

Why Use Native Plants

Promote Biodiversity. Growing native plants will preserve and promote the species you grow in your yard. In addition, growing natives contributes to the ecological balance that developed here in Florida over the millennia. Many native plant species are becoming endangered due to urbanization. To insure that we maintain the biodiversity necessary for survival of our birds, butterflies, vital pollinators and other wildlife we need to preserve and use our native plant species.

Save Time, Money, and Energy. When used intelligently, native plants require less maintenance, are less expensive, and save energy. Did you know that lawnmowers are a significant source of air pollution? They also use up an appreciable amount of fossil fuel.

Conserve Natural Resources. Used properly, native plants require little to no extra water or fertilizer compared to most exotics. Watering non-native plants that aren't adapted to Florida's climate wastes energy as well as water, costs you money, and contributes to the pollution of surface water.

No Pesticides Needed. Native plants have been exposed to Florida's pests as long as they have existed in Florida, and continue to display their resistance to insects and disease in our own yards. They require little to no fertilizer and pesticides, which means less contamination of our valuable aquifer. Fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides used in landscape and lawn maintenance run off into streams and creeks, polluting these water bodies. Once native plants become established they require very little supplemental irrigation.

Watchable wildlife. Native plants are the best choice for attracting and nourishing our native wildlife. Native plants provide the food and shelter that our birds and butterflies need. Native plants leaf-out, bloom, and fruit when our native species need them most, and provide the nutrients that our native animals have adapted to through millions of years of co-evolution.

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