

Common Native Wildflowers of North Florida¹

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The species in this publication are plants that are native to the US and occur in Florida; most of them are considered native to Florida. You might observe these species along the roadside in North Florida, or while you're taking a hike in a natural area. Information shown in the following tables is based on personal observations and on information obtained from the references listed in the next section. Plant type, flowering, native habitat, and light requirement refer to North Florida conditions. Some of these species may be available at local garden centers or retail nurseries, especially those that specialize in native plants.

The species information presented refers primarily to plants as they occur in the wild. Wildflowers or cultivars obtained through seed companies or at local garden centers may differ substantially in flowering season, appearance, site requirement, and pest susceptibility. In addition, plants derived from a local native population of a wildflower species that are grown under garden conditions (applying supplemental water/fertilizer, pesticides, etc.) may differ in appearance, flowering time, and pest susceptibility compared to that same species as it grows in the wild. Fertilization, if necessary, should be kept to a minimum, especially if using wildflowers derived from a local native population.

The "Uses and Comments" column is included as a guide as to where these species could be used in a residential or commercial landscape. Choose a site with well-drained soil, and consider a species light preference and native habitat.

Much of the information about native wildflower habitat is from *Guide to the Vascular Plants of the Florida Panhandle* by A.F. Clewell (see references).

References

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Taylor, W.K. 1998. *Florida Wildflowers In Their Natural Communities*. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida.

Table 1. Descriptions of some native habitats (from *Guide to the Vascular Plants of the Florida Panhandle*).

Native Habitat Type	Description
<i>Sandhills</i>	Pineland (slash/longleaf) on dry site; understory of turkey oaks or other scrub oaks
<i>Flatwoods</i>	Pineland (slash/longleaf) on moist site; may have understory of saw palmetto
<i>Pine-oak-hickory woods</i>	Occurs on upland loamy soil and on sandy rims of river bluffs
<i>Secondary woods</i>	Reforested lands on drier upland sites
<i>Hammocks</i>	Mixed hardwood forest; soils are moist but not overly wet
<i>Ruderal (disturbed areas)</i>	Areas such as roadsides, lawns, vacant lots, etc.

Table 2. Wildflowers for Shade Conditions (species that prefer shade or will tolerate shade like that under a high hardwood forest canopy).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Type ¹	Flower Season	Flower Color	Height (in flower)	Native Habitat	Uses and Comments
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Columbine	Perennial	March to April	Red and yellow	1½ to 2 feet	Calcareous woods	Slightly moist site; use for naturalizing; hummingbirds; foliage may die back in summer
<i>Packera aurea</i> (Senecio aureus)	Golden Ragwort	Perennial; evergreen	March to June	Yellow	Groundcover with 2- to 3-foot flowering stems	Floodplains	Woodlands; moist site
<i>Coreopsis integrifolia</i>	Chipola Coreopsis	Perennial; evergreen	September to November	Yellow	2 to 3 feet	Floodplains; riverbanks	Moist site; fall flowering coreopsis
<i>Lilium superbum</i>	Turk's-cap Lily	Perennial	July	Orangish red	3 to 9 feet	Hammocks	Moist site; use for naturalizing
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	Perennial	August to October	Intense red	2 to 4 feet	Riverbanks; springs; coastal hammocks	Excellent for moist site; not rec. for full sun; red flowers easy to spot in woods
<i>Packera glabella</i> (Senecio glabellus)	Golden Ragwort; Jeffrey Butterweed	Annual	February to April	Yellow	2 to 4 feet	Floodplains; marshes; along streams; ruderal ²	Moist site
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Blue Phlox	Perennial; semi-evergreen	February to April	Blue	10 inches	Bluffs; calcareous hammocks	Slightly moist site; foliage may die back in summer
<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	Lyreleaf Sage; Cancer Weed	Perennial; may be evergreen	February to May; October	Purple	1 to 1½ feet	Disturbed areas; marshes	Slightly moist site; sun or shade; ornamental foliage; reseeds
<i>Spigelia marilandica</i>	Indian Pink; Woodland Pinkroot	Perennial	April to May	Red and Yellow	1 to 1½ feet	Bluffs; calcareous hammocks	Rich soil; woodland edges; tubular flowers

¹ Plant type—Unless otherwise noted, all species are herbaceous and not evergreen.

² Ruderal means disturbed areas such as roadsides, lawns, vacant lots, etc.

