

Sawgrass Community Recommended Tree and Plant List - Last Update January 28, 2022

Want to see more butterflies and hummingbirds? Enjoy texture and color in the landscape? Want more shade to combat the summer heat? The objective of the following list of recommended plants and trees is to meet these goals and more. It is meant as an educational and informational tool to help homeowners in Sawgrass make choices that serve their creative needs as well as the needs of our natural environment. It has been shown that even the use of 30% native plants in a garden will dramatically serve to support the native pollinators and birds. As important is to AVOID using invasive or illegal plants (think Kudzu, "the vine that ate the south"), and we have listed some of those as well. So get out there and plant...then sit back and watch what happens!

Category (trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials)	COMMON NAME	Species (note: spp. means multiple variations of same species.)	Key Attribute(s)	Size at maturity (Growth rates vary)	Value to Ecosystem (Source of food? Shelter? Shade?)	Light Requirement s	Water Needs Once Established (High, Moderate, low)	Native or Florida Friendly
High Canopy Trees	High Canopy trees, also called shade trees, are huge trees with thick canopies or foliage coverings they offer shade and other benefits. Some well-known canopy trees include oaks, birches, elms, ashes and others.							
	FLORIDA (SUGAR) MAPLE	Acer saccharum/floribunda or Acer Rubrum (red)	Fall color	20 - 30 Feet	Food: pollinators, birds. Shade.	Full/Part Sun	Moderate	Native
	LIVE OAK	Quercus Virginiana	Iconic in the south. Evergreen (almost, sheds and replenishes leaves in spring)	40 - 80 Feet Tall x 40 - 100 Feet Wide	Food: pollinators, birds, squirrels. Shelter. Shade.	Full sun to part shade	Low to moderate	Native
	HIGH RISE OAK	Quercus Virginiana "high rise"	Smaller canopy.	40 Feet Tall x 25 Feet Wide	Food: pollinators, birds, squirrels. Shelter. Shade.	Full sun	Low to moderate	Native
	SAND LIVE OAK	Quercus Germanate	Smaller canopy. Forms thickets.	70 Feet	Food: pollinators, birds, squirrels. Shelter. Shade.	Part Shade	Low to moderate	Native
	SHUMARD OAK	Quercus shumardi	Evergreen, shade.	90 - 100 Feet	Food: pollinators, birds, squirrels. Shelter. Shade.	Part sun	Moderate	Native
	SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA	Magnolias grandiflora	Evergreen. Showy, fragrant flowers.	60 - 80 Feet	Food: birds.	Part sun to part shade	Moderate	Native
	CAROLINA WILLOW	Salicacea	Interesting bark and good for mitigating bank erosion.	40 feet	Shoreline stablization. Food: Pollinators	Sun	High	Native
	BASKET OAK	Quercus michauxii	Great shade and habitat tree.	50-60 feet	Food: serves a large variety of butterflies, birds and mammals. Offers shelter, shade	Sun to part sun	Moderate to High	Native
	HICKORY	Hicoria floridana	Shade and habitat tree.	60-80 feet	Food, shelter, shade	Sun to part sun	Moderate	Native
	LOBLOLLY PINE	Pinus taeda	Good windbreak. Fast growing.	50 - 80 Feet	Food: birds, squirrels. Shelter. Shade.	Full Sun	Moderate	Native
	LONGLEAF PINE	Pinus Palustris	Dappled shade.	60 - 125 Feet	Food: birds, squirrels. Shelter. Shade.	Full Sun	Low to moderate	Native
	BALD CYPRESS	Taxodium distichum	Fall color. Adaptable to wet or dry areas.	40 - 50 Feet	Food: birds, squirrels. Shelter. Shade.	Full sun to part shade	Adaptable	Native
	SYCAMORE	Platanus Occidentalis	Fall color. Interesting bark.	75 - 90 Feet	Shade.	Full Sun	Moderate	Native
	FLORIDA ELM	Ulmus Americana var. floradana	Great shade and habitat tree.	50 Feet	Food: birds, squirrels, pollinators. Shelter. Shade.	Full sun	Moderate	Native

