



Native Plants that Attract Wildlife: Central Florida¹

Craig N. Huegel²

Gardening for wildlife is rapidly increasing in popularity. Home landscapes can help offset the habitat loss that occurs in urban areas. This allows a greater variety of wildlife to live near us.

Plants are the key to attracting wildlife to your property. Your plant choices and your landscape design both will determine what animals you will attract. A yard landscaped with wildlife in mind need not appear "wild." A more traditional landscape design also can have great benefits.

There are several considerations to make in gardening for wildlife. A very important one is your choice of plants. In most cases, wildlife do best in landscapes with plants native to the region in which they live. These plants often are better at providing the food and cover that is required. When used in the proper location, naive plants also require less attention and water.

There are a great many native trees and shrubs to choose from in Florida. Every plant has some value to wildlife, but some are better than others. Tables 1, 2 and 3 list native Florida trees and shrubs that provide both food and cover. Not all of these are native to central Florida, but all of them can be grown

here. Also, many of these are not available from a wide variety of commercial sources at this time.

This list is intended to be as thorough as possible, but it is not complete. Information for wildlife with specific requirements such as hummingbirds (*Florida's Hummingbirds*, SS-WIS-21) and butterflies (*Butterfly Gardening in Florida*, SS-WIS-22) is available from a variety of other sources.

Plants listed as "tall trees" (greater than 30 feet at maturity) often are used best as a canopy (Table 1). These trees also produce shade. The "small trees" (30 feet or less) can be used below the canopy when they are shade-tolerant or as a low canopy in areas where large trees are not desired or appropriate (Table 2). Shrubs are used best near trees. Shrubs (Table 3) here are defined as woody plants that have a bushy form. Shade-tolerant shrubs can be planted directly beneath the canopy. Others can be planted at the edge of the shade zone so that they receive ample sunlight.

Some plants produce either male **or** female flowers. These are known as dioecious. Other plants produce both male and female flowers. These are called monoecious. Monoecious plants can set fruit

1. This document is SSWIS09, one of a series of the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date July, 1999. Revised September, 2002. Reviewed September, 2002. Visit the EDIS Web Site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

2. Craig N. Huegel, urban wildlife extension scientist, Wildlife and Range Sciences Department; Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611-0304.

by themselves. For dioecious plants, you need to have both sexes nearby and only the female plants produce fruit. Because fruit production is important to a wildlife landscape, be aware of this when you make your plant choices. Consider the size of the fruit because large fruit may be difficult for small wildlife to use. Also be aware of the season when the fruit ripens and try to have food available throughout the year.

The best wildlife landscapes require a minimum amount of care. Frequent watering, fertilizing, spraying and pruning disturbs animals and limits their use of the area. Use plants that are adapted to existing growing conditions.

It also is important that your landscape be attractive to you. The column for aesthetics lists some characteristics of the plants that may be of interest to people. Balance your desires with the needs of the wildlife you wish to attract.

For more information on wildlife gardening contact the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (620 S. Meridian St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600) for a copy of *Planting a Refuge for Wildlife* or your local County Cooperative Extension Service office.

The following is a key to the headings used in the tables:

1. **Common name:** The name most commonly used; others used in parentheses
2. **Scientific name:** The botanical name most commonly used; others used in parentheses
3. **Hgt:** Average height in feet of mature plant; plants may grow taller after many years under ideal conditions
4. **Leaf type:** (D) Deciduous, (S) Semi-deciduous, (E) Evergreen
5. **Sex:** (D) Dioecious - male and female flowers on separate trees, (M) Monoecious - male and female flowers on same tree
6. **Moisture:** Preferred soil moisture for best growth

7. **Light:** (S) Full sun, (P) Partial sun, (Sh) Shade

8. **pH:** Soil pH preferred: (Av) Wide pH tolerance, (Ac) Acid, (Al) Alkaline

9. **Salt:** Degree of salt tolerance: (H) High, (M) Medium, (N) Low to none, (U) Unknown

10. **Wildlife use:** Major uses for wildlife

11. **Aesthetics:** Aesthetic considerations

The following is a key to the footnotes used in the tables:

1. *Indicates plants that will suffer damage from severe or prolonged freezing temperatures.
2. **Oaks are classified as either black (B) or white (W). White oak acorns often are sweeter and more preferred by wildlife than black oak acorns.

Table 1.

