

Saltmarsh morning glory

(*Ipomoea sagittata*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms.

Saltmarsh morning glory is a trailing perennial vine found in Florida's salt, floodplain and glade marshes, mangrove swamps and ruderal areas. Its showy blooms appear in summer and fall. The large nectaries and flowers attract many insects, but it is most visited by bees.



Photo by Emily Bell

Saltmarsh morning glory flowers are solitary and funnel-shaped with five fused pink -to-purplish petals and a darker throat. Five greenish sepals cup the flower at its base. Sepals and stems are glabrous. Leaves are sagittate with long petioles. They are alternately arranged. Seeds are borne in globose capsules. Tendrils and underground rhizomes give the vine its vigorous mobility.

Like other members of the *Ipomoea* genus, Saltmarsh morning glory blooms in the morning and begins to wilt and close up by afternoon, hence the common name "morning glory."

The family name Convolvulaceae comes from the Greek *convolvere*, which means "to wind," referring to the winding nature of the stems. The species epithet *sagittata* is Latin for "arrow-shaped" and refers to the leaf shape.

Family: Convolvulaceae (Morning glory family)

Native range: Nearly statewide, with higher occurrence in coastal areas

To see where natural populations of Saltmarsh morning glory have been vouchered, visit www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu.

Lifespan: Perennial

Soil: Moist sand

Exposure: Full sun to partial shade

Growth habit: 6'+ long

Propagation: Cuttings, division, seed

Florida regions of landscape suitability: North, Central, South

Garden tips: Saltmarsh morning glory does best when allowed to freely climb on a trellis or fence. Its rapid growth and sprawling tendency makes it generally unsuitable for formal gardens. It is highly salt tolerant and winter dormant.

Saltmarsh morning glory plants are occasionally available from nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants. Visit www.PlantRealFlorida.org to find a nursery in your area.

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Florida Wildflower Foundation • P O Box 941691, Maitland, FL 32794-1691 • 407-622-1606 • www.FlaWildflowers.org