Non-Canopy Trees								
Also known as low-canopy, many of these trees can function as understory trees. Trees in this category are generally smaller in height and girth at maturity but can still provide some shade.								
	MYRTLE OAK	Quercus Myrtifolia	Hurricane resistant	5 – 30 Feet	Food: pollinators, birds.	Sun to Part Shade	Low to moderate	Native
	LITTLE GEM MAGNOLIA	Magnolia grandiflora	Showy flowers, slow-growing	40 – 50 Feet	Food: birds.	Sun to Part Shade	Moderate	Native
	AMERICAN HOLLY	Ilex X opaca	Red berries in the fall	40 – 50 feet	Food: birds	Full sun/Part sun	Moderate	Native
	EAST PALATKA HOLLY	Ilex X attenuata	Red berries in the fall	25 - 35 Feet	Food: birds	Full sun/Part sun	Moderate	Native
	YAUPON HOLLY	Ilex X vomitoria	Red berries in the fall	15 - 25 Feet	Food: birds	Full sun/Part sun	Moderate	Native
	EASTERN RED CEDAR	Juniperus Virginiana	Good natural screen and windbreak.	40 Feet	Food: birds.	Sun to Part Shade	Low	Native
	DAHOON HOLLY	Ilex X Cassine	Red berries in the fall	20 - 30 Feet	Food: birds.	Full sun/Part sun	Moderate	Native
	CHAPMANS OAK	Quercus Chapmanii	Fall color	3 – 5 Feet	Food: pollinators, birds.	Full sun	Low to moderate	Native
	SWEETBAY MAGNOLIA	Magnolia Virginian	Lemon scented flowers and bay scented leaves. Hurricane resistant.	40 feet	Food: butterflies, birds.	Part shade to shade	High	Native
Accent trees								
Small trees act like bright, beautiful arrows that point out and accentuate landmarks in your yard . Designers call them accent trees to differentiate them from shade or screening trees. An accent tree is usually deciduous because these tend to offer the best flowers and fall leaf color.								
	EASTERN RED BUD	Ceris canadensis	Pink flowers in the spring	20 - 30 Feet	Food: pollinators, birds.	Full sun/Part sun	Moderate	Native
	COASTAL PLAIN WILLOW	Salix Caroliniana	Stabilize pond embankments	15– 35 Feet	Food: butterflies. Shelter.	Full sun/part sun	High	Native
	FLORIDA ANISE TREE	Illicium floradaxum	Spring flowers, evergreen, fragrant	10 – 15 Feet	None/Ornamental only	Part sun/part shade	Moderate	Native
	BOTTLE BRUSH	Callistemon Mont	Showy red flowers	25 Feet	Food: pollinators, hummingbirds.	Full sun	Low	Florida friendly
	CHASTE	Vitexagnus-castus	Purple flowers	10 -15 Feet	Food: insects, birds.	Sun to Part Shade	Moderate	Florida friendly
	CRÉPE MYRTLE	Lagerstroemia ssp.	Summer blooms	20 - 30 Feet	None/Ornamental only	Full sun	Moderate	Florida friendly
Palms								
Palms are not trees but are large woody herbs. This classification makes sense because their close relatives include grasses, bamboos, bananas, and sedges. Plant sparingly as use of canopy trees is much more environmentally savvy.								
	EVERGLADES OR PAUROTIS PALM	Acoelorrhaphe wrightii	Interesting specimen plant	25 Feet		Sun/Part Sun	High	Native
	CABBAGE PALM (STATE TREE)	Sable Palmetto	Salt tolerant	65 Feet	Food: Pollinators (if allowed to bloom); birds (if not trimmed before seed ripens and falls)	Sun/Part Shade	Low	Native
	QUEEN PALM							
	RIBBON PALM	Livistona decora	Accent plant	30 Feet	None	Sun/ part sun	Moderate	Florida friendly
	MADAGASCAR COCONUT PALM	Beccariopheonx alfredii	Only coconut palm that can survive in this area	30 Feet	None	Sun	Low	Florida friendly
	CANARY PALM	Phoenix canariensis	Cold hardy	50 – 60 Feet	Food: pollinators	Full sun	Moderate	Florida friendly

