# The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design



#### WHAT ARE FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPES?

Florida-Friendly Landscapes protect Florida's unique natural resources by conserving water, reducing waste and pollution, creating wildlife habitat, and preventing erosion. Any landscape can be Florida-Friendly if it is designed and cared for according to the nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles, which encourage individual expression of landscape beauty. In 2009, the Florida Legislature found that the use of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ and other water use and pollution prevention measures to conserve or protect the state's water resources serves a compelling public interest and that the participation of homeowners' associations and local governments is essential to the state's efforts in water conservation and water quality protection and restoration. Make your landscape a Florida-Friendly Landscape — do your part to create a more sustainable Florida!

#### **SERVICES**

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods is brought to Floridians by the University of Florida/IFAS Extension Service and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, in cooperation with the five Water Management Districts. UF/IFAS Extension offers the public the following services in every county in the state at either no charge or for a minimal fee:

- Workshops and classes
- Plant and landscape advice based on current University of Florida research
- Official yard recognition program

The program also offers online resources, including numerous publications, a tutorial for custom landscape design, and a plant database.

#### FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPINGTM PROGRAM OFFICE

Phone: (352) 273-4518

Web site: <a href="http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu">http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu</a>

Please visit our Web site to find your county Extension office.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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This publication was funded in part by FDEP with a Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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### Introduction

#### WHAT IS A FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE?

A Florida-Friendly Landscape is a quality landscape that is designed, installed, and maintained according to the nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles. The nine principles seek to reduce environmental impact from landscaping by properly applying water, fertilizer, and pesticides, creating wildlife habitat, preventing erosion, recycling yard waste, and employing other practices based on University of Florida research.

Not all Florida-Friendly Landscapes look alike. A wide variety of forms, styles, and types are available to the designer. Florida-Friendly Landscapes may incorporate both native and non-native plants. One Florida-Friendly yard may use a rain garden to filter stormwater runoff, while another may attract pollinators with specific nectar plants. But if cared for according to the nine principles, a Florida-Friendly Landscape can produce aesthetically pleasing, low-maintenance results that may add value to your property while helping to protect the state's natural resources.

# THE FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™ PROGRAM

Preserving and protecting Florida's water resources is the focus of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program, which promotes the nine principles with public outreach and education statewide. The FFL Program is a joint venture of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS). The FFL Program works in cooperation with the state's five water management districts and other agencies and organizations to achieve the common goals of water conservation and water quality protection.

#### LANDSCAPE DESIGN & PLANT SELECTION

So, how do plant selection and landscape design contribute to saving water and preventing pollution? The first Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principle—"Right Plant, Right Place"—involves designing a landscape efficiently and choosing plants that fit the site. This helps reduce maintenance inputs, including irrigation, fertilization, mowing, and application of pesticides, which in turn lowers the risk of pollutants finding their way into ground or surface waters. Keeping excess nitrogen and phosphorous out of the water improves the health of water bodies and by extension the whole ecosystem. This guide will help you to create a landscape that works with the natural environment, rather than against it. Such a landscape, if maintained correctly, will require less money, time, and effort on your part, while still looking healthy and beautiful.

#### **HOW TO USE THIS BOOK**

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design is intended as a companion to The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook (4th ed., 2009). The Handbook is available through your county Extension office or online at <a href="http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/">http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/</a>. The Handbook describes in detail the nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) principles that are the bedrock of the FFL Program. This guide is intended for homeowners who want to take the next step and design their own Florida-Friendly Landscapes. Included in this book is information on landscape design strategies, a landscape planning worksheet, and the FFL Plant List containing many of the UF/IFAS-recommended Florida-Friendly plants for each region of the state.

# The Nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Principles

The nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles are the cornerstone of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program. Based on UF/IFAS science, the principles teach homeowners, builders and developers, landscape maintenance professionals, and other Florida citizens how to implement environmentally sound design and maintenance techniques in their landscapes. The principles are outlined briefly here. For more detailed information, please refer to the FFL state office Web site (http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu) or to The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook.

#### PRINCIPLE #1: RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE

Plants well-suited to their site need less irrigation and fertilizer and are more resistant to pest infestation. Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles encourage the selection of the right plant for the right place, helping you create a healthy, attractive landscape that works with the natural ecosystem rather than against it. Match plants with site conditions based on USDA zone, water and light requirements, soil conditions, salt and wind tolerance, and other factors. The FFL Plant List can help you make the right plant selections for your landscape.

#### PRINCIPLE #2: WATER EFFICIENTLY

Overwatering not only depletes water supplies, it raises your water bill and makes landscapes more prone to pest infestation. If needed, irrigate plants according to UF/IFAS-recommended rates and application schedules, taking into account local restrictions issued by your water management district. Water only when plants show signs of wilt, preferably in the early morning. Check your irrigation system regularly for leaks and clogs. Do not water if it has rained in the past 24 hours, or if rain is forecast in the next 24 hours. By law you must install, maintain, and operate a device such as a rain sensor that prevents operation of your automatic irrigation system during periods of sufficient moisture.

#### PRINCIPLE #3: FERTILIZE APPROPRIATELY

If fertilization is needed, use UF/IFAS-recommended rates and application schedules to get a healthier lawn and garden. Fertilizing at the correct times and in the correct amounts not only supplies plants with the nutrients they need, it helps prevent fertilizer runoff and leaching that can get into our water supplies and interfere with ecosystem and human health. Fertilizing at the rates recommended by UF scientists helps avoid the excessive growth, pest problems, and higher water requirements that over-fertilization causes.

#### PRINCIPLE #4: MULCH

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ methods recommend using mulch to protect against soil erosion, maintain soil moisture, inhibit weed growth, improve soil structure and aeration, and reduce pesticide use. A Florida-Friendly Landscape will feature one of the types of mulch recommended in *The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook* in its planting beds.

#### PRINCIPLE #5: ATTRACT WILDLIFE

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ encourages Floridians to make their yards attractive to birds, bees, bats, and other creatures displaced by rapid urban development. Supply berry bushes, a bird bath, or a bat house; increase vertical layering to provide habitat; manage household pets and reduce insecticide use—all these tricks can welcome wild visitors in need of refuge. Many of these will return the favor by eating pest insects and helping to pollinate your garden!

#### PRINCIPLE #6: MANAGE YARD PESTS RESPONSIBLY

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program advocates a more holistic approach to pest control than merely spraying chemicals. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) creates an effective defense against yard pests while minimizing environmental impact. IPM emphasizes smart planning, proper maintenance, and natural or low-toxicity controls to ensure that plants stay healthy and resist disease and insect infestation. Chemical treatments may still be necessary in some cases, but use of toxic materials will be minimized by this approach.

#### PRINCIPLE #7: RECYCLE

A Florida-Friendly Landscape recycles yard waste generated by activities like mowing, pruning, and raking. Use these leftovers as mulch or compost, returning valuable nutrients to your landscape. Save money and enrich your soil by composting grass clippings, weeds, and plant trimmings and using the compost as an amendment.

#### PRINCIPLE #8: MANAGE STORMWATER RUNOFF

A Florida-Friendly Landscape uses porous pavers, rain barrels or cisterns, rain gardens, and swales and berms to keep rainwater on site and allow it to percolate into the ground or be captured for later use. Reducing the amount of runoff and the chance for rainwater to wash quickly into storm drains—carrying yard clippings, fertilizer, pesticide, dirt, oil, and other toxins—is the goal of managing stormwater runoff.

#### PRINCIPLE #9: PROTECT THE WATERFRONT

Implementing Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ design and maintenance methods helps protect water bodies from pollution. If you live on a lake, bay, river, or other water body, keep fertilizers, pesticides, and other toxins away from the water by preserving a 10-foot maintenance-free zone between your landscape and the water. Do not mow, fertilize, or apply pesticides in that area. Even if you do not live immediately on the waterfront, the pesticides and fertilizers you apply in your landscape affect the health of local water bodies through a drainage system called the watershed. The choices you make at home have much farther-reaching consequences than you might imagine.

# **Designing Your Florida-Friendly Landscape**

Florida-Friendly Landscapes are all based on the same nine principles. But Florida-Friendly Landscaping<sup>TM</sup> encourages individual expression of beauty. As long as you apply the principles described in *The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook*, your landscape can be Florida-Friendly and as individual as you want.

#### WHAT IF I LIVE IN A PLANNED COMMUNITY?

Check with your homeowner association before you make changes to your landscape. HOAs, usually have a landscape review board and can regulate the appearance and types of plantings in your yard, as long as they do not prohibit you from installing and maintaining Florida-Friendly Landscapes.

If you live in a community with codes, covenants and restrictions that could be more Florida-Friendly, encourage your association to adopt all or part of the model Florida-Friendly Landscaping<sup>TM</sup> restrictions, found at <a href="http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/">http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/</a>.

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping<sup>™</sup> Program has a number of "success stories" which highlight water and costs savings for communities that adopt Florida-Friendly Landscaping<sup>™</sup> and maintenance practices. Visit the Web site at <a href="http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/">http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/</a>.

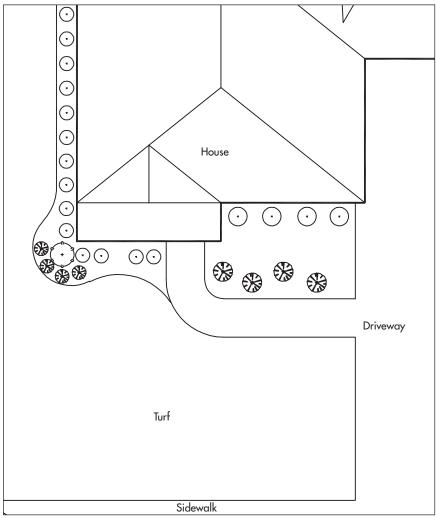
#### **DESIGN SCENARIOS**

The following eight design scenarios represent select areas of your home landscape—front entry, under windows, utility boxes, etc. Each of these scenarios was chosen because of common landscape design issues that confront a homeowner in these areas.

In each scenario, you will be shown a challenging landscape situation and learn what could be done to design a solution in a more Florida-Friendly manner. Be aware that the graphics show the improved landscapes at an early stage after plant installation. The plants will grow and eventually fill in more of the mulched area.

# SCENARIO A: FRONT ENTRY Two design options (With trees, Without trees)





Existing Landscape

#### **CHALLENGES:**

- Not enough plant material in beds
- Plants are not in scale with front of house

#### **GOAL**:

To create a visually welcoming front entry through the use of color, texture, or fragrance. Be sure to choose plants that are in scale with the size of your lot and house.

Plant Characteristics to Look For:

- Low-growing, compact plants
- Colorful
- Medium or coarse texture
- Bold forms
- Simple growth habit

- Place low/small plants next to the walkway to reduce trimming needs
- Place interesting plants at natural view points
- Use small trees to provide a sense of scale and visual interest
- Use colorful or fragrant plants to engage the senses
- Use curved planting beds to draw the viewer's eye through the landscape

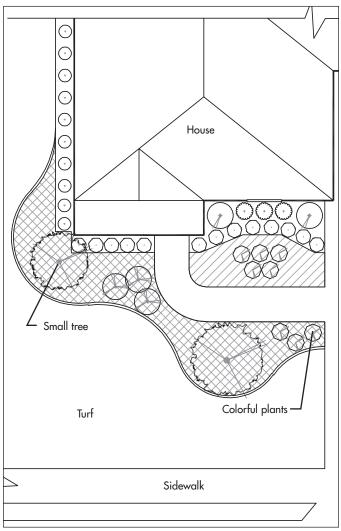
With Trees

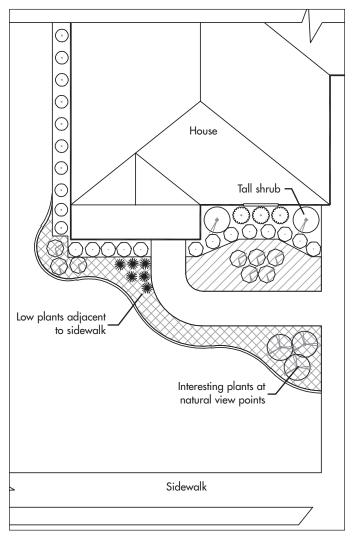












# SCENARIO B: ALONG WALLS Two design options (With trees, Without trees)



# House Turf Fence Existing Landscape

#### **CHALLENGES:**

- Blank wall is not visually pleasing
- Bare walls act as a heat sink during the summer

#### **GOAL**:

To break the monotony of blank walls through the use of properly sized foundation plantings. Small trees can be used to provide cooling benefits as well.