Table 1. Native Tall Trees for Central Florida							
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Moisture	pH	Salt	
Florida maple	<i>Acer saccharum floridanum</i> (<i>Acer barbatum</i>)	50	D	Moist	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds used mostly by squirrels							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Good fall color, stately shade tree							
Boxelder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	60	D	Moist	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds used mostly by squirrels							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Fairly short-lived, weak wood							
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	80	D	Moist	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds used mostly by squirrels							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Very good fall color, red flowers and fruits in spring							
Water hickory	<i>Carya aquatics</i>	90	D	Moist	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Nuts are important wildlife food							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Nuts bitter, narrow leaves and crown							
Scrub hickory	<i>Carya floridana</i>	30	D	Dry	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Nuts are important wildlife food							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Nuts edible, tree often multi-trunked and crooked							

Table 1.

Table 1. Native Tall Trees for Central Florida							
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Moisture	pH	Salt	
Pignut hickory	<i>Carya glabra</i>	70	D	Avg	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Nuts are important wildlife food							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Good fall color, nuts bitter, good shade tree							
Mockernut hickory	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	60	D	Avg	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Nuts are important wildlife food							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Nuts edible, good shade tree							
Sugarberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	80	D	Moist	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Fruits used by many birds							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Excellent shade tree							
Flowering dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	40	D	Moist-Avg	Ac-Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Fruits used by many birds							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Very showy white flower bracts							
Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	60	D	Avg	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Fruit attractive to opossums and other mammals							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Edible fruit, attractive flowers							

Table 1.

Table 1. Native Tall Trees for Central Florida							
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Moisture	pH	Salt	
Willow bastic*	<i>Dipholis salicifolia</i>	40	E	Avg	Av	U	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small purple fruits used by some birds							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Young branches rusty hairy							
White ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	80	D	Moist	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds used by many birds, good seed set only every 2-3 years							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Important timber and shade tree							
Green ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	65	D	Moist	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds used by many birds, good seed set annually							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Important limber and shade tree							
Pumpkin ash	<i>Fraxinus profunda</i>	90	D	Wet	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds used by many birds							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Good shade tree for low moist areas							
Water locust	<i>Gleditsia aquatica</i>	60	D	Wet	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds eaten by mammals and quail, excellent nesting cover							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Very thorny, "beans" can be messy after they fall							
Dahoon holly	<i>Ilex cassine</i>	40	E	Moist	Av	M	

Table 1.

Table 1. Native Tall Trees for Central Florida						
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Moisture	pH	Salt
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Berries excellent food for many wildlife						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Masses of red berries on female trees						
American holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	40	E	Avg	Av	M
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Berries excellent food for many wildlife						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Bright red berries and shiny foliage, many cultivars offered						
Southern red cedar	<i>Juniperus silicicola</i>	50	E	Avg	Av-AI	H
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small fruits used by birds, excellent nesting cover						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Very adaptable long-lived tree						
Sweet gum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	50	D	Avg	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds of limited use to some birds and mammals						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Good fall color, spiny seed balls						
Southern magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	80	E	Avg	Av	M
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Red seeds used by variety of wildlife						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Large aromatic white flowers						
Sweet bay	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	60	E	Moist	Ac-Av	N

Table 1.

Table 1. Native Tall Trees for Central Florida						
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Moisture	pH	Salt
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small red seeds used by variety of wildlife						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Small aromatic white flowers, tree less stately than above						
Red mulberry	<i>Morus rubra</i>	50	D	Avg	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Fruits highly prized by variety of wildlife						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Fruits edible, very "messy" tree as fruits stain property						
Water tupelo	<i>Nyssa aquatica</i>	80	D	Wet	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Dark purple fruit used by many birds and mammals, bee tree						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Good fall color						
Ogeechee lime	<i>Nyssa ogeche</i>	30	D	Wet	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: 1.5" bright red fruit used by large birds and mammals						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Best grown in permanently wet sites						
Black gum (Tupelo)	<i>Nyssa sylvatica biflora</i>	70	D	Moist	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Blue fruit eaten by many birds and mammals, bee tree						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Brilliant fall color						
Wild olive	<i>Osmanthus americana</i>	45	E	Avg	Ac-Av	M

Table 1.