Aquatic Plants	Plants that have adapted to living in aquatic environments. They grow in or near water and are either emergent, some urgent, or floating. In lakes and rivers they provide cover for fish, substrate for a aquatic invertebrates, produce oxygen, an act as food for some fish and wildlife. Aquatic plants also help purify the waters in which they grow.							
BLUE FLAG IRIS	Iris hexagona savannarum	May/June blooms	3 - 4 Feet	Food: pollinators. Shelter.	Full sun to part shade	Littoral Zone	Native	
FRAGRANT WATERLILY	Nymphaea odorata	Visual interest and fragrant blooms.	Spreading	Shade/Shelter for marine life.	Full sun/Part sun	Shallow depths	Native	
PICKEREL WEED	Pontederia cordata	Purple flowers on stalks Erosion protection.	3 Feet	Food: pollinators, birds.	Full sun/Part sun	Littoral Zone	Native	
GOLDEN CANA LILY	Canna flaccida	Long blooming yellow flowers.	2 - 6 Feet	Food: pollinators	Full sun/Part sun	Littoral Zone to Bank Slope	Native	
DUCK POTATO (BROADLEAF ARROWHEAD)	Sagittaria latifolia	Showy white flowers.	2 Feet	Food: pollinators, waterfowl.	Full sun/Part sun	Littoral Zone	Native	
SAND SPIKE RUSH	Eleocharis cellulosa & interstincta	Great for muddy banks. Cover area and prevent erosion.	1 -2 Feet	Food: pollinators, waterfowl. Shelter.	Full Sun	Littoral Zone	Native	
SPATTERDOCK	Nuphar lutea	Can get wild.	Spreading	Shade/Shelter for marine life.	Full Sun	Shallow depths	Native	
Shrubs	A Shrub is a small to medium sized perennial woody plant with persistent with the stems above the ground. Shrubs can be a deciduous or evergreen. They are distinguish from trees by their multiple stems and shorter height.							
SAW PALMETTO SILVER OR GREEN	Serena repens cinerea	Ground cover/low hedge in groups	2 - 3' tall	Food and shelter for birds	Sun/part shade	Moderate	Native	
MRS SHILLERS DELIGHT (dwarf)	Viburnum obovatum, dwarf	Clusters of white flowers	3'	Food: birds	Sun/part shade	Moderate	Native	
PRIVET SENNA	Senna ligustrum	Yellow flowering	3 - 8'	Butterfly host	Sun	Moderate	Native	
FLAME AZALEA	Rhododendron Austrinum	Fragrant spring flowers	6 - 10'	Food: hummingbirds and butterflies	Part sun/part shade	Moderate	Native	
SIMPSONS STOPPER/TWINBERRY	Myrcianthes fragrans	Fragrant flowers	5 - 10'	Food: hummingbirds, birds and butterflies	Sun/part shade	Low	Native	
WALTERS VIBURNUM	Viburnum Obovatum	Sweet flowers trim for hedge	10' if not trimmed	Food:Birds/butterflies	Sun/part shade	Low	Native	
AMERICAN BEAUTY BERRY	Calli carpa Americana	Purple berries in fall	3 - 8'	Food: birds	Part shade	Moderate	Native	
FIREBUSH	Hamellia patens	Flowers spring through fall.	6 - 12'	Food: hummingbirds and butterflies	Part sun	Moderate	Native	
WAX MYRTLE	Myrica cerifera	Use as specimen or screen	10 - 20'	Food: birds	Sun to part shade	Moderate	Native	
FALSE INDIGO	Amorpha fruticosa	Flowering hedge	6 - 10'	Food: hummingbirds and butterflies	Sun	Moderate	Native	
GLOSSY ABELIA "KALEIDOSCOPE"	ABELIA x grandiflora	Can be trimmed as hedge or allowed to trail. Evergreen with spring through	Up to 6' x 6'	Food: pollinators, birds. Attracts hummingbirds	Part sun/part shade	Moderate	Florida friendly	
FASHION AZALEA	Rhododendron "Fashion"	Late June profuse flowers	Up to 5' x 4'	Attracts butterflies	Part sun/part shade	Moderate	Florida friendly	
TALL YEW PODOCARPUS	Podocarpus macrophylous	Non-invasive tall hedge	10' to 30' tall	Food and shelter for birds and butterflies	Sun/part shade	Low	Florida friendly	
YEW PODOCARPUS	Podocarpus macrophylus dwarf	Non-invasive low hedge	3' tall	Food and shelter for birds and butterflies	Sun/part shade	Low	Florida friendly	
SWEET VIBURNUM	Viburnum odoratissium	Sweet flowers trim for hedge.	6 - 25' tall	Food: birds	Sun/part shade	Moderate	Florida friendly	
AWABUKI VIBURNUM	Viburnum odoratissium	Sweet flowers trim for hedge.	18" tall	Food: birds	Sun/part shade	Moderate	Florida friendly	
SANDANKWA VIBURNUM	Viburnum suspensum	Hedge and screen	6' tall	None	Sun/shade	Moderate	Florida friendly	

