

Easy and Beautiful Landscaping Using Florida Native Plants



As we enter spring in Florida, you're probably not looking forward to spending a lot of time outdoors, sweating to maintain your home's landscaping. From cutting and irrigating your lawn, to trimming your shrubs and replacing your annual flowers, it's hard work and not cheap. On top of that, the fertilizers and pesticides used to maintain a manicured lawn can cause serious environmental damage.

What can a Florida homeowner do?

Let me tell you a secret that will not only save you time, effort, and money, but is also great for the environment – **Florida's native plants!**

"Florida native plants" refer to species that are acclimated to Florida's climate, precipitation rates and soil conditions which make them thrive and have long-lasting blooms with a fraction of the maintenance time and costs. There are significantly reduced costs compared to a typical landscape where annuals are replaced 3-4 times per year, large areas of grass are mowed frequently, and which require insecticides and fertilizers that are bad for the environment, birds, butterflies and other pollinators.

Native plants, on the other hand, help support native insects, which in turn provide food for birds and other wildlife by supplying the natural food and nesting sources they seek. With native plants, you welcome the caterpillars that grow into our native butterflies!

Getting started with native plants is not difficult, and one does not need a large area to make a difference – even small groups of native plants in a landscape can multiply the number of birds, butterflies, and pollinators in your yard. Even container gardening on a patio can provide results. Reducing grass areas and adding planting beds for native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers will reduce lawn maintenance while providing ecological benefits.

If you plan a visit to Green Isle Gardens native plant nursery the staff will assist you with selecting the proper native plants for your yard to create a high impact landscape.

To learn more about native plants and to contribute to balancing the preservation of native ecosystems with development, join the pine lily chapter of the florida native plant society

Benefits include a quarterly magazine, monthly newsletter, tips for landscape design, lists of native plants and links to videos

Check out the Florida Native Plant Society's list of plants: <https://www.fnps.org/plants>

Find local nurseries that sell native plants here: <https://www.plantrealflorida.org/>

Join the Osceola county chapter (Pine lily) of FNPS for informative lectures/webinars/hikes:

<https://pinelily.fnpschapters.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/PineLilyChapterFNPS/>

Some native plants that are great for enhancing your yard are:



Muhly Grass



Blanket Flower



Scarlet Sage



Beautyberry



Calamint



Oak Leaf
Hydrangea



Yaupon Holly



Simpson's Stopper

Another action you can take is to remove invasive non-native plants that destroy our Florida environment. **Some common invasive plants used in landscaping are:**



Heavenly Bamboo



Sword Fern



Mexican Petunia



Tradescantia palladia



Queen Palm



Lantana

We can all make a difference for a better landscape and environment by planting with Florida native plants!