4 to 9. **SOIL:** Dry to moist, well-drained. **EXPOSURE:** Full sun to part shade.

4 Tropical Sage 🦋 🦋

(*Salvia coccinea*) Showy annual that is easy to care for and cultivate, spreads easily. Leggy and tall, to 2-3'. Cut back spent seed heads to encourage more blooms and compact growth. Use in borders and wildflower gardens. **HARDINESS:** May freeze, but comes back in the spring; zones 8 to 10. **SOIL:** Prefers poor, well-drained soil. **EXPOSURE:** Full sun to light shade.

5 Cardinalflower 🦋 🦋

(*Lobelia cardinalis*) Perennial wildflower with striking tall mass of dark red blooms from July through September. Dies back in winter. Up to 4' high. Excellent in moist wildflower gardens, along small streams and for beautifying the edges of retention ponds, canal banks and drainage swales. **HARDINESS:** Zones 3 to 10. **SOIL:** Rich, acid, poorly drained soils. Likes wet feet, but adapts to irrigated areas with good organic soils. **EXPOSURE:** Full sun to part shade.

6 Scarlet Hibiscus 🦋 🦋

(*Hibiscus coccineus*) Upright shrub with large, showy lipstick-red blooms in summer. Naturally leggy, but will compact some with regular pruning. From 4' to 6' tall with a spread of 2' to 5'. Use along fences, borders, and at the edge of swales, ponds, or other wet areas. **HARDINESS:** Zones 8-10. **SOIL:** Likes moist soils, but will adapt to beds or large pots that are watered regularly. **EXPOSURE:** Full sun to part shade.

Florida Wildflowers



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7 Firebush

(*Hamelia patens*) Multi-stemmed spreading shrub or small tree with purple berries and showy, bright orange-red tubular flowers for much of the year. Reaches 10' tall, spreads 3-6'. Excellent for borders along boardwalks, paths, and sidewalks; mass in mixed or single-species shrub beds. **HARDINESS:** Central and South Florida; Zones 8B-11. **SOIL:** Prefers dry, sandy, somewhat alkaline soils, but will adapt to a variety of conditions. Slightly salt tolerant. **EXPOSURE:** Partial shade to sun.

8 Rosinweed

(*Silphium asteriscus*) Great perennial for the wildflower. Large, highly attractive yellow daisies with distinctive green disks. Stout, erect, with rough, coarse stems. Grows 2-4' tall. Blooms almost year-round. Long-lived but slow to establish. **HARDINESS:** Zones 8 to 10. **SOIL:** Prefers well-drained soil. **EXPOSURE:** Full sun to part shade.

9 Coral Honeysuckle

(*Lonicera sempervirens*) Twining, climbing vine with showy scarlet to orange tubular flowers. Train to climb fences, arbors, trellises, trees and shrubs. Not aggressive. **HARDINESS:** Zones 4 to 11. **SOIL:** Fertile, moist, rich, acid to slightly alkaline soils. **EXPOSURE:** Full sun to part shade.

10 Tickseed

(*Coreopsis* spp.) Herbaceous annual with showy, daisy-like heads of bright yellow flowers 2" in diameter. 1'-3' tall. Use in mixed wildflower and butterfly gardens. **HARDINESS:** Zones 8 to 11. **SOIL:** Prefers moist, acidic soils. **EXPOSURE:** Full sun.

11 Virginia Willow

(*Itea virginica*) Erect to spreading, large clump-forming shrub with an open form and arching branches. 3-8' tall with a 2-4' spread. In spring, small, showy white flowers are borne profusely in numerous 4" to 6" racemes. Colorful fall foliage. Suitable for use along retention ponds and in naturalistic settings. **HARDINESS:** Zones 5 to 9. **SOIL:** Occurs naturally in wet, acid soils with pH 4.0-7.5, but will adapt to dry conditions. **EXPOSURE:** Shade to full sun.

12 Blazing Star

(*Liatris* spp.) Attractive 2-4' spikes of lavender flowers. Blooms summer through fall. Found in the wild in sandhill, scrub, flatwood and dune communities. Grows up to 7'. Use in meadows, butterfly and wildflower gardens, mass plantings. Easy to grow, self seeds. **HARDINESS:** Hardy throughout Florida; zones 6 to 10. **SOIL:** Dry to moist sandy soil. **EXPOSURE:** Full sun.