Table 1. Native Tall Trees for Central Florida						
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Moisture	pH	Salt
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Fruits of limited use by birds/mammals						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Very fragrant small flowers						
Red bay	<i>Persea borbonia</i>	65	E	Moist	Av	M
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Purple fruit eaten by birds and squirrels						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Aromatic leaves can be used to season food						
Silk bay	<i>Persea humilis</i>	30	E	Dry	Av	M
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Purple fruit eaten by birds and squirrels						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Lower surface of aromatic leaves with copper colored hairs						
Swamp bay	<i>Persea palustris</i>	40	E	Moist	Av	M
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Purple fruit eaten by birds and squirrels						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Aromatic leaves and leaf stalks hairy						
Sand pine	<i>Pinus clausa</i>	70	E	Dry	Av	M
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds eaten by variety of wildlife						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Short-needled pine easily damaged by overwatering, often used as Christmas tree						
Slash pine	<i>Pinus elliotii</i>	90	E	Moist	Av	M
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds eaten by variety of wildlife						

Table 1.

Table 1. Native Tall Trees for Central Florida						
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Moisture	pH	Salt
Native Plant Aesthetics: Use south Florida variety (<i>P. e. densa</i>) for best results						
Spruce pine	<i>Pinus glabra</i>	90	E	Moist	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds used by variety of wildlife						
Native Plant Aesthetics: A "soft" needled pine for moist areas						
Longleaf pine	<i>Pinus palustris</i>	90	E	Avg	Ac-Av	M
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds eaten by variety of wildlife						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Stately, long-lived tree, with good disease resistance						
Pond pine	<i>Pinus serotina</i>	60	E	Wet	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds used by variety of wildlife						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Adapted to high and fluctuating water tables, irregular canopy						
Loblolly pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	90	E	Avg	Av	M
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Large seed crops used by variety of wildlife						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Fast-growing, long-needed pine but susceptible to insect and disease damage						
Planer elm	<i>Planera aquatica</i>	40	D	Wet	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds used by many wildlife						

Table 1.

Table 1. Native Tall Trees for Central Florida						
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Moisture	pH	Salt
Native Plant Aesthetics: Excellent tree for areas that frequently flood						
Cherry laurel	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	40	D	Avg	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Fruit used by many wildlife species						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Attractive flowers, may be pruned and used as a hedge						
Black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	80	D	Avg	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Very important food source, foliage poisonous to livestock						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Attractive flowers and good fall color						
Bluff oak (W)**	<i>Quercus austrina</i>	80	D	Avg	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns .5"						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Southern version of the white oak, leaves with elongate rounded lobes						
Southern red oak (B)	<i>Quercus faicata</i>	50	D	Avg	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns .5"						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Broad crowned, leaves with pointed lobes						
Cherrybark oak (B)	<i>Quercus faicata pagodifolia</i>	80	D	Moist	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns .5"						
Native Plant Aesthetics: A large attractive oak that survives periodic flooding						

Table 1.

Table 1. Native Tall Trees for Central Florida							
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Moisture	pH	Salt	
Turkey oak (B)	<i>Quercus laevis</i>	50	D	Dry	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns 1"							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Thrives in very poor soils, leaves with deep pointed lobes							
Laurel oak (B)	<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	80	S	Avg	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns .5", abundant							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Commonly used landscape tree, straight trunk with rounded crown							
Overcup oak (W)	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	80	D	Wet	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Large acorns (1"), heavy production only every 3-4 years							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Broad crowned tree, leaves long and narrow with irregular rounded lobes							
Swamp chestnut oak (W)	<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	90	D	Moist	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns 1-1.5"							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Leaves with numerous shallow rounded lobes							
Water oak (B)	<i>Quercus nigra</i>	80	D	Moist	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns .5"							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Attractive light bark, leaves spatula shaped							
Shumard oak (B)	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	70	D	Avg	Av	N	

Table 1.

Table 1. Native Tall Trees for Central Florida						
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Moisture	pH	Salt
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns .5-1"						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Broad, rounded crown, leaves with many deeply pointed lobes						
Post oak (W)	<i>Quercus stellata</i>	65	D	Avg	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns .5-1", good production only every 2-4 years						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Leaves 5-lobed, crucifix shaped						
Live oak (W)	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	45	E	Avg	Av	M
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Abundant acorns 1"						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Very broad crowned, long-lived shade tree						
Cabbage palm	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	70	E	Avg	Av	H
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Fruits important to many wildlife						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Florida state tree, very adaptable						
Pond cypress	<i>Taxodium ascendens</i>	100	D	Wet	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small seeds used by some birds and squirrels						
Native Plant Aesthetics: Small leaves closely pressed against stems						
Bald cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	100	D	Wet	Ac-Av	N

Table 1.