Plant Characteristics to Look For:

- Low- or medium-height shrubs
- Soft/fine texture
- Loose foliage
- Flexible branches

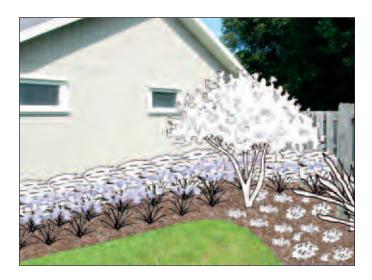
- Place root ball at least 3' from wall to allow for air flow and maintenance access
- Choose plants with a tidy growth habit and be aware of their mature size to reduce trimming needs
- Choose plants that are color-compatible with the wall
- Consider planting small trees to provide shade and cooling benefits
- Use slightly taller plants between windows to break the monotony of a uniform hedge
- Use shrubs with soft/fine texture and flexible branches for easy pruning and to reduce injury when accessing the wall for maintenance

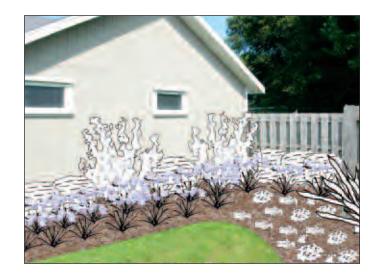
SOLUTION 1

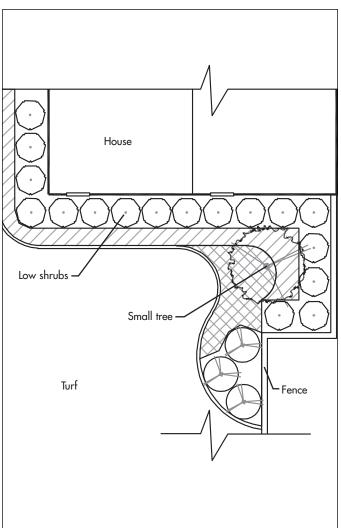
With Trees

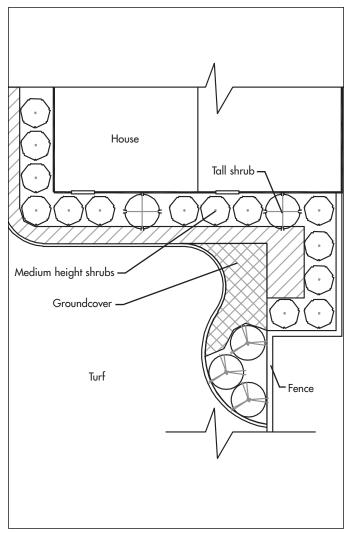


Without Trees









# SCENARIO C: ALONG SIDEWALKS Two design options (Turf buffer, Raised edging)



# Fence House Turf Sidewalk Existing Landscape

#### **CHALLENGE:**

Turf is in poor condition

#### **GOAL**:

To reduce trimming and maintenance needs adjacent to the sidewalk. A 4' turf strip or raised edging can be used to keep mulch from washing onto the sidewalk.

Plant Characteristics to Look For:

- Low growing
- Compact growth habit
- Does not attract biting or stinging insects

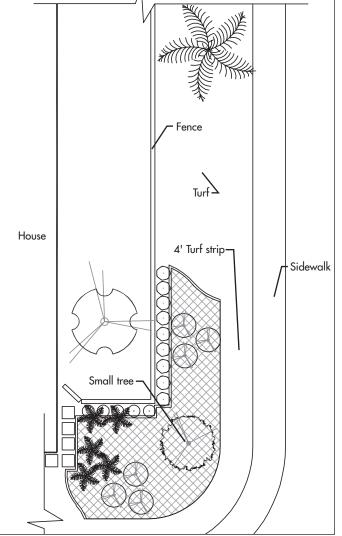
- Reduce trimming and edging needs by placing plants with clean, compact growth habits closest to walkways or by using a turf strip of at least 4' adjacent to the sidewalk
- If a turf strip is not used, consider a raised edging to keep mulch off sidewalks
- Avoid plants that attract biting or stinging insects
- Use plants with interesting textures and colors for close viewing

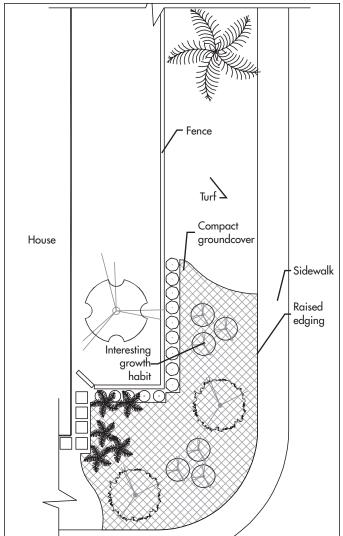
SOLUTION 1 SOLUTION 2

Turf Buffer Strip Raised Edging



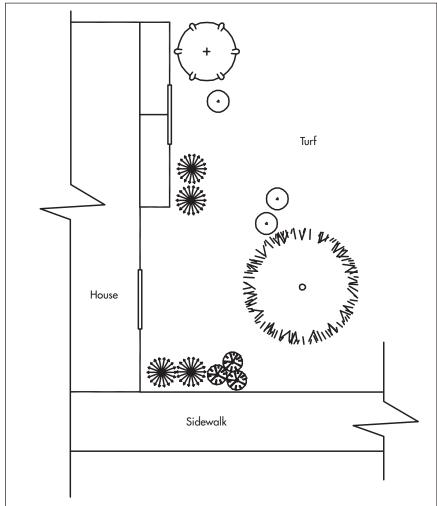






# SCENARIO D: UNDER WINDOWS Two design options (No screening, Light screening)





Existing Landscape

#### **CHALLENGES:**

- Dense plant blocks rear window
- No plant material around front window

#### **GOAL**:

To frame windows with plant material to add visual interest and curb appeal. Alternately, plant material can be used to provide light screening of windows to prevent passersby from seeing in through the windows.

Plant Characteristics to Look For:

- Medium height
- No thorns or stiff leaves
- Loose foliage
- Flexible branches

- Avoid blocking views by choosing plants with medium height and compact growth habits
- Choose shrubs with a tidy growth habit and allow enough room to access windows for cleaning and hanging storm shutters
- Avoid stiff, thorny plants that would prevent exiting from windows in an emergency situation
- Be aware of the mature size of plants and choose appropriately
- Use small trees with low canopies if shade or screening is desired

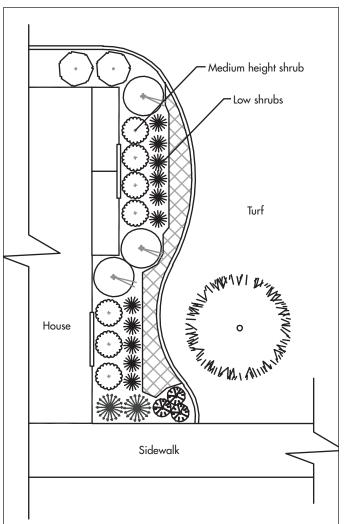
No Screening

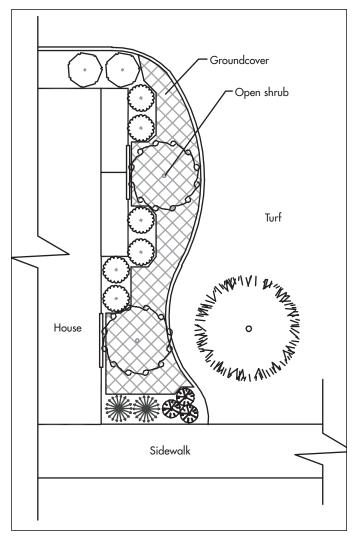


Light Screening



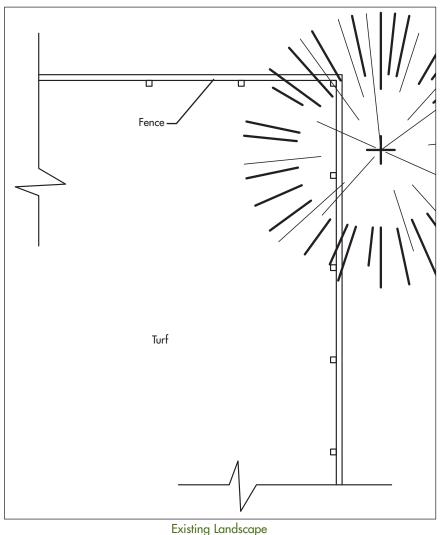






# SCENARIO E: ALONG FENCES Three design options (Vines, Partial screening, Full screening)





#### **CHALLENGES:**

- Bare fence is not visually pleasing
- View from yard needs screening (ex: neighbor's unsightly yard, road, etc.)

#### GOAL:

To turn an unsightly view into a visually pleasing one through the use of colorful vines and evergreen plants. Be sure to choose appropriately sized plants for your design intent.

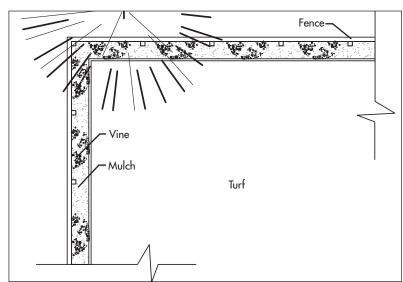
Plant Characteristics to Look For:

- Dense foliage
- Upright form
- Evergreen
- Fast growing
- Vining

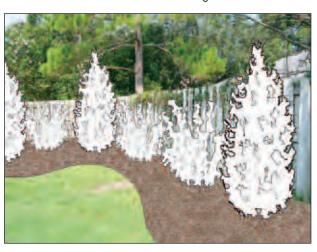
- Choose hardy vines with colorful blooms or pleasant fragrance to hide the fence
- Choose fast-growing plants with dense growth habits for screening and privacy
- Select evergreen plants for year-round privacy and color
- Use plants with appropriate height to block unwanted views

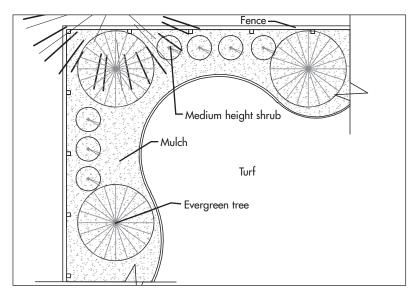
SOLUTION 1 With Vines



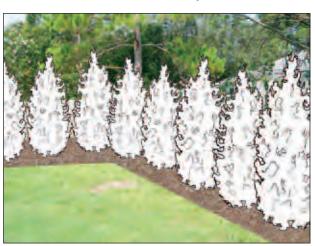


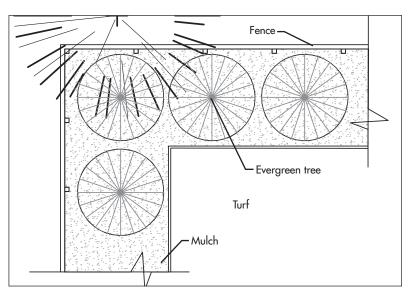
SOLUTION 2 With Partial Screening



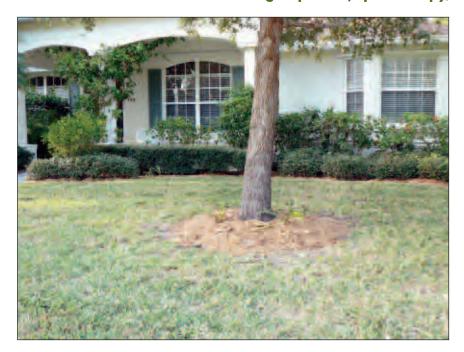


SOLUTION 3 With Full Screening





# SCENARIO F: UNDER TREES Two design options (Open canopy, Dense shade)



# House $\bigcirc$ Turf Sidewalk Existing Landscape

#### **CHALLENGES:**

- Turf is in poor condition
- Plants are too close to trunk
- Mulch area is too small

#### GOAL:

To create a plant bed that will thrive in shady conditions where turfgrass will not. Allowing an area to be self-mulched by falling leaves is an excellent low-maintenance solution.

Plant Characteristics to Look For:

- Shade tolerant
- Shallow roots
- Groundcover with spreading growth habit

- Use plants that look good alongside fallen leaves
- Install small plants to avoid root damage to the tree
- In dense shade where plant options are limited, consider allowing fallen leaves to create a self-mulching bed

SOLUTION 1

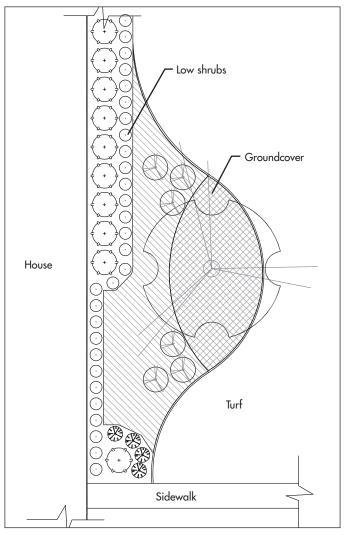
Open Canopy

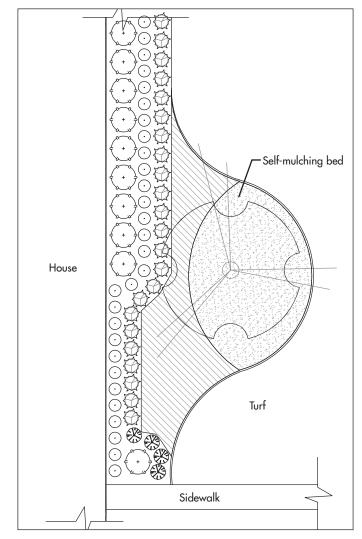


Dense Shade









# SCENARIO G: UTILITIES Two design options (Full blend, Partial blend)



# Utility box Turf Sidewalk

Existing Landscape

#### **CHALLENGES:**

Utility box is not visually pleasing

#### **GOAL**:

To create a plant bed around an unsightly utility to make it blend into the landscape. Be sure to allow room to access the utility when the need arises.