Landscaping with Florida Wildflowers

continued from page 11

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John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org



15



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Jerry A. Payne, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

13 Butterflyweed 🦋 🐛

(*Asclepias tuberosa*) Showy clusters of orange flowers throughout spring, summer and early fall. Compact growth; up to 2' tall and wide. Host and nectar source for Monarch butterflies. Easy to cultivate from seed. A must-have in butterfly and wildflower gardens; good in perennial borders. **HARDINESS:** May freeze, but comes back in spring; Zones 8-10. **SOIL:** Dry to moist well-drained soil; intolerant of wet conditions. **EXPOSURE:** Full sun to part shade.

14 Blanketflower 🦋

(*Gaillardia pulchella*) Brightly colored annual. Blooms spring through summer in north Florida; year-round in the southern peninsula. 1-2' tall and wide. Well-suited to sunny, sandy roadsides, beaches and wildflower gardens. **HARDINESS:** Zones 8 to 11. **SOIL:** Tolerates dry conditions and poor soil. Particularly well-suited to coastal sands. Prefers coarse, well-drained sands. **EXPOSURE:** Best in full sun. Somewhat salt tolerant.

15 American Beautyberry 🦋 🐦

(*Callicarpa americana*) Shrub with graceful arching branches, small pinkish flowers in late spring and summer, and striking magenta berry spikes in fall. Deciduous. Reaches 8' high, spreads to 6'. Pruning yields more compact growth. Use as specimen or plant in masses. **HARDINESS:** Hardy throughout Florida; Zones 6 to 11. **SOIL:** Prefers rich soils, but tolerates sandy, well-drained soils. **EXPOSURE:** Full sun to part shade, with flower and fruit production increasing with light exposure.

16 Crossvine 🦋 🐦

(*Bignonia capreolata*) Showy clusters of tubular, reddish-orange flowers appear in spring on this evergreen, woody, high-climbing vine. Use on fencing, large trellises or larger trees. **HARDINESS:** Zones 6 to 9. **SOIL:** Grows in a wide range of soils, but prefers rich, moist, well-drained soil. **EXPOSURE:** Sun to shade; flowers best in full sun.



You can help save Florida's wildflowers

In the 500 years since Ponce de Leon christened our peninsula "Florida," native wildflowers have struggled to co-exist with the pressures of progress. As the state's natural landscape has been increasingly compromised by development, some species have been classified as endangered or threatened. Still others have vanished altogether.

The Florida Wildflower Foundation's (FWF) mission is to enrich lives with Florida native wildflowers by advancing public education, conducting research, and encouraging the planting of wildflowers.

Through the sale of the State Wildflower license tag, FWF promotes the visibility and availability of native wildflowers, plants and grasses by funding extensive wildflower research projects, educational programs and literature, and roadside, park and community plantings. The organization's ultimate objective is to build a center that promotes wildflowers as an alternative in residential and commercial landscapes while teaching both visitors and residents about their value in Florida's delicately balanced ecosystems.

The not-for-profit organization is steered by a volunteer board of directors that includes representation from the Association of Florida Native Nurseries, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, the Florida Department of Transportation, the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, and the Wildflower Seed and Plant Growers Association Inc., among others.

Since 2000, the Foundation has used the \$15 donation from the sale of each State Wildflower license plate to:

- Award more than \$1 million in grants for education, research and planting projects.
- Support Florida's native nursery industry by increasing demand for flowering native species.
- Aid the development of a wildflower seed industry.
- Build the general public's awareness and knowledge of native wildflowers and plants.
- Support highway beautification through widespread wildflower seeding and planting projects.
- Promote wildflower tourism and its enormous economic benefits.
- Partner with like-minded agencies, organizations and businesses to support native wildflowers.

You can play a pivotal role in helping to assure that Florida's wildflowers are protected and that the industry around them continues to grow. Just purchase a State Wildflower license tag for your vehicle or trailer. You also can help Florida's wildflowers by joining the Foundation's ranks. For a membership form, please visit our website: floridawildflowerfoundation.org/

Donations also help support the Foundation's work. Send your tax-deductible gift today to Florida Wildflower Foundation, P.O. Box 941066,

Maitland, FL 32794-1066.

MORE INFORMATION:

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