Table 1. Native Tall Trees for Central Florida							
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Moisture	pH	Salt	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small seeds used by some birds and squirrels							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Leaves spread away from stems, giving "leathery" appearance							
Florida tremo	<i>Trema micrantha</i>	60	E	Avg	Al	u	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small fruit used by some birds							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Short-lived "weedy" tree							
Winged elm	<i>Ulmus alata</i>	50	D	Avg	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds of minor use							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Corky "wings" on branches, open rounded crown							
Florida elm	<i>Ulmus americana floridana</i>	70	D	Avg	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds of minor use							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Excellent shade tree, graceful spreading form							
Cedar elm	<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	50	D	Moist	Av-Al	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds of minor use							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Branches often with corky "wings"							
*Indicates plants that will suffer damage from severe or prolonged freezing temperatures.							

Table 2.

Table 2. Native Small Trees for Central Florida									
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	pH	Salt		
Sweet acacia	<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	20	S	M	Avg	Av	M		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds inside "beans" used by large birds, nesting cover									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Bright yellow fragrant flower heads, used in perfume									
Red buckeye	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	20	D	M	Avg	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Buckeyes eaten by squirrels, flowers attract hummingbirds									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Red tubular flowers in spring, needs some shade									
Downy serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> (<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>)	30	D	M	Avg	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Berries highly prized by most wildlife									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Berries edible, bell-like white flowers in spring									
Pond apple*	<i>Annona glabra</i>	30	E	M	Wet	Av	M		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Large yellow "apples" mostly used by mammals									
Native Plant Aesthetics: 1" cream white to pale yellow flowers, leaves aromatic									
Devil's walking stick	<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	15	D	M	Moist	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Many purplish berries widely used by wildlife									

Table 2.

Table 2. Native Small Trees for Central Florida							
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	pH	Salt
Native Plant Aesthetics: Leaf stems with spines, fast grower, may spread by suckers							
Saffron plum*	<i>Bumelia celastrina</i>	15	E	M	Avg-Dry	Av	H
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Sweet black fruits used by birds, good nesting tree							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Thorny, fruits edible							
Gum bumelia	<i>Bumelia lanuginosa</i>	20	D	M	Avg	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small black fruits used by some birds, good nesting tree							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Leaf undersides dense wooly							
Buckthorn bumelia	<i>Bumelia lycioides</i>	20	D	M	Moist	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small black fruits used by some birds							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Leaves without hairs, no thorns							
Tough bumelia	<i>Bumelia tenax</i>	20	E	M	Dry	Av	M
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small black fruits used by some birds, tree forms are good nesting cover							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Thorny branches, often shrubby, leaf undersides with dense copper hairs							
Blue hornbeam (ironwood)	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	30	D	M	Ave	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds and catkins used by birds and squirrels							

Table 2.

Table 2. Native Small Trees for Central Florida							
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	pH	Salt
Native Plant Aesthetics: Excellent understory tree, trunk "muscled" in appearance							
Ashe chinquapin	<i>Castanea pumila</i>	20	D	M	Avg	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small chestnuts eaten by wide variety of wildlife							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Sweet nuts similar to American chestnut							
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	30	D	M	Avg	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Beans provide seeds for some birds							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Very showy pink-red flowers in spring							
Pygmy fringe tree	<i>Chionanthus pygmaeus</i>	6	D	D	Dry	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Purple fruits used by birds							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Profuse clusters of fragrant white flowers in spring, small and multitrunked							
Fringe tree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	30	D	D	Avg	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Purple fruits used by birds							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Profuse clusters of fragrant white flowers in spring, multitrunked							
Swamp dogwood	<i>Cornus foemina</i>	20	D	M	Wet	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Blue berries used by wide variety of birds							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Flat-topped clusters of small white flowers in spring							

Table 2.

Table 2. Native Small Trees for Central Florida									
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	pH	Salt		
May haw	<i>Crataegus aestivalis</i>	20	D	M	Moist-Avg	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Medium-sized pale-orange "haws" eaten by variety of wildlife, good nesting cover									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Small apple-like flowers in clusters, fruit makes fine-flavored jelly									
Cockspur haw	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> (<i>Crataegus pyracanthoides</i>)	25	D	M	Avg	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small green-dull red fruit eaten by variety of wildlife, good nesting cover									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Long thorns, small white flowers in clusters									
Summer haw	<i>Crataegus flava</i>	25	D	M	Dry	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Orange-red "haws" eaten by variety of birds and mammals, good nesting cover									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Thorns, twisted weeping branches, medium-sized flowers in small clusters									
Parsley haw	<i>Crataegus marshallii</i>	20	D	M	Moist	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small scarlet "haws" eaten by variety of wildlife, good nesting cover									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Finely cut leaves (similar to parsley) very attractive, small flowers in large clusters									
Littlehip haw	<i>Crataegus spathulata</i>	25	D	M	Avg	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small red "haws" eaten by variety of wildlife, good nesting cover									

Table 2.

