

PIE Firehouse Native Plant Restoration List



Common Name	Code	Latin Name	Common Name	Code	Latin Name
Trees			Herbaceous Plants		
Florida Privet	N	Forestiera segregata	Blue curl	N	Trichostema dichotomum
Fiddlewood	N	Citharexylum fruticosum	Cactus, Prickly Pear	N, G	Opuntia spp.
Gumbo Limbo	N	Bursera simaruba	Clover, scrub	N, G	Dalea feayi
Hercules Club	N, B	Erythrina herbacea	Dotted mint	N	Monarda pictata
Palm: Sabal	N, G	Sabal Palmetto	Gaillardia	N, B	Gaillardia pulchella
Palm: Washingtonian	F	Washingtonia robusta	Mistflower	N, B	Conoclinium coelestinum
Pine: Loblolly	N	Pinus taeda	Partidge Pea	N, G	Chamaecrista lineata
Pine: Longleaf	N	Pinus palustris	Rustweed	N	Polypremum procumbens
Pine: Slash	N	Pinus ellioti	Sida	N, B	Sida acuta
Seagrape	N, G	Coccoloba uvifera	Seaside Heliotrope	N, G	Heliotropium curassavicum
Strangler Fig	N	Ficus aurea	Scorpion tail	N, B, G	Heliotropium angiospermum
Southern Red Cedar	N	Juniperus virginian	Spanish Needles	N, B, G	Bidens alba
Wild Lime	N, B	Zanthoxylum fagara	Vines		
Weeping Yaupon Holly	N	Ilex vomitoria	Coral Bean	N	Erythrina herbacea
Shrubs			Coral Honeysuckle	N, B	Lonicera sempervirens
Beach Elder	N, G	Iva, spp.	Corkystem Passionvine	N, B	Passefora suberosa
Beauty Berry	N, G	Callicarpa Americana	Chaff flower	N	Alternanthera flavescens
Coontie	N	Zamia floridana	Greenbriar	N, G	Smilax auriculata
Golden Creeper	N, G	Ernodea littoralis	Poison Ivy	N, G	Toxicodendron eradicans
Lantana, Native	N,B,G	Lantana involucata	Virginia creeper	N, G	Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Marlberry	N, G	Adisia escallonioides	Grasses		
Myrsine	N	Rapanea punctata	Fakahatchee	N, G	Tripsacum dactyloides
Spanish Bayonet	N	Yucca aliofolia	Muhly	N, G	Muhlenbergia capillaris
Varnish leaf	N	Dodonaea viscosa	Sea Oats	N, G	Uniola paniculata
Wild Coffee	N, G	Psychotria nervosa			
Winged Sumac	N	Rhua copallina			

Plant Code: N=Native

F=Florida Friendly

B=Butterfly Attractor

G=Gopher Tortoise Forage



Gopher Tortoise



The **gopher tortoise** (*Gopherus polyphemus*) is a cold-blooded reptile that averages 25 cm (10 in.) long and 4 kg (9 lb.) in weight. They are extremely long-lived animals; estimates for wild tortoises range from 40 - 60 years. The gopher tortoise is federally and state protected as a **Threatened Species** and their range extends throughout Florida. The gopher tortoise is an obligate burrower with many adaptations for digging. The shell of the tortoise (and all turtles) is an outgrowth of the skeleton and is their major means of protection. When

the tortoise pulls his head completely into the shell and covers the openings with his limbs, there are very few predators, other than humans and dogs, that can harm him. Tortoises need undeveloped land with plenty of herbaceous food and room to dig their burrows. Another less obvious threat that is related to development is land fragmentation. Fences, buildings, roads, borrow pits, landfills, parking lots, and all other kinds of facilities break the natural habitat into pieces, resulting in fewer large parcels of land. It is difficult for a tortoise to go about its business without coming into contact with humans. Road mortality is believed to be one of the greatest causes of adult tortoise deaths.

But the greatest threat to the survival of the gopher tortoise is habitat destruction.

Gopher tortoises are primarily herbivorous, although they will eat bones from dead animals, presumably to get calcium. Their primary food sources are low-growing grasses and herbs. One important role in the ecosystem is to spread the seeds of many plants in its droppings.

The presence of a diversity of plant species is vital to the gopher tortoise health. As well as needing a variety of plants, tortoises at different times select certain parts of plants due to their varying requirements for specific nutrients or combination of chemicals. In addition to smell, sight also plays a role in plant selection. Bright yellow and deep red flowers and berries are often sought out by gopher tortoises. Main features of their burrow habitat include high, dry, sunny and sandy areas with some scrub cover. Thickets of tangled vines are necessary for protection just as numerous plant species are needed for forage material. In these ways we hope to provide for and preserve our Island gopher tortoise population.

GOPHER TORTOISE PREFERRED FORAGE SPECIES Plant Family and Specific Examples:

Grass Family	Almost all species of low, broad- leafed grasses
Aster Family	Asters, Spanish Needle, Beach Elder, Marsh Elder, Green Eyes
Legume Family	Milk Pea, Butterfly Pea, White Clover, Joint Vetch
Spurge Family	Beach Spurge, Beach Croton, Stinging Nettle
Vervain Family	Wild Sage or White Lantana, Native Porterweed.
Mustard Family	Sea Rocket
Grape Family	Virginia Creeper, Wild Grape
Nightshade Family	Ground Cherry
Borage Family	Scorpion Tail
Coco Plum Family	Cocoa Plum, Gopher Apple
Smilax Family	Greenbriar
Cactus Family	Prickly Pear Cactus

See reverse for Gopher Tortoise forage plants at the Firehouse