	INDIAN HAWTHORNE	Rhaphinoleps spp.	Spring flowers	3 -6'	Food: birds	Sun/part shade	Moderate	Florida friendly
	THRYALLIS	Galphimia glauca	Yellow flowers spring through fall	3-6'	Butterflies	Part sun	Moderate	Florida friendly
	SHEL GINGER VARIGATED	Alpina zero bet verigata	Good for shady garden	4 - 8'	None	Shade	Moderate	Florida friendly
	SPLIT LEAF PHILODENDRON	Philodendron selloum	Accent shrub	6 -12'	None	Part shade	Moderate	Florida friendly
	PLUMBEGO	Plumbego auriculate	Spring through fall blue flowers	4 - 8'	Butterflies	Part sun/part shade	Moderate	Florida friendly
	JAPANESE PRIVET	Ligustrum japonicum	Hedge	8 - 15'	Food: birds		Moderate	Florida friendly
	SHEFFLERA, DWARF	Shefflera arborcola	Accent shrub	5 - 6'	None	Part sun/part shade	Low	Florida friendly
	BURFORD HOLLY, DWARF	Ilex cornutu burfordii, dwarf	Used as medium hedge	4 - 6'	Food: pollinators and birds	Part sun/part shade	Low	Florida friendly
	YAUPON HOLLY, DWARF	Ilex vomatoria nana	Dwarf variety with no fruit	4 - 7'	None	Part sun	Low	Florida friendly
	FIREBUSH, DWARF	Hamellia patens compacta	Flowers spring through fall	4'	Food: hummingbirds and butterflies	Sun/part sun	Moderate	Florida friendly
	CRINUM LILLY	Crinum spp.	Specimen plant	3 - 5'	None	Part sun/part shade	Moderate	Florida friendly
	BRODIE JUNIPER	Juniperus Virginiana "Brodie"	Evergreen cone tree shape	12 - 15'	None	Sun	Low	Florida friendly
Ground cover	Ground cover is defined as any plant that grows over an area of ground, providing protection from erosion and drought It can be used to inhibit weeds and to conceal bare earth in place of mulch.							
	BEACH/DUNE SUNFLOWERS	Helianthus debilis	Fast growing, durable plant with many yellow flowers.	1' tall x 4' spread	Attracts butterflies and birds	Sun	Low	Native
	CRINUM LILLY	Zamia floridana	Exotic native, low palm	2 to 4' tall x 3 to 5' spread	Attracts butterflies	Part sun/part shade	Low	Native
	JASMINE	Trachelospermum asiaticum	Keep trimmed to 1 foot if used as ground cover. May also be trained on trellis.	Varies.	Attracts pollinators if allowed to bloom.	Part sun/part shade	Low	Florida friendly
	CRINUM LILLY	Cyrtomium falcatum	Evergreen ground cover great for shady spots.	1' x 3'	Shelter	Part shade/shade	Moderate	Florida friendly
	LIRIOPE	Liriope mucari	Excellent border plant.	1' tall x 2' spread		Part sun/ part shade	Moderate	Florida friendly
Ornamental flowering shrubs and perennials	Ornamental plants are grown for their display of aesthetic features including flowers, leaves, scent, texture, stem, bark and form. Perennials are simply plants that have the potential to live for <u>more</u> than two years in the landscape. (Perennials as compared to: annuals, which typically last one season; and biennials, which typically have a two year life cycle.)							
	BLACK EYED SUSAN	Rudbeckia, spp.	Summer through fall blooms.	1' tall	Attracts pollinators.	Sun	Low to moderate	Native
	AMERICAN BEAUTY BERRY	Calli carpa Americana	Summer blooms and beautiful clusters of purple berries in fall.	3 to 6 feet tall x 3 to 4 feet wide	Food: pollinators and birds. Shelter	Part sun.	Moderate	Native
	RED KNOCKOUT ROSE	Rosa x spp.	Compact, colorful rose. No thorns.	3'	None.	Sun/part sun	Moderate.	Florida friendly
	DRIFT ROSE	Rosa x drift rose	Easy care, small shrub rose. Deadheading not required.	1.5' tall x 2' wide	None	Sun/part sun	Moderate	Florida friendly
	OLEANDER	Nerium oleander	Poisonous in all forms. Grow at your own risk.	15' tall x 10' wide	None	Full sun/part shade	Moderate	Florida friendly
OLEANDER, DWARF	Nerium oleander dwf.	Poisonous in all forms. Grow at your own risk.	15' tall x 10' wide	None	Full sun/part shade	Moderate	Florida friendly	