Plant Characteristics to Look For:

- Low/medium shrubs
- Simple growth habit
- Soft foliage
- No flowers/bees
- No thorns

- Consult with your local utility company for planting regulations around utilities
- Use plants with soft foliage so the branches can be bent back to allow for access
- Don't try to hide the utility but rather try to make it blend in with the plant bed
- Consider the mail carrier and meter reader when selecting plants, avoid plants that attract stinging insects and plants with thorns

#### Full Blend

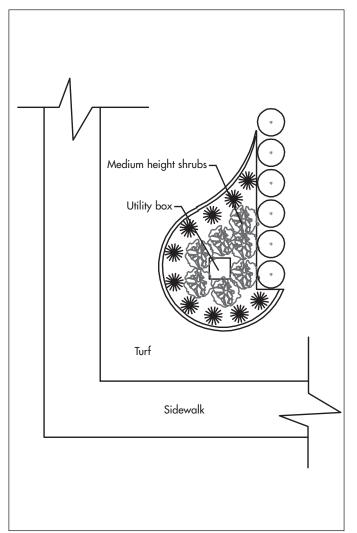


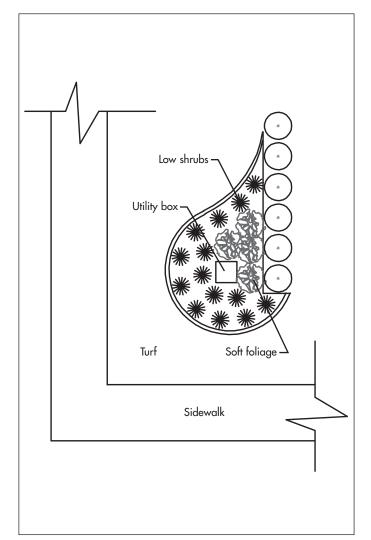


#### **SOLUTION 2**

#### Partial Blend

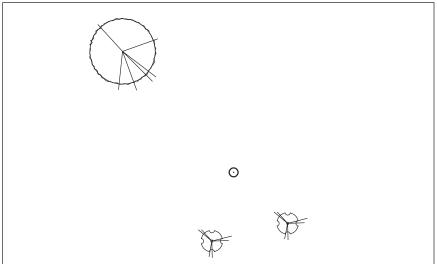






# SCENARIO H: STANDING WATER One design option (Rain garden)





Existing Landscape

#### SOLUTION 1 Rain Garden



#### CHALLENGES

- Water is slow to drain and collects in low areas
- Compacted soil

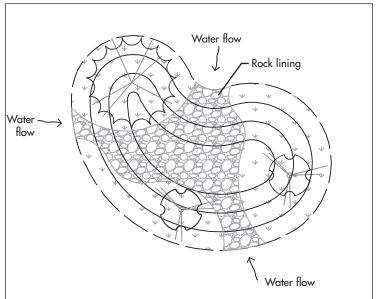
#### GOAL:

To turn low wet areas into rain gardens that will collect and filter rain water. Rain gardens can be attractive features in dry times as well if appropriate plant and material selections are made.

#### Plant Characteristics to Look For:

- Ability to survive prolonged wet conditions
- Also able to tolerate dry conditions (when water is absent)

- Consider having the low area(s) excavated by a professional and use the excess soil to create berms around the rain garden
- Use plants that will survive wet (or dry) conditions for long periods of time
- Line the bottom of the rain garden with rocks and boulders to provide visual interest during dry periods



# Converting Your Yard to a Florida-Friendly Landscape

A Florida-Friendly Landscape is ecologically sound and cost effective. If you get the chance to design a landscape from scratch, you can go Florida-Friendly all at once. But sometimes it is not practical for a homeowner with an established landscape to make the changeover to a Florida-Friendly design immediately. Converting an established yard to a Florida-Friendly Landscape can be done most effectively in about three years and seven steps.

#### **OVERVIEW OF THE STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS**

First, develop a master plan on paper. Second, install any patios, walkways, or decks (hardscapes). Heavy equipment and materials used in the construction of hardscapes should be used before planting to avoid crushing the plants. Third, prepare areas to plant trees. Trees should be planted before other plants because they require more time to reach a size that will provide shade and mulch (leaf litter). The final steps in the conversion involve working in small sections and installing plant beds and mulch in phases.

#### THE FLORIDA-FRIENDLY MASTER PLAN

Whether you are designing a landscape from scratch or converting to a Florida-Friendly Landscape, create a Florida-Friendly Master Landscape Plan. This is a complete plan for your yard that includes all elements in precise locations and takes into account the nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping  $^{\text{TM}}$  principles.

To create the master plan, you may find it helpful to use the Landscape Planning Worksheet provided in this guide or a similar form. Conduct a site inventory and analysis to determine the opportunities and constraints of your yard. Pay attention to soil type, existing vegetation, shade patterns, drainage patterns, views, and utility locations. Homeowners should also consider their needs and wants.

Draw the master plan to scale, including property boundaries from a certified survey, the location of the house and any existing hardscape, and the location of any trees or plants to remain on site. Complete the master plan by adding all proposed plants, hardscapes, and specified construction materials. If applicable, check with your HOA before beginning the design process, and be sure to obtain final approval from the responsible committee.

Use the nine FFL principles, design elements, and fundamentals of design described in this guide to create outdoor "rooms" by using pathways, hardscapes, and plants to divide and organize spaces. Also consider the following:

- **Proportion**: Keep the size of the plants proportional to the house and yard.
- Variety: Make the yard interesting by having variation in plant sizes (especially heights), color, texture, and shape.

- Composition: Group and arrange plants in overlapping masses based on the size, form, color, and growing requirements.
- Emphasis: Use dramatically different plants as focal points to attract attention.

#### THE SEVEN STEPS

The seven-steps described below illustrate the phased process of converting a landscape, including the addition of new hardscape, trees, and Florida-Friendly plant material to a typical development landscape. If all steps are followed, the final product will be a Florida-Friendly Landscape created over a three-year period.

#### STEP 1: DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN

Include some of the following elements in your Florida-Friendly Master Landscape Plan:

- Turf areas, plant beds, and mulch areas
- Entertainment and circulation areas such as pathways, decks, and patios
- Trees and shrubs (placed for energy efficiency and as screens/buffers for views)
- Plantings to screen A/C units & utilities
- · Concealed work/trash area
- Wildlife habitat plantings
- Garden shed/compost bin
- Cisterns/rain barrels (located by downspouts)
- Rainwater collection areas (low spots or rain gardens)

# STEP 2: INSTALL HARDSCAPES (PATIOS, WALKWAYS, DECKS, POOLS, ETC.)

- Call before you dig. State law requires that you call the free Utility Locator Service at 811 at least two full business days before you dig. <a href="http://www.callsunshine.com/">http://www.callsunshine.com/</a>
- Install all new hardscapes at the same time to save money by not destroying plants later.
- Use porous pavers, concrete or gravel, to allow stormwater drainage.
- Use durable materials and, whenever possible, use reclaimed, reprocessed, or recycled-content materials (EDIS pub 1110/EP374).

- Minimize the movement of trucks and equipment in the yard to avoid soil compaction.
- If using underground irrigation, install the system before installing plants.

#### STEP 3: CREATE NEW TREE BEDS

- Mark the edge of the new tree bed with a rope.
- Remove sod or other plant material and till to aerate soil in tree bed area.
- Put down a 2-3"-thick layer of Florida-Friendly mulch to protect the soil.

#### STEP 4: INSTALL TREES

- Choose healthy trees appropriate for your climate and conditions (wind, moisture, soil, etc.), and use proper installation techniques (EDIS pub ENH856/EP112).
- Wind proof by grouping trees together and locate to provide selective shade.
- · Call to locate underground utility lines before digging.
- Install any new trees located near proposed hardscape after the hardscape is installed (Step 2).

#### STEP 5: PREPARE (PHASE I) PLANT BEDS

- Consult the master plan to decide where to install the first planted area. Your choice will be determined by your needs.
- Remember to leave clear access to the backyard if you do the front yard first.
- Use boundaries such as walkways, fences, or house corners to determine the extent of the planted area.

#### STEP 6: INSTALL (PHASE I) PLANT BEDS

- Relocate existing plants as indicated on the master plan and space relocated and new plants accordingly.
- Use proper installation practices for planting (EDIS pub ENH856/EP112).

- If you are not installing the plants, hire landscape contractors certified in Florida-Friendly Green Industry Best Management Practices (GI-BMPs).
- Mulch newly installed plants to control weeds and reduce runoff (EDIS pub ENH103/MG251).
- Follow a UF/IFAS-recommended irrigation schedule until plants are established (EDIS pub ENH857/EP113) and then reduce irrigation as needed.

# STEP 7: REPEAT STEPS 5 & 6 FOR ADDITIONAL PHASES OF PLANT BEDS

- Additional phases of Plant Beds are determined by your needs. For Phase II, you may choose to plant the area that is contiguous to the Phase I plants, or you may decide to plant another area of the garden that is used often or for a different purpose.
- Follow the procedures used in Phase I to prepare beds and install the Phase II plants. If a temporary irrigation system was used in Phase I, the system can be relocated to use in Phase II.
- Remember the plants in Phase II will initially be smaller than the plants in Phase I, but they will quickly catch up and fill in the space.
- You may want to choose less visible areas for the last phase(s).
- Again, follow the procedure used in previous phases I and II to prepare and install additional beds.
- Remember the plants in later phases will be smaller than the plants in the earlier phases, but they will also quickly catch up.
- Maintain the yard with Florida-Friendly Landscaping<sup>™</sup> principles described in *The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook* and in this publication. If you are not maintaining the landscape, hire a landscape contractor who is certified in the GI-BMPs.

## **Ecological Considerations**

Florida-Friendly Landscape design combines art and science to create functional, attractive, and ecologically sound surroundings that complement a home or other structure. But Florida-Friendly Landscaping $^{\text{TM}}$  guidelines need not restrict your choices of color, texture, and style. Here are some tips to bear in mind when planning your landscape.

#### FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION

Landscape designers often recommend grouping plants into masses to unify the design of plant beds. Groups of plants are visually pleasing, and this technique also provides environmental benefits. Trees planted in groups provide more atmospheric cooling than the same number of evenly spaced, isolated trees and are much better protected in high winds. In addition, trees planted in combination with appropriate shrubs and groundcovers form effective windbreaks and wildlife habitat.

#### **PLANT MATCHMAKING**

Turfgrasses and landscape plants have different water, fertilizer, and maintenance needs. Group plants in beds according to water requirements to conserve water and make maintenance easier.

#### **WET VERSUS DRY**

Many drought-tolerant plants thrive in elevated dry spots or in windy areas but can quickly succumb to root diseases and pest problems if planted in areas that tend to stay wet. Drought-tolerant plants do well in exposed areas and along the unshaded southern or western walls of buildings, but you should place plants adapted to wet soils in low spots, along waterways, and in areas with poor drainage.

#### **WIND-WISE PLANTINGS**

Florida winter winds tend to blow from the north or northwest. A solid fence or a row of evergreens on the north side of a house forms a barrier against cold winter winds, which can dry and damage plants. In the summer, winds typically originate in the south, so allow cooling breezes in your outdoor living spaces by keeping tall barriers away from the southern edge of your landscape. Since Florida is frequently in the path of hurricanes, choose trees that are known for sturdiness in high winds.

#### MADE IN THE SHADE

Position trees and shrubs strategically to help cool or heat your home. Plant deciduous shade trees on the south, east, and west sides of a house to cast shade in summer and allow warming in winter. Tree shade can significantly reduce air conditioning costs. An air-conditioning system's outdoor compressor/condenser unit uses less energy when it is shaded from direct sun during the day, but be careful not to block the unit's airflow. If the warm discharge air

cannot escape, the intake air temperature rises, causing the unit to operate less efficiently.

#### THE LOWDOWN ON TURFGRASS

Healthy lawns cool and clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide, releasing oxygen, and collecting dust and dirt. They filter stormwater runoff and reduce erosion, glare, and noise. But the many benefits of grass are only realized when it's cared for and used properly. Grass thrives in sunny areas, but most types do not grow well in dense shade. In shady spots, plant shade-tolerant groundcovers instead of turf.

#### **NATIVES VERSUS NON-NATIVES**

A common misconception is that Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles dictate the use of only plant species native to Florida. In fact, the FFL Program encourages a mix of natives and non-natives, depending on what plants are right for that particular location. "Right Plant, Right Place" governs the selection of plants, bearing in mind the soil, light, water, wind, and other conditions at that site. Do not forget to consider plant colors, textures, and bloom times. See the IFAS Assessment of Non-native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas (http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/conclusions.html) for a list of invasive species that should be removed where possible and never planted.

#### **SOIL CONDITIONS**

It is important to know your soil type before selecting plants for the site. Your landscape may have different soil types in different areas. A soil test can tell you the pH of your soil and what amendments may be used, such as compost or manure, to improve or alter your soil conditions. If your soil is compacted, as is frequently the case on new home sites, you should loosen and amend your soil as you add planting beds for optimum root health.

#### **PLANT SELECTION**

The choice of plants determines how much maintenance a landscape requires and also how long it lasts. Use these steps as a guide to selecting the right plants for the right places in your Florida-Friendly yard.

- Choose low-maintenance plants suited to your site.
- · Welcome wildlife.
- Group high-maintenance plants together for greater visual impact and easier care.
- Eliminate invasive plants.
- Buy quality plants.
- Consider the mature size of the plant.

- Avoid monocultures and aim for a mosaic of trees, shrubs, grasses, and groundcovers.
- Plan turf areas to be functional and low-maintenance.
- Use groundcovers on slopes where grass is difficult to maintain.
- Choose slow-growing plants that will last longer and create less work.
- Consider wind tolerance.
- Think of maintenance requirements.