Table 2. Native Small Trees for Central Florida							
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	pH	Salt
Native Plant Aesthetics: Long thorns, small flowers in clusters							
One-flowered haw	<i>Crataegus uniflora</i>	12	D	M	Avg	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small yellowish-green "haws", good nesting cover							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Numerous long thorns, small flowers usually not in clusters							
Green haw	<i>Crataegus viridis</i>	30	D	M	Moist	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small orange-red "haws" eaten by variety of wildlife, good nesting cover							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Largest of native hawthorns, branches largely spineless, small flowers in clusters							
Inkwood*	<i>Exothea paniculata</i>	30	E	D	Avg	Av	M
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small purple fruits used by birds							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Reddish flaky bark							
Pop ash	<i>Fraxinus caroliniana</i>	30	D	D	Wet	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds eaten by some birds and mammals							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Will tolerate shallow water for months							
Carolina silverbell	<i>Halesia caroliniana</i>	30	D	M	Avg	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Winged seeds used by some wildlife							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Very showy white bell-shaped flowers in spring							

Table 2.

Table 2. Native Small Trees for Central Florida									
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	pH	Salt		
Two-winged silverbell	<i>Halesia diptera</i>	25	D	M	Avg	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Winged seeds used by some wildlife									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Very showy white bell-shaped flowers in spring									
Little silverbell	<i>Halesia parviflora</i>	20	D	M	Avg	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Winged seeds used by some wildlife									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Very showy white bell-shaped flowers in spring									
Carolina holly	<i>Ilex ambigua</i>	20	D	D	Avg-Dry	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Abundant red fruit in early fall widely used by wildlife									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Abundant red fruit very colorful in landscape									
Large gallberry	<i>Ilex coriacea</i>	20	E	D	Wet	Ac-Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Nonpersistent purple fruit used late fall and early winter									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Dark fruit & shrubby appearance less eye-catching than most									
Possumhaw holly	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	30	D	D	moist	Ac-Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Orange-red fruit widely used late fall and winter									

Table 2.

Table 2. Native Small Trees for Central Florida									
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	pH	Salt		
Native Plant Aesthetics: Persistent fruit adds winter color on leafless branches									
Gallberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	6	E	D	Moist	Ac-Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Nonpersistent black fruit used in late fall and winter									
Native Plant Aesthetics: An open "bushy" tree, may produce runners									
Tawnyberry*	<i>Ilex krugiana</i>	30	E	D	Avg	Av	U		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Black fruit mature in summer									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Unique long-pointed leaf tips and fruit color									
Myrtle holly	<i>Ilex myrtifolia</i>	25	E	D	Moist	Ac-Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Red fruit widely used in late fall									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Similar to dahoon, but smaller leaves, winter color									
Scrub holly	<i>Ilex opaca arenicola</i>	15	E	D	Dry	Av	M		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Red fruit, but good fruit production variable									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Very similar to American holly with spiny leaves, attractive, but slow grower, very susceptible to root rot in all but well-drained soils									
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	25	D	D	Wet	Ac	N		

Table 2.

Table 2. Native Small Trees for Central Florida							
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	pH	Salt
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Very persistent red fruit widely used in winter							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Fruit color and foliage nice, used in holiday decorations							
Yaupon	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	25	E	D	Avg	Av	M
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Red fruit widely used late fall and winter							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Very adaptable, tolerant of pruning, good color							
Simpson stopper	<i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i>	25	E	M	Avg	Av	M
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Red berries used by many birds							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Small white fragrant flowers in spring, reddish flaky bark							
Lancewood	<i>Nectandra conacea</i>	30	E	M	Avg	Av	M
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Dark blue fruit used by some wildlife							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Small fragrant flower clusters in late spring							
Scrub olive	<i>Osmanthus megacarpa</i>	15	E	D	Dry	Av	M
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Large "olives" marginally used by some birds and mammals							
Native Plant Aesthetics: Small fragrant flowers, large evergreen leaves							
Eastern hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	25	D	M	Avg	Av	N
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Nutlets used by some birds and mammals							

Table 2.