	BLUE DAZE	Evolvulus glomertus	Continuous blue flowers. Plants may last up to 3 years.	1- 2' tall and wide		Sun/part sun	Moderate	Florida friendly
	LILY OF THE NILE, BIG BLUE	Agapanthus x spp.	Large, round blooms on flower stalks in spring	2' tall plant with 3' flower stalk.	Attracts hummingbirds	Part sun/part shade	Moderate	Florida friendly
	AFRICAN IRIS	Dietes vegata, spp.	Main bloom in spring, sporadic blooming in summer and fall.	3' tall and clumping	None	Sun/part shade	Moderate	Florida friendly
	BOTTLEBRUSH, RED	Calistemon citrinus "Ili John"	Provides bright flowers in late fall	3' x 3'	Hummingbirds	Sun	Moderate	Florida friendly
	BIRD OF PARADISE	Strelitzia Regina	Grow in protected area. Some specimens may grow to 15 feet.	3 to 5' tall x 4' wide	None.	Sun	Moderate	Florida friendly
	GIANT APOSTLES IRIS	Neomareca saerula Regina	Purple iris flowering perennial	3 - 4'	None	Sun/part sun	Low to moderate	Florida friendly
	HYDRANGEA	Hydrangea spp.	Large flowers in summer. Multiple varieties and bloom times available. Note: oak leaf hydrangea is a native.	Varies by variety. 3' to 10'	None	Morning sun	Moderate	Florida friendly
	VERMILIONAIRE OR CIGAR PLANT	Cuphea spp.	Small red flowers all season and attracts hummingbirds and butterflies	3'	Food : hummingbirds and pollinators	Part sun/ part shade	Moderate	Florida friendly
	LOROPETALUM "purple plum"	Loropetalum chinensis	Can be used as a specimen or border plant or trained on an espalier. May get leggy, keep trimmed.	Up to 4'	Attracts pollinators.	Part sun/part shade	Moderate	Florida friendly
Ornamental Grasses	These are grasses grown as ornamental plants and provide all season aesthetic value. They bring striking linear form, texture, color, motion and sound to a landscape.							
	PINK MUHLY	Muhlenbergia Capillaras	Ornamental	3 - 4'	Food for native butterflies	Full sun	Low	Native
	FAKAHATCHEE	Tripsacum dactyloides	Ornamental	4 - 6'	Food for native butterflies	Full/part sun	Moderate	Native
	ELLIOTTS LOVE GRASS	Eragrostis eliottii	Ornamental	1 - 3'	Shelter	Sun	Low	Native
Vines	A vine is a plant whose stem requires support and which climbs by tendrils or twining or creeps along the ground. Vines are critical to our environment and have a place both in our landscape and in naturalized areas. Most of the butterfly species we have in Sawgrass depend on our native vines in order to thrive. Be mindful of wild areas and let vines like Virginia Creeper grow naturally as they are a source of food for many of our native butterflies.							
	CONFEDERATE JASMINE	Trachelospermum	Fragrant flowers. Non- invasive vine. May also be trained on a trellis.	Up to 10 feet	Attracts pollinators.	Full sun/part shade	Low	Florida friendly
	BOUGAINVILLEA	Bougainvillea glabra	Flowering vine. Protect from hard frost or freeze.	8' to 20 ' tall x up to 20' wide	None.	Sun	Low	Florida friendly
	PASSION FLOWER (The purple is native.)	Passiflora incarnata	Exquisite flowers!	Plant 6 feet apart. Trim vigorously as needed.	Food: butterflies	Full/Part Sun	Moderate	Native
	CORAL HONEYSUCKLE	Lonicera sempervirens	Non-invasive. Train as shrub or ground cover.	Plant 3 feet apart and away from other plants.	Food: Hummingbirds, butterflies and songbirds.	Full/Part Sun	Moderate	Native
	FLORIDA FLAME VINE	Pyrostegia venusta	Fiery show of flowers in spring. Fast growing.	Plant 6 feet apart. Trim vigorously as needed.	Hummingbirds	Full sun/part shade	Moderate	Native