#### **PLANT SORTING**

If you are renovating your landscape, it is wise to keep some of the plants you already have. Follow these simple guidelines to sift through your botanical choices.

- · Keep healthy plants.
- Discard tightly spaced plants.

- Retain trees with long life spans.
- Save clusters of trees and the plants growing beneath them
- Remove unsuitable plants.
- · Relocate plantings out from under eaves.

# CHOOSING A LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICE

If you lack the desire or ability to do your own landscape work, you may decide to hire a professional maintenance company. Look for companies whose employees have obtained a certificate of completion in the Florida-Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries (GI-BMPs). These professionals will know how to care for your landscape in a Florida-Friendly manner. In many areas of Florida this training is already mandatory; by January 1, 2014, all commercial fertilizer applicators must have this certificate of completion and the accompanying license from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).

## **Landscape Planning Worksheet**

This worksheet can be used for both new and established landscapes. By following these steps, you will be on your way to a thriving, low-maintenance landscape suited to your climate and needs.

#### 1. Decide why you want to landscape.

Most homeowners think of landscaping as a way to add beauty to their home or to improve their property's resale value. Other reasons to landscape are more specific, such as enhancing or screening a view, creating a microclimate, or attracting wildlife. You may need a play area for your children, or perhaps you would like to entertain family and friends outdoors. Your passion may be raising vegetables or simply savoring a lovely view.

Before you begin, think about how you will use your landscape. Write down as many ideas as possible. It is much easier to
remove elements from your plan than it is to add them down the line.

#### 2. Obtain a soil analysis.

Soil plays a big part in any landscape project, influencing what plants will thrive in your yard. Determine your soil's texture (sandy to clay), and have it tested to determine the pH—the level of acidity or alkalinity. This information will help you decide which plants are best suited to the conditions of your yard.

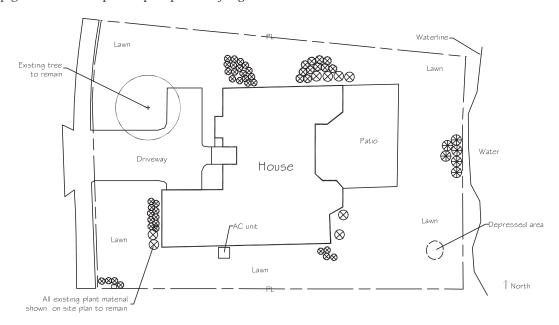
Soil texture:		
pH:	 	

Any exceptions? (For example, the place where you want to put a planting bed may have more acidic soil than other areas in the landscape.)

#### 3. Draw a site plan.

You can use a pencil, ruler and graph paper, or computer software to draw your site plan. Do not worry about getting the scale just right. If you have a survey of your property, you can copy it and draw on the copies.

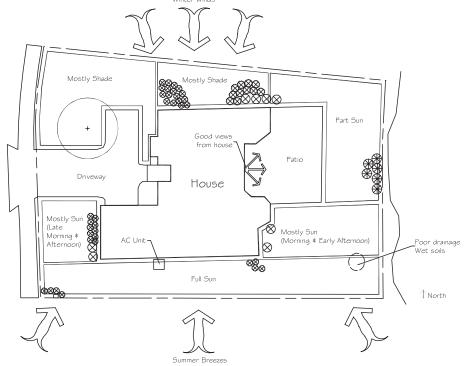
Draw your house and existing trees, shrubs, and other plants you want to keep. If you already have an irrigation system, be sure to note its location and various zones. Include permanent features such as utilities, hardscapes like the driveway, and water sources like spigots. *See the sample site plan provided for guidance.* 



#### 4. Inventory your landscape.

Walk around your property with your site plan, noting conditions and features that make your yard unique. Does your site call for plants that are tolerant of cold, wind, full sun, shade, drought, occasional flooding, or salt spray? Be sure to make note of any particularly good views that could be enhanced or bad views that need to be screened. See the sample site inventory & analysis provided for guidance.

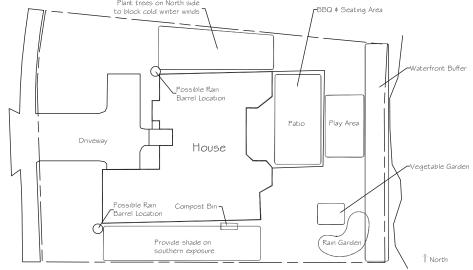
Winter Winds



What kinds of conditions does your landscape have?	 	

#### 5. Draw an activity diagram.

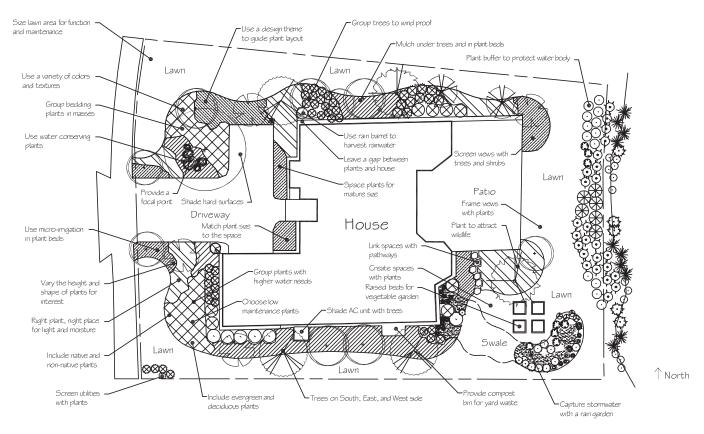
On a clean copy of your site plan, sketch the locations where activities will take place (refer to your answers for step 1). Make sure to consider views. Is there a spot you regularly look at that you want to enhance with plants that attract birds or butterflies? Are there structures or equipment, such as a utility box or shed, which you would like to hide? *See the sample activity diagram provided for guidance.* 



#### 6. Create a landscape plan.

Your landscape plan will be guided by the site inventory and analysis and activity maps discussed in steps 4 and 5. Based on these other two diagrams, determine the types of plants you want in different locations. Do not worry about choosing specific plants yet—just identify where you want trees, shrubs, groundcovers, flowering plants, and grass areas. See the sample landscape plan provided in the next section for guidance.

#### THE FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN



Now that you have a plan, you can choose plants suited for the conditions in your landscape using the Florida-Friendly Landscaping<sup>TM</sup> Plant List beginning on page 29.

## **Five Common Gardening Mistakes**

Avoid these five common mistakes for a more Florida-Friendly Landscape.

#### OVERWATERING: WATERING TO THE POINT OF RUNOFF OR LEACHING

#### Problem:

Creates pest and disease problems, wastes water, and can wash pollutants into water bodies.

#### Solution:

Do not water if it has rained in the past 24 hours, or if rain is forecast in the next 24 hours. Check your irrigation system regularly, make sure you apply only moderate amounts of water, and ensure that your rainfall shutoff device is working.

 OVERPLANTING: DESIGNING A LANDSCAPE WITH MORE PLANTS THAN CAN BE ADEQUATELY SUSTAINED

#### Problem:

Can result in cramped plants more prone to disease. Crowded plantings can also interfere with sidewalk and driveway access and block views from windows.

#### Solution:

Design landscapes with the plants' mature sizes in mind. If landscapes must look "full" quickly, use plants that are already at mature or nearly mature size.

3. OVERPRUNING: REMOVING MORE FOLIAGE OR BRANCHES FROM A PLANT THAN IS HEALTHY FOR IT

#### Problem:

Can weaken trees and shrubs, making them more susceptible to insect or disease problems.

#### Solution:

Never remove more than 30 percent of the foliage from an ornamental plant or shrub at one time. Know the right time of year to prune your plant, and use plants that are the right size for the location.

4. FERTILIZING INAPPROPRIATELY: APPLYING MORE FERTILIZER THAN NECESSARY, APPLYING THE WRONG KIND OF FERTILIZER, OR APPLYING IT AT THE WRONG TIME OF YEAR

#### Problem

Can cause pollution if washed into ground or surface water, causing fish kills and unhealthy algal blooms. Can also burn plant roots.

#### Solution:

Fertilize only when needed, using a fertilizer containing slow-release nitrogen. For turf, do not exceed the rate of 1 lb. total N per 1,000 sq. ft. of lawn at each application. Use compost and other soil amendments to supply plant nutrients instead of fertilizing. "Weed and feed" products are not recommended.

 USING PESTICIDES INCORRECTLY: APPLYING MORE THAN THE RECOMMENDED AMOUNT OF PESTICIDES, APPLYING THE WRONG PESTICIDES, OR APPLYING THEM TOO OFTEN

#### Problem:

Can cause insects to develop resistance to the chemicals and may harm beneficial garden insects.

#### Solution:

Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for an environmentally friendly approach to pest management. Avoid overwatering and fertilizing inappropriately to help keep pests from becoming a problem.

## Florida-Friendly Plant List

The plants on this Florida-Friendly Plant List are considered by UF/IFAS horticulture specialists to be well adapted to growing in Florida landscapes. The plants on this list are not the only plants that can be used in Florida. Contact your county's UF/IFAS Extension office to determine if a plant not on the list is suitable for your region.

When planted under appropriate soil, light, and climatic conditions, most plants on the list generally require little maintenance compared with other plants. Each plant's preferred growing conditions (soil pH, soil texture, relative drought tolerance, soil drainage/moisture, light range, light optimum, and salt tolerance) are included here as a guide to choosing plants for your specific site conditions. Additional information is given on growth rate, mature height and spread, flowering color and season, value to wildlife, wind resistance and other characteristics helpful for plant selection and maintenance.

Many plants listed as Annuals are considered Perennials in some areas of the state and vice versa. The microclimate and the amount of care given to the plants will ultimately determine their staying power in the landscape.

See the key to symbols and abbreviations used in the tables for details. Remember to always put the right plant in the right place by matching each plant's needs with the environmental conditions found at the site. There may be variation in some characteristics, especially in the region (north, central or south) of Florida in which plants will grow. Check with your county's UF/IFAS Extension office to confirm the appropriateness of specific plants (look in the government pages of your phone book or see <a href="http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map">http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map</a> for your county's contact information).

# USE THE LIST TO CHOOSE PLANTS BASED ON YOUR SITE CONDITIONS, FOLLOWING THESE STEPS:

- 1. Find out and write down the conditions of the bed or other area you want to plant:
  - The region of the state you live in. (Check the map on page 2 and remember that if you live close to the border of a region, all of the plants listed for that region may not do well in your area and some of the plants that do well in the next region may do well in your area.)
  - The amount of light the site receives. (Check at various times throughout the day and through the seasons.)
  - Soil pH and texture. The pH ranges given in the legend are not absolute, but rather for guidance as to the optimum pH conditions. Some plants may do well if the pH is slightly higher or lower than those

- listed. (Take samples and obtain a soil test through your county's Extension office.)
- Soil moisture (Is it in a high, dry area or a low area where water frequently accumulates? To check drainage, dig a small hole, add water and see how quickly the water drains if water stands for more than 24 hours, consider it a wet site.)
- Exposure to salt spray or salty irrigation water.
- Size of area for plants. (Are there height restrictions such as a window nearby or power lines above? Is the width of the area limited?)
- 2. Determine the type of plant you want (tree, shrub, etc.) and go to that category on the list.
- 3. Narrow down the list by choosing plants that match the region, light, soil conditions and moisture at the site

- 4. Further narrow your list to those plants that will fit the site based on mature height and spread.
- 5. Consider the need for salt tolerant plants, if applicable, and any additional factors you are interested in, such as wildlife value or flower color and season.

For further assistance, contact the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods or horticulture program at your county's UF/IFAS Extension office.

This list is meant as a guide to start choosing plants appropriate for your conditions. The absence of a plant from this list does not imply that it is not well adapted to Florida landscape conditions. This list will be updated periodically. Please check with your county's UF/IFAS Extension office for future updates.

For additional information and fact sheets on many of the plants on this list, see also <a href="http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/">http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/</a>.

#### **KEY TO SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

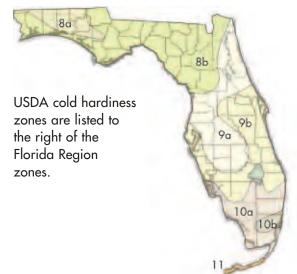
#### FLORIDA REGION ZONES:

Region (includes Florida regions in which plant will grow):



#### **USDA COLD HARDINESS ZONES:**

Includes Florida zones only.



#### **NATIVE STATUS:**

Yes = Florida native

No = Not a Florida native

Var. = Native status depends on species selection

#### GROWTH RATE, HEIGHT AND SPREAD:

Growth rate = Slow or Fast (if no rate is given the plant does not grow exceptionally fast or slow.)

1 = mature height in feet ⇒ = mature spread in feet

#### SOIL pH (GIVES THE RANGE TOLERATED BY THE PLANT):

 $\bullet \circ \circ \circ = Acid 4.5-5.5$ 

○ • • ○ = Slightly acid to slightly alkaline 6.0-7.2

 $\bullet \circ \circ =$  Acid to slightly acid 4.5-6.5

 $\circ \bullet \bullet \bullet =$  Slightly acid to alkaline 6.0-8.0

• • •  $\circ$  = Acid to slightly alkaline 4.5-7.2

 $\bullet \bullet \bullet = \text{Tolerates any soil pH} \quad 4.5-8.0$ 

 $\circ \bullet \circ \circ = \text{Slightly acid } 6.0-6.8$ 

#### **SOIL TEXTURE:**

C/L = clay loam

S/L =sandy S/C =sandy clay

any = any texture

#### SOIL MOISTURE:

= well drained



= medium drained to wet



= medium drained



= well drained to medium drained

#### = well drained to wet

#### DROUGHT TOLERANCE:

High, Medium, Low, or None

(Note: Both drought tolerance and soil moisture tolerance should be considered, and they are not the same. For example, a plant may tolerate wet soils and also have high drought tolerance, and another plant may prefer well drained soils but have low drought tolerance.)