Table 2. Native Small Trees for Central Florida								
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	pH	Salt	
Native Plant Aesthetics: Fruiting structure looks similar to hops, light flaky bark								
American plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	30	D	M	Avg	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Medium-sized plums mostly used by mammals								
Native Plant Aesthetics: Showy white flowers in spring, plums used for jelly								
Chickasaw plum	<i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	20	D	M	Avg	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Reddish plums (.5" diameter) widely used by wildlife								
Native Plant Aesthetics: Showy white flowers in spring, red sour plums used in cooking								
Flatwoods plum	<i>Prunus umbellata</i>	20	D	M	Avg	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Purple plums (.5") widely used by wildlife								
Native Plant Aesthetics: Showy small white flowers in spring, purple plums edible, used in jelly								
Chapman oak (W)	<i>Quercus chapmanii</i>	20	S	M	Dry	Av	M	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns (.5-1")								
Native Plant Aesthetics: Broad crown, lobed leaves								
Sand live oak (W)	<i>Quercus geminata</i>	30	E	M	Dry	Av	H	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns (.5-1")								
Native Plant Aesthetics: Smaller than live oak with very narrow leaves								

Table 2.

Table 2. Native Small Trees for Central Florida									
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	pH	Salt		
Bluejack oak (B)	<i>Quercus incana</i>	30	D	M	Dry	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns (.5")									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Rounded crown, leaves with bluish cast									
Inopina oak (B)	<i>Quercus inopina</i>	8	E	M	Dry	Av	U		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns (.5")									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Shrubby tree with round leaves often held vertical to ground									
Myrtle oak (B)	<i>Quercus myrtifolia</i>	25	E	M	Dry	Av	M		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns (.3")									
Native Plant Aesthetics: A bushy tree with round leaves and dense foliage									
Sand post oak (W)	<i>Quercus stellata margaretta</i>	30	D	M	Dry	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns (.5")									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Nearly identical to post oak, with leaves less lobed									
Carolina buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i>	30	D	M	Moist-Avg	Av-AI	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Numerous black berries used by many birds									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Berries once used as source of yellow dye, flower clusters attractive									

Table 2.

Table 2. Native Small Trees for Central Florida									
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	pH	Salt		
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	30	D	D	Avg	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Fruit (sets poorly in south 1/2 of FL) used by birds									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Small fragrant flowers, aromatic leaves and bark used in tea									
Sparkleberry	<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i>	20	E	M	Avg	Ac	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Blueberries eaten by wide variety of birds									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Berries very bitter, attractive bell-like flowers in spring									
Hercules club	<i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>	30	D	D	Avg	Av	M		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds used by some birds, good nesting cover for some birds									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Trunk and main branches thorny, leaves very aromatic									
*Indicates plants that will suffer damage from severe or prolonged freezing temperatures.									
**Oaks are classified as either black (B) or white (W). White oak acorns often are sweeter and more preferred by wildlife than black oak acorns.									

Table 3.

Table 3. Native Shrubs for Central Florida									
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	Light	pH	Salt	
Marlberry (Marlberry*)	<i>Ardisia escallonioides</i>	8	E	M	Avg	S-Sh	Av	M	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Round purple fruits produced mostly fall-winter, widely used by wildlife									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Large clusters of fragrant white flowers, white trunk									
Slender buckthorn	<i>Bumelia recinata</i>	25	E	M	Dry	S	Av	H	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small black fruits used by some birds									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Thorns									
Beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	6	D	M	Avg	P	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small purplish fruits used by some birds in late winter									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Clusters of berries around stems very attractive									
Iguana hackberry*	<i>Celtis iguanaea</i>	8	E	M	Avg	S	Av-AI	H	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Medium-sized orange fruits used by many wildlife species									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Spiny twisted branches, edible fruit									
Spiny hackberry*	<i>Celtis pallida</i>	8	E	M	Avg	S	Av-AI	H	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Medium-sized orange fruits used by many wildlife species									

Table 3.

