

## Why plant native?



Florida native plants are those which have grown naturally in Florida for thousands of years-before Europeans arrived and pioneers started cultivating plants. Why is this important?

Florida's natural environment consists of diverse ecosystems, including beach dunes, mangroves, hardwood hammocks, pine flatwoods and freshwater marshes. These ecosystems provide us with clean air, drinking water, stable soils, flood protection, recreation and natural beauty. Each ecosystem is sustained by a unique collection of Florida native plants, adapted over thousands of years to the soils, light conditions, water flow and wildlife of the particular ecosystem.

Within each ecosystem, native plants are critical sources of food, shelter and nesting area for wildlife. Animals from birds to the Florida black bear depend on our native plants. Even native butterflies lay their eggs on only native plants.

Florida has more threatened and endangered native plant species than any state other than California and Hawaii. To preserve our way of life, and Florida's wildlife, we must protect Florida's native plants. (From Native Plant Society brochure)



**Why Green Space?** As our island community has grown, our green space has diminished. To offset this negative impact, we offer positive ways to preserve our fragile ecosystem. By using native, drought tolerant plants appropriate to our barrier island environment, conserving water, providing wildlife habitat, and maintaining the tree canopy, we all can contribute to the preservation of green space for ourselves today and those who follow tomorrow.

## The Gardens

The Native Plant Demonstration Garden at the Ferry Landing and Native Plant Restoration at the Firehouse are sponsored by P.I.E. Environmental while the Butterfly and Florida Friendly Gardens at the Firehouse are sponsored by Islandscapers Plant Enthusiasts. These two organizations are committed to preserving the environment and enhancing our island's natural beauty. We hope you and the wildlife with whom we share this island can find peace and pleasure in the Island Gardens.

**Welcome to our Island and Gardens!**

## PIE NATIVE PLANT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN AT THE LANDING

Whether you are coming or going, please take a moment to learn about and enjoy some of the many [Native, Florida Friendly and Butterfly Plants](#) that thrive on our unique and beautiful barrier island. This welcoming sight was created by volunteers from PIE Environmental, Islandscapers and residents who care about preservation, civic beautification and giving back to an island that has given so much to us. Plants were purchased with a Microgrant from the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program.

Learn and Enjoy!

### Trees

Florida Thatch Palm	small
Geiger Tree	orange flowers
Sabal Palm	large
Strangler Fig	next to Sabal Palm
Sweet Acacia	fragrant yellow flowers, thorns

### Feature

### Shrubs

Beauty Berry	pink flowers, purple fruit
Coontie	orange brown seed cones
Myrsine	small green flowers on branch
Necklace Pod	yellow flowers
Prostrate Porterweed	blue flowers
Silver Buttonwood	silver foliage
Spanish Bayonette	white flowers
Wild Lantana	white flowers, purple berries
Wild Lime	fragrant yellow green flowers, thorns

### Herbaceous Plants

Beach Spider Lily	white flowers
Beach Sunflower	yellow flowers
Scorpion Tail	white flowers
Tropical Sage	red flowers, reseeds
Verbena, Beach	purple flowers

### Vines

Coral Honeysuckle	orange flowers
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### Grass

Fakahatchee	large
Muhly	turns pink in fall