Table 3. Wildflowers for High Light Conditions (full sun; filtered sun like that under a high pine canopy; edges of woodlands).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Type ¹	Flower Season	Flower Color	Height (in flower)	Native Habitat	Uses and Comments
<i>Aletris lutea</i>	Yellow Colicroot	Perennial	March to May	Yellow	2 to 3 feet	Flatwoods; bogs; moist ruderal ² sites	Moist site; roadside ditches or backslashes
<i>Amsonia ciliata</i>	Bluestar; Blue Dogbane	Perennial	April to November	Powder Blue	1 to 3 feet	Sandhills, scrubs; sandy ruderal ² sites	Beautiful blue flower for sandy site
<i>Asclepias humistrata</i>	Pinewoods Milkweed	Perennial	April to June	Pinkish	Prostrate but some stems may ascend	Sandhills, scrubs; dunes	Dry, sandy site; showy foliage (pinkish purple venation)
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed	Perennial	May to October	Orange	Up to 32 inches	Sandhills; flatwoods; secondary woods	Hot, dry site
<i>Berlandiera pumila</i>	Soft Greeneyes	Perennial	March to June	Yellow	2 to 3 feet	Sandhills	Dry, sandy site; roadsides
<i>Carphephorus odoratissimus</i>	Vanilla Plant; Deer Tongue	Perennial	September to November	Purple	2 to 3 feet	Flatwoods; bogs; pond margins	Slightly moist site; dead leaves usually have vanilla scent
<i>Cassia (Chamaecrista) fasciculata</i>	Partridge-Pea	Annual; semi-woody	July to October	Yellow	3 to 4 feet	Sandhills; flatwoods; disturbed areas; secondary woods	Hot, dry site; reseeds
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Wild Ageratum; Mistflower	Perennial	July to November	Bluish Purple	2 to 3 feet	Floodplains; moist woodland edges; pond margins; ruderal ²	Slightly moist site; spreads vegetatively; reseeds
<i>Coreopsis basalis</i>	Dye Flower; Texas Tickseed	Annual	April to June	Yellow	1 to 1½ feet	Disturbed areas	Meadows; dry site; reseeds
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Lanceleaf Coreopsis	Perennial; semi-evergreen to evergreen	June to October	Yellow	Up to 2 feet; usually about 1 foot	Sandhills; disturbed areas; edges of cypress swamps	Slightly dry to slightly moist site; reseeds; remove faded blossoms for reflowering
<i>Coreopsis leavenworthii</i>	Leavenworth's Coreopsis	Perennial	July to September	Yellow	1 to 3 feet	Disturbed areas; moist areas	Moist site; edges of woodlands; reseeds
<i>Coreopsis nudata</i>	Swamp Coreopsis; Georgia Tickseed	Perennial	March to June	Pink	2 to 4 feet	Flatwoods; bogs; cypress ponds; wet ditches	Moist site; only pink coreopsis in Florida
<i>Erigeron quercifolius</i>	Southern Fleabane; Oakleaf Fleabane	Perennial	March to June	White with pinkish to purplish tint	1 to 2 feet	Sandhills; disturbed areas; lake margins	Disturbed site; mass planting results in a 'sea of white'
<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	Joe-Pye Weed; Trumpetweed	Perennial	July	Purplish	6 feet or more	Stream banks; wet hammocks; pastures; moist woodland edges	Slightly moist site; large, showy flower heads
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Blanketflower; Firewheel; Indian Blanket	Annual	May to October	Yellow and red; red; yellow; rose	1 to 2 feet	Disturbed areas; sandy open sites	Excellent for hot, dry site; reseeds; blue-green foliage

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<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	Swamp Sunflower; Narrow-leaved Sunflower	Perennial	September to October	Yellow	2 feet, but up to 6 feet	Flatwoods; bogs, marshes; disturbed areas; secondary woods	Moist site; very showy yellow fall flower; spreads vegetatively
<i>Helianthus debilis</i> subsp. <i>debilis</i>	Beach Sunflower; Dune Sunflower; Cucumberleaf Sunflower	Annual/Perennial; semi-evergreen	June to August	Yellow	Groundcover, up to 3 feet high	Disturbed areas; beaches	Sandy site in full sun; not freeze tolerant
<i>Helianthus radula</i>	Rayless Sunflower	Perennial	September to November	Dark purple disk flowers (few to no ray flowers)	2 to 3 feet	Flatwoods	Slightly moist site; novelty plant
<i>Ipomopsis rubra</i>	Standing Cypress; Spanish Larkspur	Perennial	July to October	Scarlet	3 to 6 feet	Sandhills; disturbed areas; dunes	Don't use in clayey soils; hummingbirds; feathery foliage
<i>Jacquemontia taminifolia</i>	Hairy Clustervine; Jacquemontia	Annual; may be semi-woody	July to October	Blue	Creeping or climbing vine	Disturbed areas; floodplains	Slightly dry to slightly moist site; blue summer flowers; reseeds
<i>Liatris elegans</i>	Pinkscale Blazing Star	Perennial	September to October	Lavender	2 to 4 feet	Sandhills; mesic longleaf pinelands; edges of woodlands	Well-drained site; tall flowering stems tend to lodge
<i>Liatris gracilis</i>	Slender Blazing Star	Perennial	September to October	Lavender	2 to 4 feet	Sandhills; flatwoods; bogs; dry bluffs; woodland edges	Well-drained site; tall flowering stems tend to lodge
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	Perennial	August to October	Bright red	2 to 4 feet	Riverbanks; springs; coastal hammocks	Excellent for moist site; not rec. for full sun; red flowers easy to spot in woods
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Sundial Lupine	Perennial	March to April	Bluish purple	1 to 2 feet	Sandhills; open woods	Excellent for hot, dry site in full sun; palmately compound leaves
<i>Lupinus villosus</i>	Lady Lupine	Perennial	March to April	Pinkish purple	1 to 1½ feet or more	Sandhills; scrub	Excellent for hot, dry site in full sun; silvery (hairy) ovalish leaves
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Spotted OR Dotted/ Horsemint OR Beebalm	Perennial; may be semi-woody	August to October	Yellowish with pinkish purple bracts	1½ to 3 feet	Disturbed areas; open sandy areas; floodplains	Hot, dry site; unusual flower; best viewed close up
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Passion-Flower; Maypop	Perennial	April to August	Purple	Creeping or climbing vine	Disturbed areas; edges of woodlands	Slightly dry to slightly moist site; exquisite flower; spreads vegetatively
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Blue Phlox	Perennial; semi-evergreen	February to April	Blue	10 inches	Bluffs; calcareous hammocks	Slightly moist site; foliage may die back in summer; not recommended for full sun
<i>Phlox drummondii</i>	Drummond Phlox	Annual	March to June	White; pink; purple; red	6 to 12 inches	Disturbed areas	Hot, dry site; reseeds