Table 3. Native Shrubs for Central Florida									
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	Light	pH	Salt	
Native Plant Aesthetics: Spiny twisted branches, edible fruit									
Snowberry	<i>Chiococca alba</i>	10	E	M	Avg	P	Av	M	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: White berries produced year-round, used by many wildlife									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Flowers green-white to yellow, white stems with dark leaves									
Cocoplum*	<i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i>	6	E	M	Avg	S	Av	H	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Purple "plums" used by mammals and large birds									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Two color forms (green and red lipped), edible fruit									
Seagrape*	<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	10	E	M	Avg	S	Av	H	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Purple "grapes" used by mammals and large birds									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Large attractive leaves, edible fruit									
Scrub haw	<i>Crataegus lepida</i>	8	D	M	Dry	S	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Red "haws" eaten by variety of wildlife, nesting cover									
Native Plant Aesthetics: White flowers, weeping thorny branches									
White stopper*	<i>Eugenia axillaris</i>	25	E	M	Avg	S-P	Av	M	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Blue-black fruits in winter used by many birds									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Fruits edible, leaves emit unpleasant odor when crushed									

Table 3.

Table 3. Native Shrubs for Central Florida										
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	Light	pH	Salt		
Spanish (Boxleaf) stopper*	<i>Eugenia foetida</i>	15	E	M	Avg	S-P	AI	M		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small black fruits used by many birds										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Reddish scaly bark, leaves emit unpleasant odor										
Hearts a bustin'	<i>Euonymus americanus</i>	6	E	M	Avg	P	AV	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Red seeds used by some wildlife, foliage often browsed										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Orange-red seed capsules with bright red seeds in fall										
Swamp privet	<i>Forestiera acuminata</i>	30	D	D	Moist	S-P	AV	U		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Lavender wrinkled fruit used by some wildlife										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Weak leaning shrub, may sprout where branches contact soil										
Flatwoods privet	<i>Forestiera ligustrina</i>	10	D	D	Avg	S-P	AV	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small purple fruit used by many birds										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Similar to Florida privet, but deciduous										
Pineland privet*	<i>Forestiera pinetorium</i>	10	E	D	Avg	S	AV	M		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Abundant small purple fruits used by many birds										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Low-growing relative of Florida privet										

Table 3.

Table 3. Native Shrubs for Central Florida										
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	Light	pH	Salt		
Florida privet	<i>Forestiera segregate</i>	10	s	D	Avg	S-P	Av-AI	M		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Abundant small purple fruits used by many birds, good nesting cover										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Very dense dark-green foliage										
Blolly*	<i>Guapira discolor</i>	25	E	M	Avg	S-P	AI	M		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Red fruit used by birds										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Shiny green foliage, bright red fruit										
Sarvis holly	<i>Ilex amelanchar</i>	15	D	D	Avg	S-P	Ac-Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Dull-red berries used by many birds in late fall and winter										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Large shrub with open rounded crown										
Pond spice	<i>Litsea aestivalis</i>	9	D	M	Wet	S-P	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Bright red fruits used by many wildlife species										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Attractive yellow spring flowers, colorful fruit										
Christmas berry	<i>Lycium carolinianum</i>	6	E	M	Avg	S	Av	H		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Red egg-shaped berries produced year-round, widely used by wildlife										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Bluish flowers, succulent leaves on thorny stems										

Table 3.

Table 3. Native Shrubs for Central Florida										
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	Light	pH	Salt		
Wax myrtle	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	20	E	D	Avg	S-P	Av	H		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small waxy berries used by many birds, good nesting cover										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Extremely adaptable, may be used as a hedge, aromatic leaves										
Evergreen bayberry	<i>Myrica heterophylla</i>	15	E	D	Wet	S-P	Av	M		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small waxy berries used by many birds, good nesting cover										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Branches nearly black, leathery aromatic evergreen leaves										
Odorless bayberry	<i>Myrica odorata</i>	20	E	D	Wet	S-P	Av	M		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small waxy berries used by many birds, good nesting cover										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Bark almost white, leaves odorless										
Dwarf wax myrtle	<i>Myrica pumila</i>	3	E	D	Avg	S-P	Av	H		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small waxy berries used by many birds										
Native Plant Aesthetics: A small version of common wax myrtle										
Scrub plum	<i>Prunus geniculata</i>	6	D	M	Dry	S	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small sweet plums prized by wildlife										
Native Plant Aesthetics: White flowers, thorny zigzag branches										

Table 3.

Table 3. Native Shrubs for Central Florida										
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	Light	pH	Salt		
Wild coffee*	<i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	2	E	M	Avg	P-Sh	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Red fruits used by many wildlife species										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Dark shiny leaves and bright red fruit										
Dwarf oak (B)**	<i>Quercus minima</i>	2	D	M	Avg	S-P	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns widely used by wildlife										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Good groundcover for sunny areas										
Running oak (B)	<i>Quercus pumila</i>	3	D	M	Avg	S-P	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Acorns widely used by wildlife										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Good groundcover for sunny areas										
White indigo berry*	<i>Randia aculeata</i>	6	E	M	Avg	S	Av	M		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: White-skinned fruits used by some birds										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Spines, attractive form but messy fruit										
Myrsine	<i>Rapanea punctata</i>	10	E	D	Avg	P-Sh	Av	M		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small black fruits along stem in winter used by some birds										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Bright green leathery leaves										

Table 3.