#### LIGHT RANGE AND LIGHT OPTIMUM:



= Partial Shade

= Shade

= Optimum light conditions

#### **SALT TOLERANCE:**

H = High

M = Medium

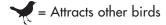
L-N = Low to None

U = Unknown

#### WILDLIFE:

= Attracts butterflies

= Attracts hummingbirds



Scientific

Common

Reg/Native

Soil pH, Txt

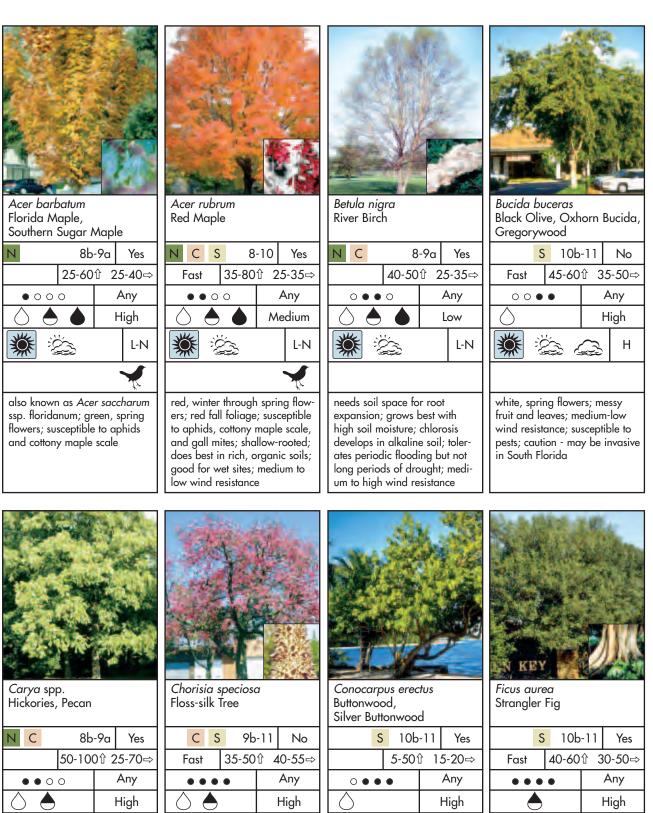
Soil Mst, Drgt

Light/Best

Wildlife

Salt

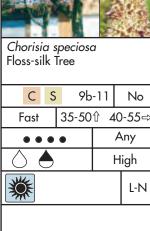
G, H, S



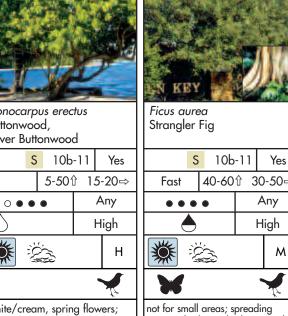
Scientific Common Reg/Native G, H, S Soil pH, Txt Soil Mst, Drgt Light/Best Wildlife

L-N edible fruit (C. illinoinensis); white/yellow, spring flowers; high wind resistance for C. floridana, medium to high for C. glabra and C. tomentosa, low for C. illinoinensis;

susceptible to pests



rapid grower first few years; deciduous, pink/white, fivepetaled fall through winter flowers; large roots form at base just beneath soil



canopy shades parks, large yards;

may start as epiphyte, killing host tree (often encircling cabbage

palm); fallen fruits may be messy;

medium-low wind resistance, can

be difficult to distinguish from inva-

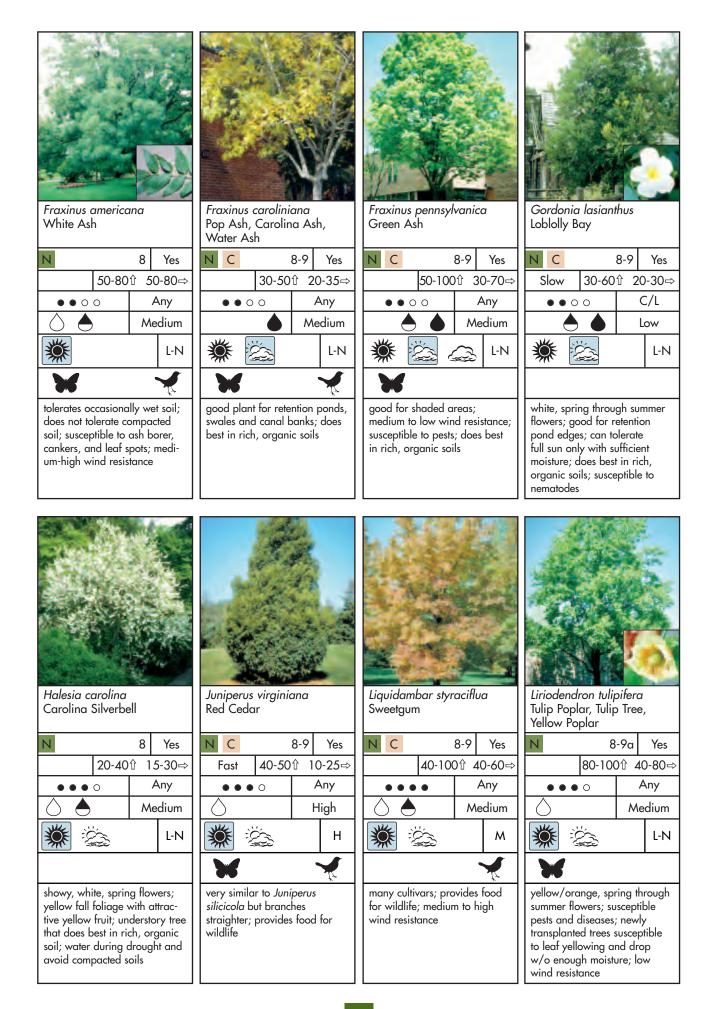
sive species; susceptible to pests

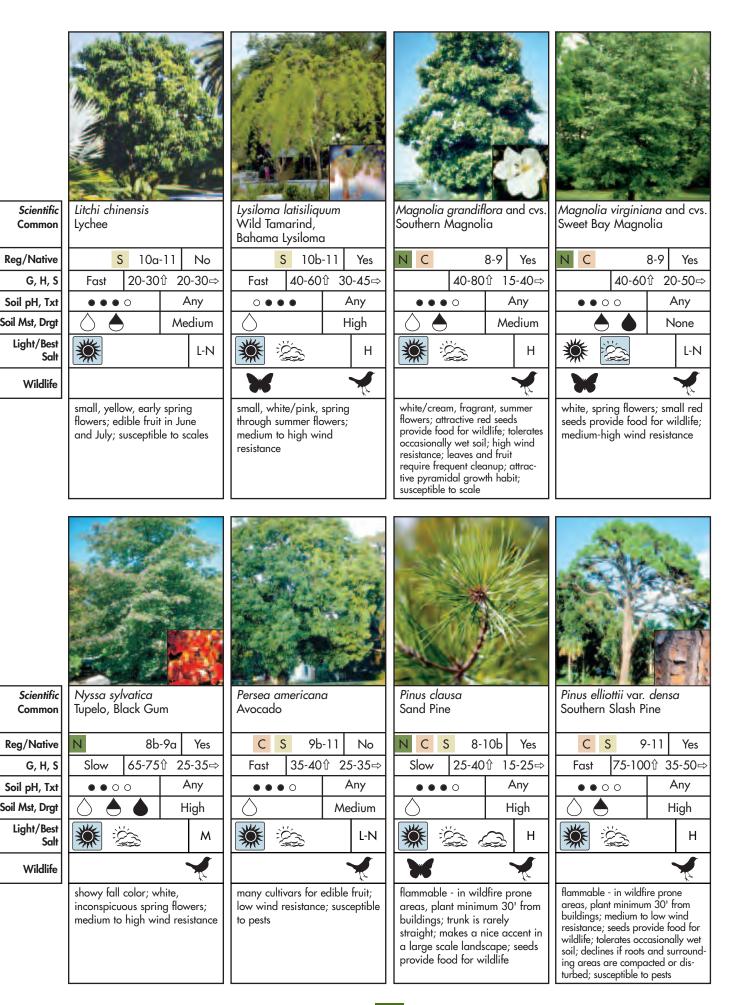
white/cream, spring flowers;

