

# Native Shrubs and Groundcovers Planting Guide

Common Name	County Region	Habitat(s)	Size at Maturity	Sun/ Shade	Drought Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Wind Tolerance	Soil	Flower Color	Flower Season	Special Notes on Care
<b>Cocoplum</b> <i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i>	Coastal; Central	Bayhead; Coastal Strand; Hammocks; Slough; Swale; Swamps; Scrub	Moderate growth 10-15 ft.		High to moderate	Medium to high; does not like direct salt spray	Medium if trained to tree; High if left as a shrub	Wide variety	White	Year-round	Supplies cover and food for wildlife. Ripe fruit can be black or white and edible. Trouble free as a natural shrub. We do not recommend training to tree.
<b>Fiddlewood</b> <i>Citharexylum spinosum</i>	Coastal; Central	Hammocks; sometimes Pinelands	Moderate growth 15-25 ft.		Moderate to high	Medium; does not tolerate flooding in salt or brackish water	Low trained to tree. Medium left as a shrub	Moist, well-drained sandy or limestone soils	White; fragrant	Year-round	Likes moist to wet location but will tolerate short periods of drought. Supplies cover and food for wildlife.
<b>Firebush</b> <i>Hamelia patens</i>	All	Prairie and Rockland Hammock	Fast growth 10-15 ft.		High	Medium	Medium tolerance with some limb breakage as a shrub. When trained to tree the trunk may be damaged in high winds.	Wide variety	Red	Year-round	Densely branched; leafy large shrub or small tree. Small reddish berries ripening to blackish purple. Firebush attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Does not mind trimming and can be trained as a small tree
<b>Florida Swamp Privet</b> <i>Forestiera segregata</i>	Coastal	Coastal Strand; Mesic Flatwood	Moderate growth 8-15 ft.		High; does not require any supplemental water once established.	Medium; does not tolerate flooding in salt or brackish water	Medium	Moist, well-drained sandy or limestone soils, with humus rich top layer.	Yellowish-greenish; semi-showy	Year-round; Spring is peak bloom	Good as a natural hedge; will tend to have galls if trimmed. Good cover and food for wildlife especially birds. <i>F. pinetorum</i> , or variety, <i>F. segregata</i> var. <i>pinetorum</i> should be used in pineland ecosystems. Ripe drupe (fruit) are purple-black.
<b>Jamaican Caper</b> <i>Capparis cynophallophora</i>	Coastal; Central	Rockland Hammock; Scrub	Slow growth 10-12 ft.		High; does not require any supplemental water once established.	Medium; tolerates moderate amounts of salt wind and short periods of salt and brackish water without injury	Little to mild damage in high winds with good recovery. Damages increases if trained to tree	Humus rich top layer with either moist, well-drained sandy or limestone soils	Pink to white; showy	Spring; Summer Spring is peak bloom	Good cover and food for wildlife. Ripe pods brown with showy interiors. Excellent plant for coastal areas. Tree needs little pruning usually has an upright ovoid shape. Rust colored under-leaf giving attractive coloring.
<b>White Indigo Berry</b> <i>Randia aculeata</i>	All	Coastal Strand; Prairie and Rockland Hammock; Marl Prairie	Slow growth 8-10 ft.		High	High	Medium to high tolerance with some limb breakage.	Wide variety	Small, fragrant, white flowers	Year-round	Dwarf to midsize, with thorns in pairs, shrub or small tree. Fruit rather large, unusual white berries with dark purple flesh. The berries have been used to obtain a blue dye.
<b>Wild Coffee</b> <i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	All	Bayhead; Prairie and Rockland Hammocks; Marl Prairie; Dome Swamps	Moderate growth 10-15 ft.		Medium	Medium	Medium to high tolerance with some limb breakage.	Wide variety	White	Spring - summer	Supplies cover and food for wildlife. Highly glossy leaves with deeply impressed lateral veins. Trouble free as a natural shrub. Decorative red berries.
<b>Groundcovers</b>											
<b>Muhly Grass</b> <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	Coastal; Central	Coastal Strand; Marl and Wet Prairies	Fast growth 1 to 4 ft. in height and at least as wide.		Moderate to high	Moderate; tolerates brackish water or occasional inundation by salt water.	High	Wet to moist, seasonally inundated, without humus.	Purple inflorescence	Year-round	Muhly grass is one of Florida's loveliest of all ornamental bunchgrasses.

# Groundcovers Continued

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<b>Porterweed</b> <i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>	All	Marl Prairie	Fast growth, about 1-3 feet in height. Generally broader than tall.	○	High; does not require supplemental water once established.	Low; does not tolerate long-term flooding by salt or brackish water.	Medium	Moist, well-drained sandy or limestone soils, without humus	Blue or purple with a white center	Year-round	Larval host plant for Tropical Buckeye ( <i>Junonia genoveva</i> ) butterflies. Nectar plant for many species of butterflies.
<b>Spiderwort</b> <i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	Central; West	Baygall; Florida Scrub; Beyhead; Hammocks; Wet and Marl Prairie; Floodplain Swamp; Slough; Swale	Fast growth to 1.5 - 2 ft.	○◐	Low	Low; does not tolerate salt.	High; It is low to the ground and wind is not a problem.	Wide variety	Blue	Spring thru late autumn, most heavily in spring	Erect, grassy leaved perennial. Plants are nearly pest free, and easy to grow in a wide range of conditions.
<b>Tropical Sage</b> <i>Salvia coccinea</i>	All	Coastal Strand	Medium growth to 2 ft.	○	High; does not require supplemental water once established.	Low; does not tolerate long-term flooding by salt or brackish water.	High	Humus rich top layer with either moist, well-drained sandy or limestone soils	Red	All year southward.	Red sage is an easily grown wildflower with sweetly aromatic foliage and brilliant red flowers irresistible to butterflies and hummingbirds.
<b>Wild Petunia</b> <i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i>	All	Mesic Flatwoods	Medium growth to 6-15 inches	○◐	High	Low	High; It is low to the ground and wind is not a problem.	Extremely variable, from moist, shady sites, to dry areas in full sun.	Commonly bluish purple, but white and pink forms occur	Early spring and extending at least into late summer southward	Easy to grow in cultivation as long as it is provided with moist but well drained soil in bright light.
<b>Corky-Stemmed Passion Vine</b> <i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	All	Prairie and Rockland Hammock; Marl Prairie	Slow to moderate growth; tendrils and branching up to 2 ft. or more.	○◐	High; does not require any supplemental water once established.	Low to Medium; tolerates moderate amounts of salt wind and short periods of salt and brackish water without injury	High; If used as groundcover. When placed on a support such as a tree or trellis wind resistance will increase according to density of support and vine.	Humus-rich top layer with either moist, well-drained sandy or limestone soils	White-green; showy but very small	Year-round	Dark purple to black, juicy and sticky berry; Fruits can stain hard surfaces; Good butterfly larval food source; Can use as a ground cover or let climb as a vine.

○ Full sun  
◐ Partial sun  
● Shade



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