Table 3. Native Shrubs for Central Florida										
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	Light	pH	Salt		
Needle palm	<i>Rhaphidophyllum hystrix</i>	6	E	M	Avg	P-Sh	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Yellowish fruits used by mammals and large birds										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Trunks covered with needle-like spines										
Winged sumac	<i>Rhus copallina</i>	10	D	M	Avg	S	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Red fruits used by some birds during winter										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Good red fall color										
Sand blackberry	<i>Rubus cuneifolius</i>	4	E	M	Avg	S	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Berries greatly prized by wildlife, excellent cover										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Berries edible, white flowers in spring, very thorny and sprawling										
Scrub palmetto	<i>Sabal etonia</i>	3	E	M	Dry	S	Av	M		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Round black fruits used by many mammals and large birds										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Leaf stems without teeth, trunks mostly underground										
Dwarf palmetto	<i>Sabal minor</i>	6	E	M	Moist	P	Av	H		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Round black fruits used by mammals and large birds										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Leaves bluish and without teeth, trunks often underground										

Table 3.

Table 3. Native Shrubs for Central Florida									
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	Light	pH	Salt	
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	12	D	M	Moist	S-P	Av	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Purple fruit used by many birds, good nectar source									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Fruits used in jellies and wine, fragrant white flowers									
Saw palmetto	<i>Serenoa repens</i>	8	E	M	Avg	S-P	Av	H	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Round black fruits used by many mammals and large birds									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Leaf stems with teeth, excellent groundcover beneath trees									
Mullein nightshade	<i>Solanum erianthum</i>	15	E	M	Avg	S	Av	M	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Clusters of yellow berries used by some birds									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Open clusters of white flowers produced year-round									
Bay cedar*	<i>Suriana maritima</i>	8	E	M	Avg	S	Av	H	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Seeds used by some birds, good nesting cover									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Small yellow flowers year-round, dense, succulent foliage									
Highbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	12	E	M	Avg	P	Ac	N	
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Berries greatly prized by wildlife									
Native Plant Aesthetics: Sweet edible berries, bell-shaped flowers in spring									

Table 3.

Table 3. Native Shrubs for Central Florida										
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	Light	pH	Salt		
Little blueberry	<i>Vaccinium darrowii</i>	2	E	M	Avg-Dry	S-P	Ac	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Berries greatly prized by wildlife										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Sweet edible berries, foliage with bluish cast										
Shiny blueberry	<i>Vaccinium myrsinites</i>	2	E	M	Avg-Dry	S-P	Ac	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Berries greatly prized by wildlife										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Sweet edible berries, shiny green foliage										
Deerberry	<i>Vaccinium stamineum</i>	8	D	M	Avg	S-P	Ac	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Berries used by many wildlife species										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Berries bitter, bell-shaped flowers in spring										
Possumhaw viburnum	<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	15	D	M	Moist	P-Sh	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small blue-black fruit used by many birds										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Large clusters of small white flowers in spring, sprawling										
Walter's viburnum	<i>Viburnum obovatum</i>	15	E	M	Moist	S-Sh	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small black fruit used by many birds, good nesting cover										

Table 3.

Table 3. Native Shrubs for Central Florida										
Common Name	Scientific Name	Hgt	Leaf Type	Sex	Moisture	Light	pH	Salt		
Native Plant Aesthetics: Clusters of small white flowers in spring, easily pruned, versatile										
Rusty viburnum	Viburnum rufidulum	20	0	M	Avg	S-Sh	Av	N		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Small black fruit used by many birds										
Native Plant Aesthetics: Large clusters of small white flowers in spring										
Hog plum	Ximenia americana	10	E	M	Dry	S	Av	M		
Wildlife Use of Native Plants: Yellow "plums" used by some wildlife										
Native Plant Aesthetics: "Plums" tart, but edible, very thorny										
*Indicates plants that will suffer damage from severe or prolonged freezing temperatures.										
**Oaks are classified as either black (B) or white (W). White oak acorns often are sweeter and more preferred by wildlife than black oak acorns.										