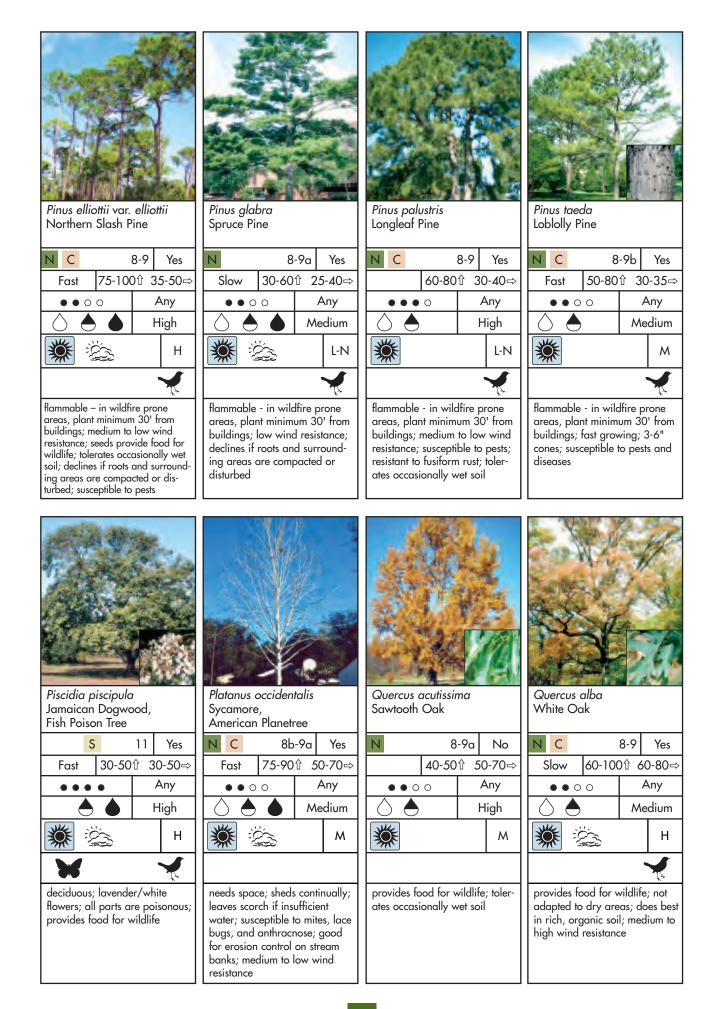
susceptible to pests; high wind

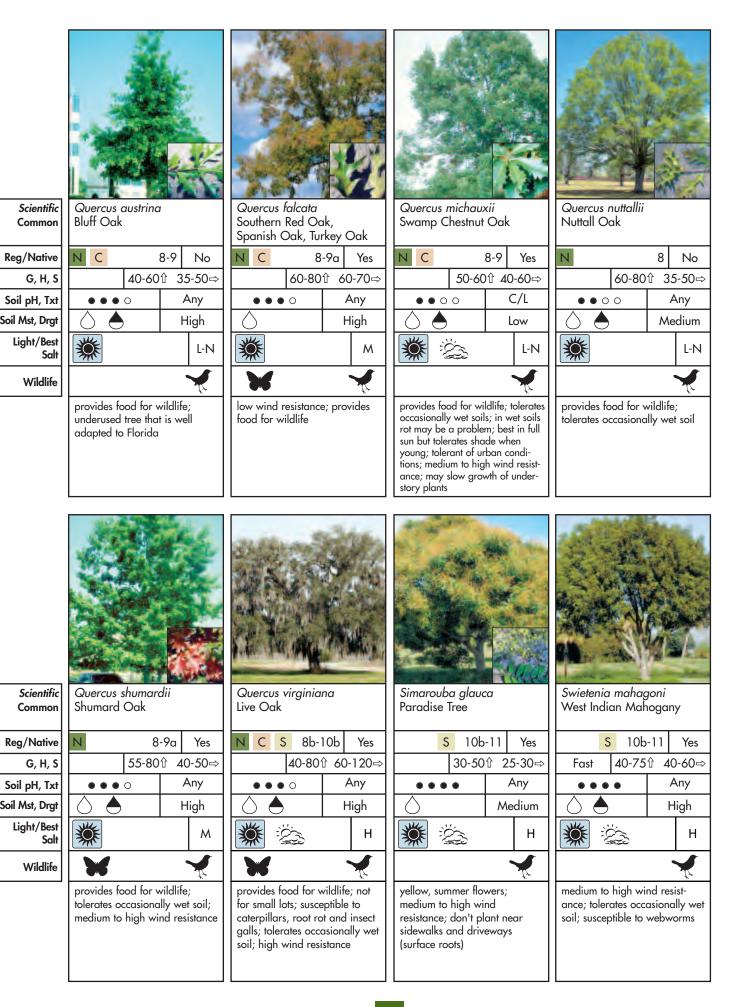
resistance; provides cover and

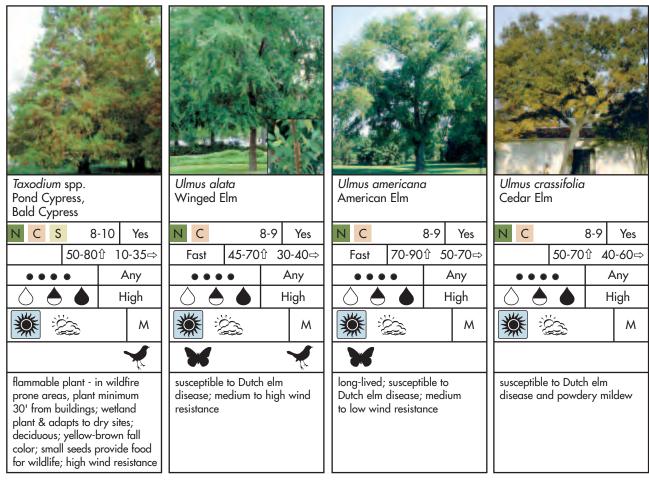
nesting for wildlife

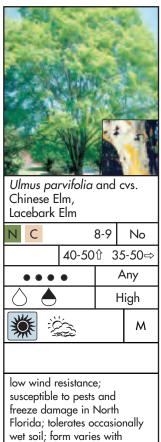




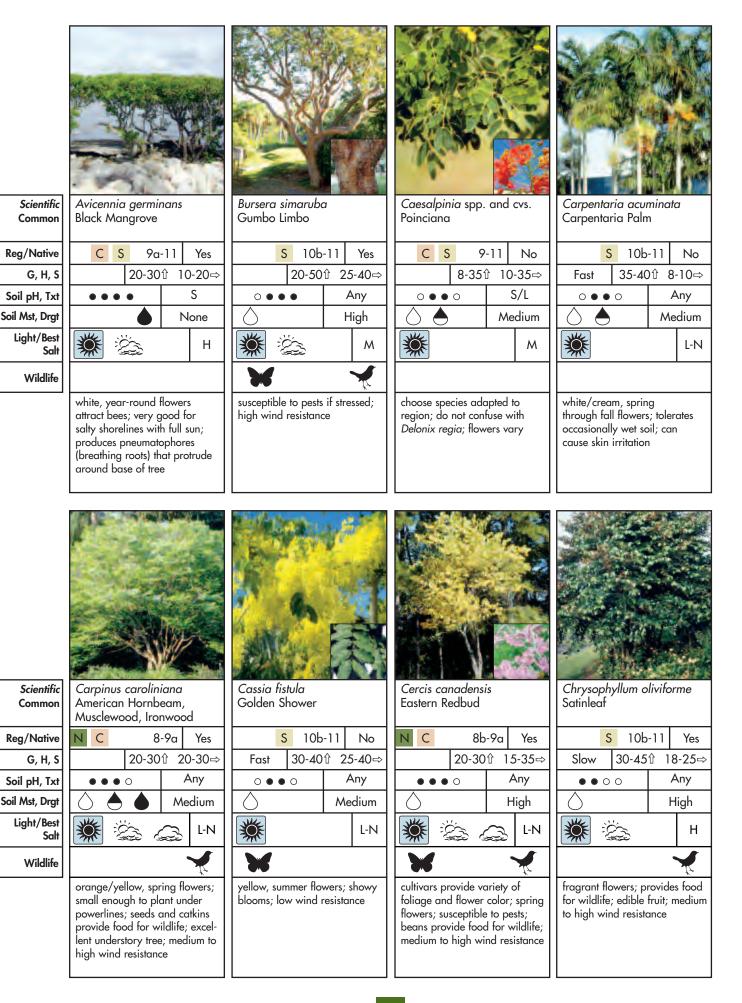








cultivar



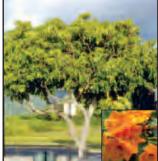


Coccoloba diversifolia Pigeonplum

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$\Diamond$				Н	igh
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white, summer flowers; edible fruit; susceptible to weevils; provides food for wildlife; compact crown makes it good for small areas; medium to high wind resistance; bark peels and becomes showy with age



Cordia sebestena Geiger Tree

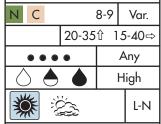
	S	10b	10b-11		No	
Slow		25-30	û 2	20	)-25⇒	
0 • (	•	•		Α	Any	
$\Diamond$				Н	igh	
W.	Ų.	,				



tolerant of salt or brackish water; orange, year-round flowers; foliage may be damaged by geiger beetles; damaged by severe freezes; high wind resistance



*Crataegus* spp. Hawthorn





provides food and cover for wildlife; flowers vary; best for North Florida; many species and cultivars



Cupressus arizonica var. arizonica Arizona Cypress

	, .		
N C		8-9	Yes
	30-40	<b>企</b> 1	5-25⇒
• • •	•		S/L
$\Diamond$		ı	High
			U

evergreen; green foliage with silver/gray shimmer; good as specimen or windbreak



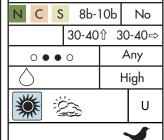
Delonix regia Royal poinciana

	S	10b	-11		No
Fast		35-40	û 4	lC	)-60⇒
• • •	•			Α	ny
$\Diamond$				Н	igh
					М

orange/red, summer flowers; medium to low wind resistance; needs large area; caution may be invasive in South Florida



Elaeocarpus decipiens Japanese Blueberry



evergreen; pink/white, spring through summer flowers; provides food for wildlife



Ficus citrifolia Shortleaf Fig, Wild Banyan Tree

S	10b	-11	Yes
Fast	25-50	û 3	0-40⇔
• • • • A		Any	
		High	
			М
			-



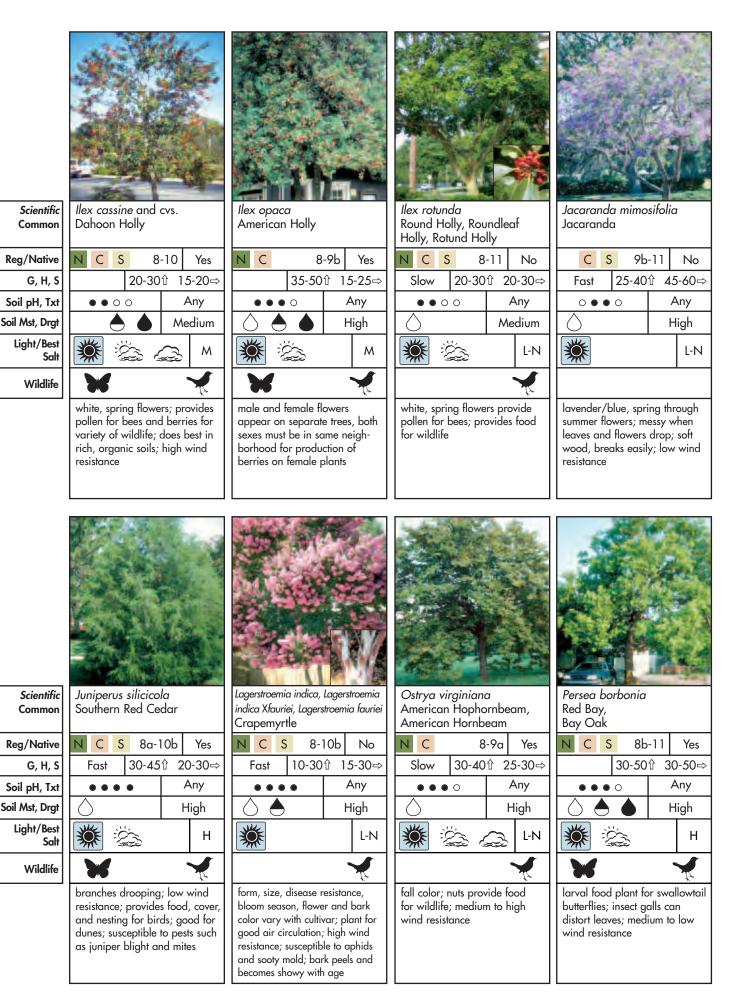
edible fruit; lacks aerial roots, but still requires adequate room for root development; don't plant in drainfields due to aggressive roots; can be difficult to distinguish from invasive species

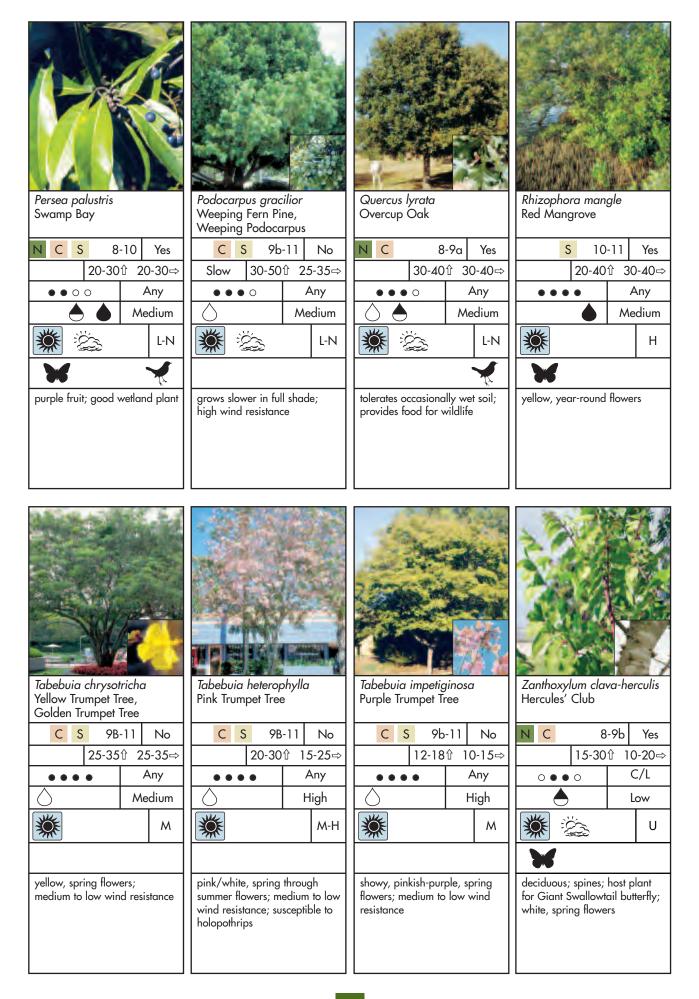


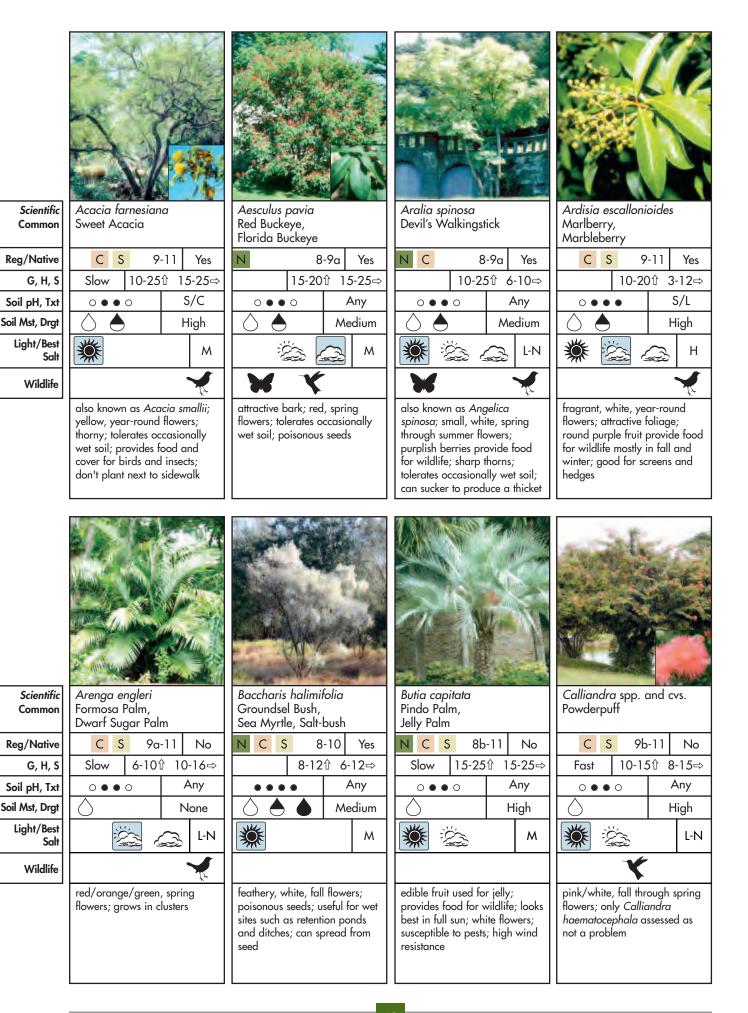
*Ilex Xattenuata* and cvs. East Palatka Holly