Sawgrass Community HARMFUL Tree and Plant List – List Update October 2021

Non-native and Invasive species
 (Note: not all non-native plants are invasive, only those that cause harm to the environment)

The National Park Service defines a invasive species as non-native species that causes harm to the environment, economy, or human, animal, or plant health (**Executive Order 13751**). Below lists a few of the most harmful plant species in our local area. For a complete list please click on the following link for the Florida exotic pest plant council.
[Add link](#)

MEXICAN PETUNIA	Ruellia simplex							
BOSTON FERN	Nephrolepis cordifolia							
ASPARAGUS FERN	Asparagus aethiopicus							
LATANA	Lantana camera	There is a non-invasive variety of this plant. Please seek that out if you want to plant it.						
WILD TARO	Colocasia esculenta							
GOLDEN BAMBOO	Phyllostachys aurea							
HEAVENLY BAMBOO NANDINA	Nandina domestica							
GOLDEN RAIN TREE	Koelreuteria elegans							
MIMOSA TREE	Albizia julibrissin							
JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE	Lonicera japonica							
CORAL ARDISIA	Ardisia Renata							
SILVER THORN	Elaeagnus pungens							
WEDEILIA	Sphagneticola trilobata							
CROWN GRASS	Paspalum quadrifarium							

ILLEGAL TO PLANT IN FLORIDA

Some invasive plants are so problematic, an individual propagating, transporting or selling them may be subject to fines from the Florida Department of Agriculture and consumer services. The most common prohibitive plants are listed below. If you are growing any of these, or see them in the landscape, immediate removal and remediation should be a top priority.

JAPENESE CLIMBING FERN	Lygodium japonicum							
AIR POTATO	Dioscorea bulbifera							
BRAZILIAN PEPPER	Schinus terebinthifolius							
POPCORN TREE, CHINESE TALLOW	Sapium sebiferum							