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<i>Pityopsis graminifolia</i>	Grass-leaved Golden Aster	Perennial; semi-evergreen to evergreen	August to November	Yellow	1½ to 3 feet	Sandhills; flatwoods; scrubs; bog; pine-hickory-oak woods	Good for dry site; low-growing, silvery grass-like foliage; spreads vegetatively
<i>Rhexia mariana</i>	Maryland Meadow Beauty; Pale Meadow Beauty	Perennial	May to October	Light pink	1½ to 2½ feet	Sandhills; flatwoods; bogs; marshes; wet ditches	Edges of woodlands; moist site; roadside ditches; meadows
<i>Rhexia parviflora</i>	White Meadow Beauty	Perennial	June to August	White	Up to 16 inches	Margins of open cypress swamps	Slightly moist site; <i>Rhexias have interesting urn-shaped capsules</i>
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	Orange Coneflower	Perennial	August to October	Yellow	1 to 1½ feet	Slightly moist areas	Slightly moist site; spreads vegetatively
<i>Rudbeckia graminifolia</i>	Grassleaf Coneflower	Perennial	May to September	Orangish red	2 to 3 feet	Bogs; cypress swamps	Moist site; grass-like foliage; reflexed petals
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	Annual; Perennial (short-lived)	May to October	Yellow	1½ to 2 feet	Sandhills; bogs; pine forests	Slightly dry site; full sun to part shade; reseeds
<i>Rudbeckia mollis</i>	Softhair Coneflower	Annual	June to July	Yellow	1½ to 3 feet	Sandhills	Hot, dry site; several flowers per stem in a raceme
<i>Rhynchospora colorata</i>	Starrush; White-top Sedge	Perennial	June to November	White (with white bracts)	1 to 3 feet	Flatwoods; bogs; coastal swales	Wet site in full sun; spreads vegetatively
<i>Sabatia bartramii</i>	Bartram's Rosegentian	Annual	July to August	Purplish pink	2 to 3 feet	Bogs; cypress swamps	Moist site; exquisite flower with satin-like finish; must see to appreciate
<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	Lyreleaf Sage; Cancer Weed	Perennial; (may be evergreen)	February to May; October	Purple	1 to 1½ feet	Disturbed areas; marshes	Slightly moist site; sun or shade; ornamental foliage; reseeds
<i>Saururus cernuus</i>	Lizard's-tail	Perennial	May to June	White	1 to 3 feet	Floodplains; acid swamps; marshes	Wet ditches; pond, river, stream margins
<i>Sisyrinchium atlanticum</i>	Eastern Blue-eyed Grass	Perennial; evergreen	March to May	Blue	Up to 2 feet	Flatwoods; bogs; swales in sandhills; riverbanks; hammocks	Slightly moist site; showy blue flowers in spring; grass-like foliage
<i>Solidago spp.</i>	Goldenrods	Perennial	August to November	Yellow	1½ to 6 feet or more	Varies	Slightly dry to slightly moist site depending on species; showy early fall flowers
<i>Spiranthes vernalis</i>	Spring Ladies' Tresses	Perennial	April to June	White (spiral on stem)	10 to 18 inches	Flatwoods; riverbanks; ruderal ²	Slightly moist site; frequently occurs in turf that hasn't been mowed in the spring
<i>Vernonia angustifolia</i>	Tall Ironweed	Perennial	July to October	Purple	2 to 4 feet	Sandhills; secondary woods	Woodland edges; dry site; combine with goldenrods
<i>Vernonia gigantea</i>	Giant Ironweed	Perennial	June to October	Purple	2 to 7 feet	Hammocks; floodplains; coastal hammocks; bluffs	Woodland edges; moist site; combine with goldenrods

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<i>Zephyranthes atamasco</i>	Atamasco-Lily; Rain Lily; Zephyr Lily	Perennial	February to March	White to light pink	1 to 2 feet	River swamps; limestone outcrops; bluffs; roadsides	Moist site; sun or shade; use in masses

¹ Plant type—Unless otherwise noted, all species are herbaceous and not evergreen.
² Ruderal means disturbed areas such as roadsides, lawns, vacant lots, etc.