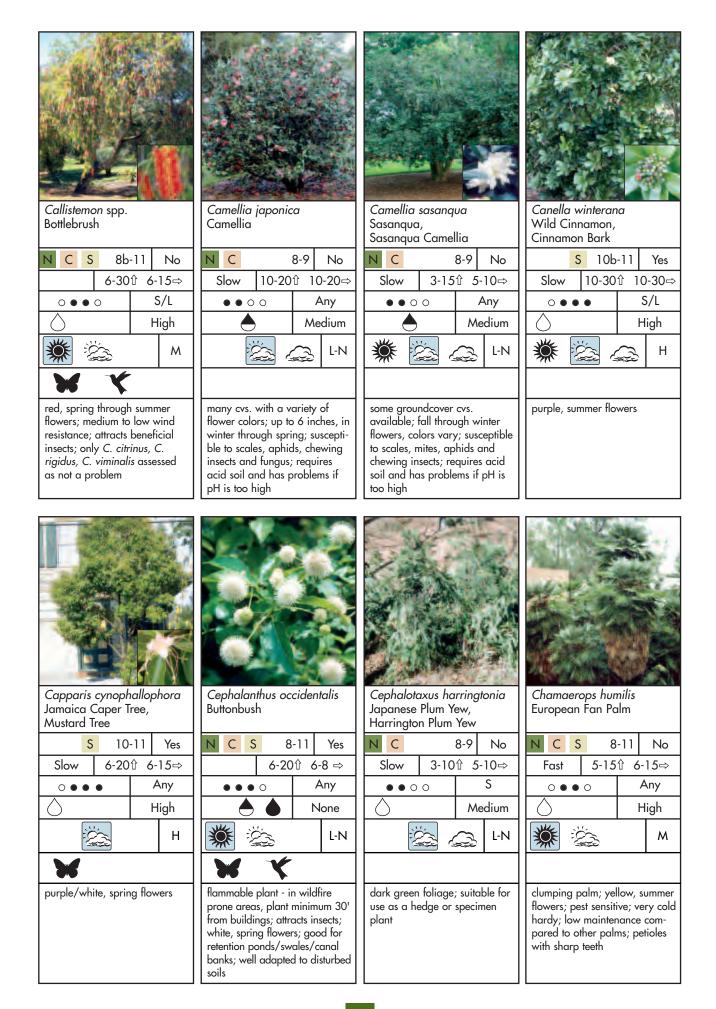
N C S 8	-10	Yes		
30-451 10-15⇒				
• • • 0	,	Any		
$\Diamond$	Me	edium		
		М		
		X		

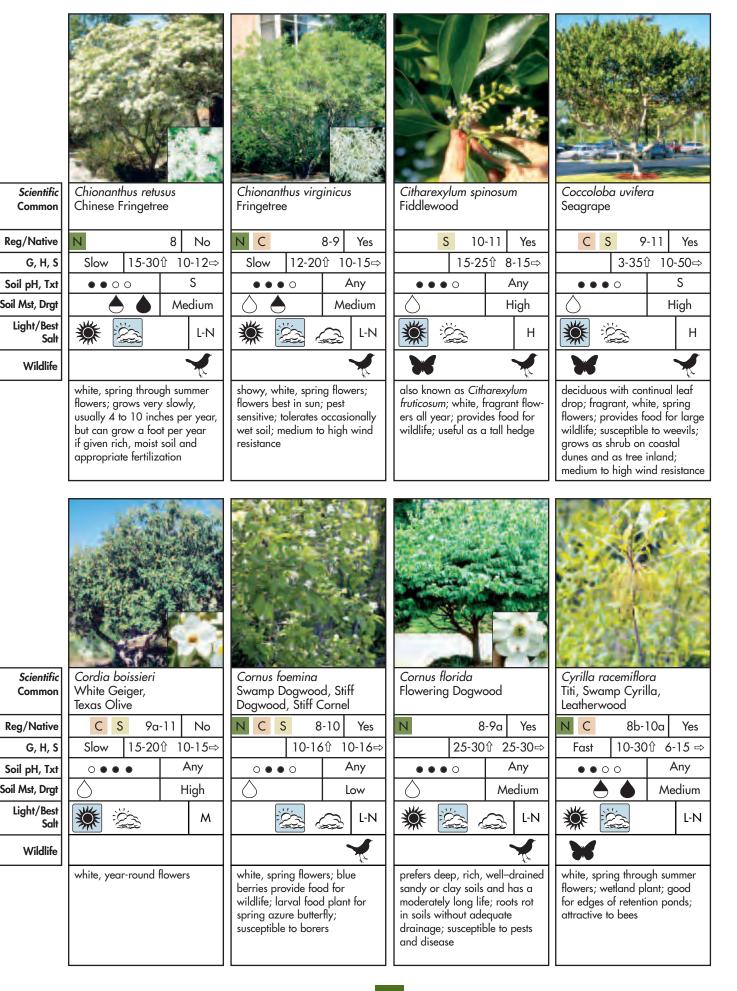
may have severe disease problems in central parts of the state; provides pollen for bees

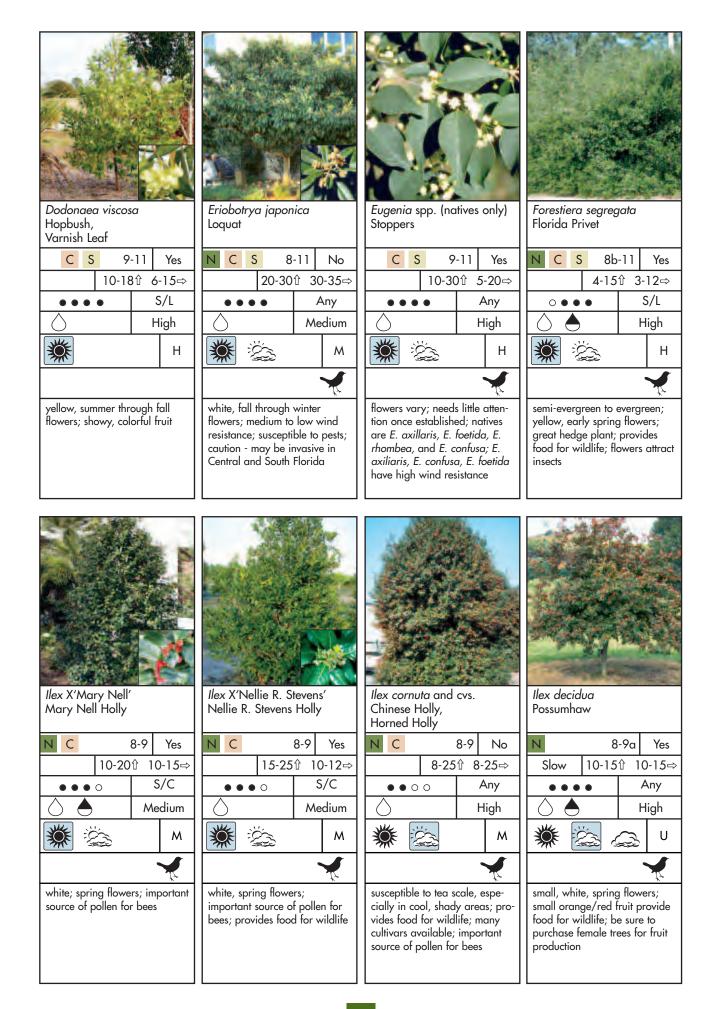


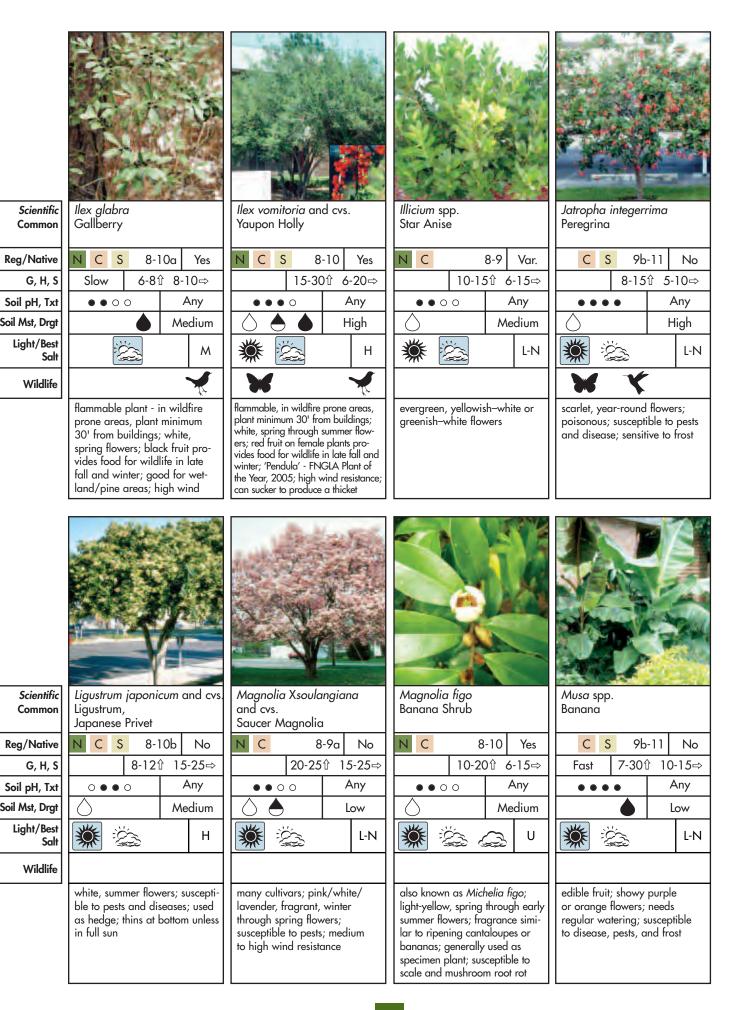


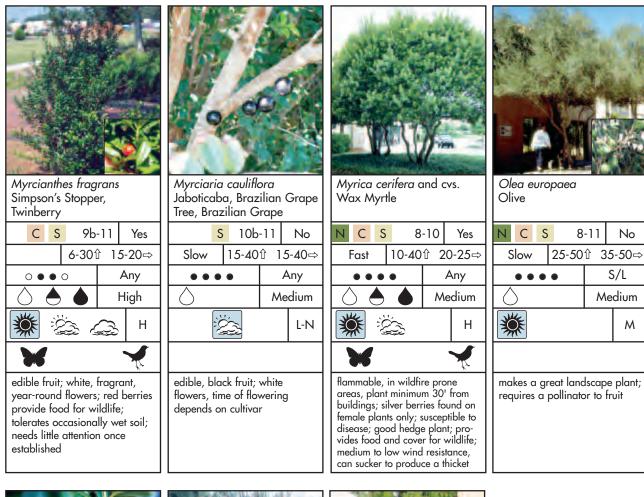


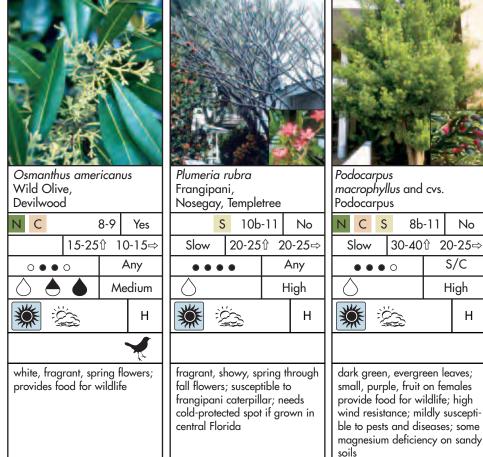


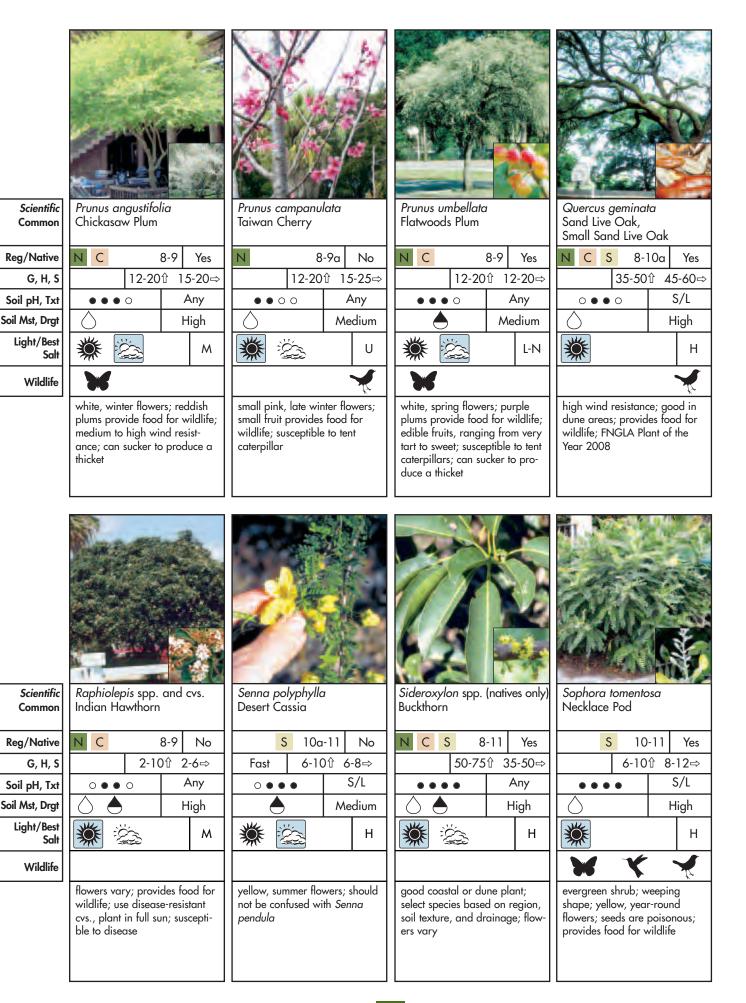


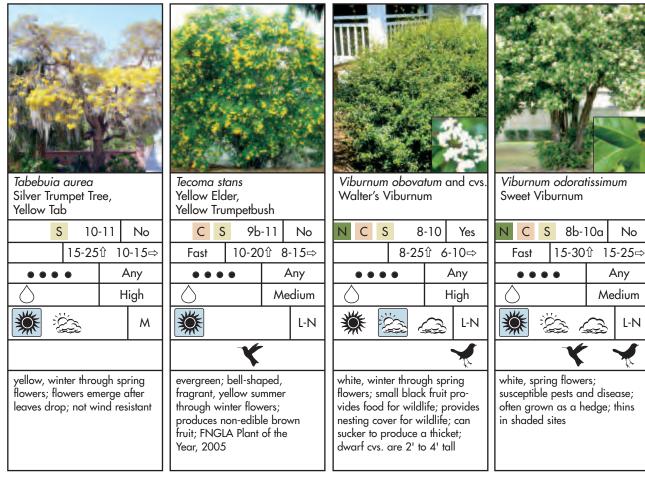


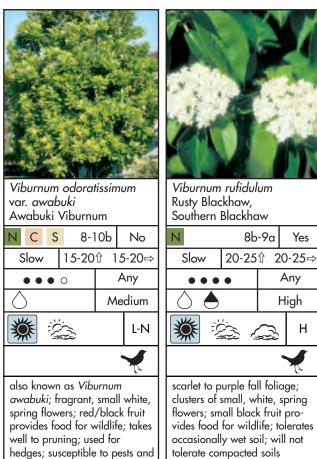












disease

Scientific

Common

Reg/Native

Soil pH, Txt

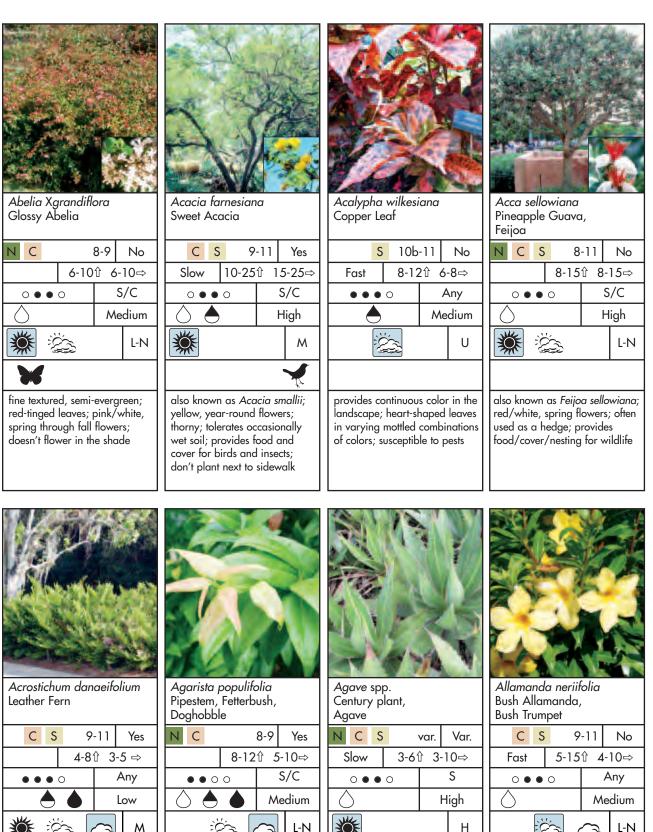
Soil Mst, Drgt

Light/Best

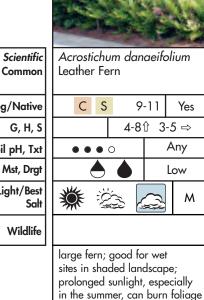
Wildlife

Salt

G, H, S



Reg/Native G, H, S Soil pH, Txt Soil Mst, Drgt Light/Best Salt Wildlife



evergreen, creamy white, fragrant spring flowers

dramatic foliage and form; evergreen, silver/gray to blue-green foliage; showy, green-brown fruit; sharp spines; choose species adapted to climate



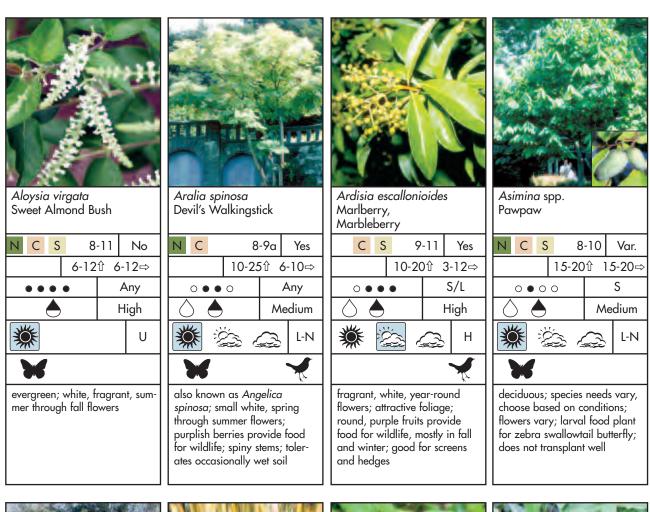


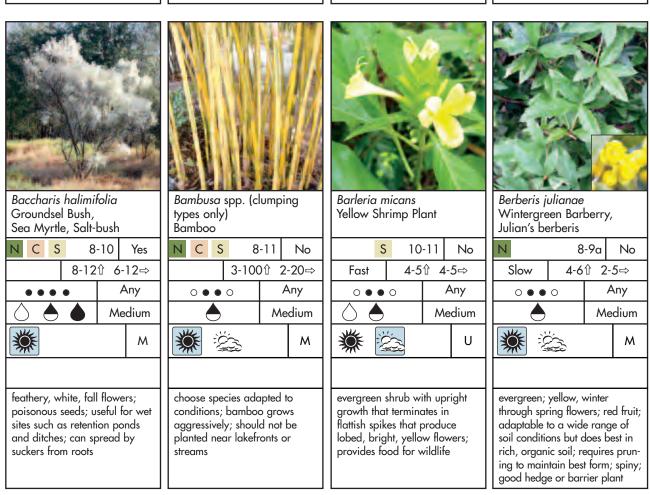


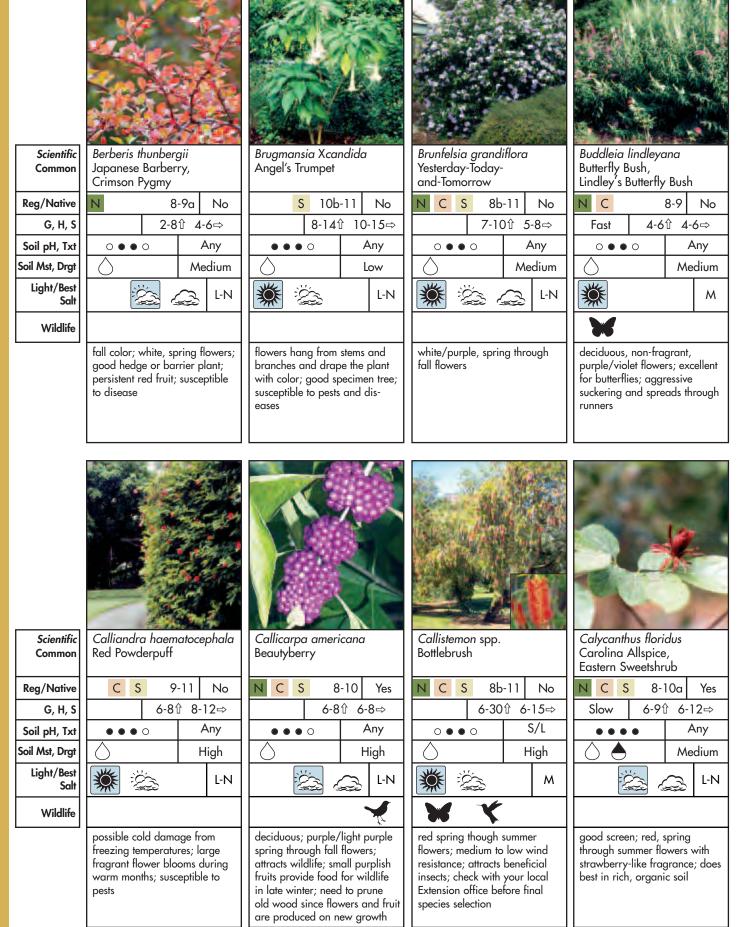


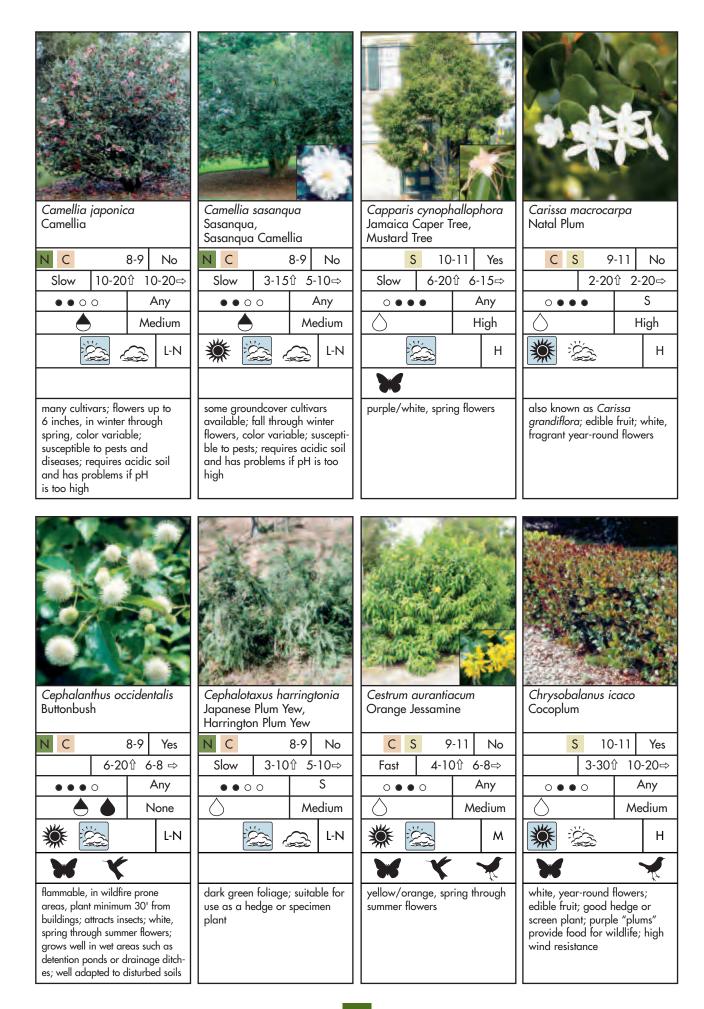


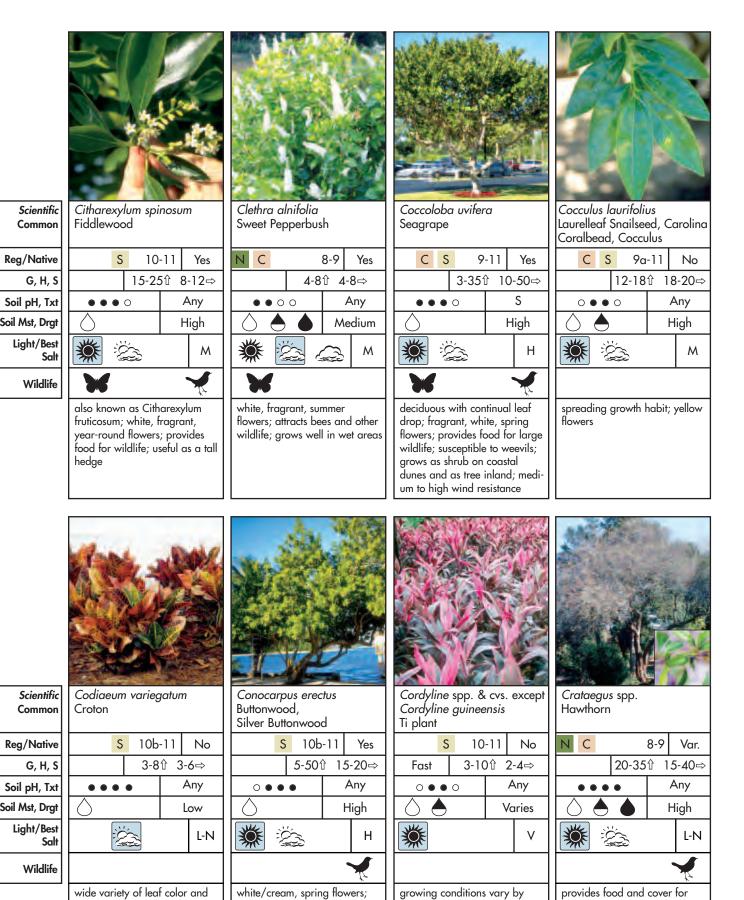
bright yellow, trumpet-shaped, year-round flowers; bleeds white milky sap if stems are broken; makes an open hedge; attractive to birds and butterflies











silver leaved form more suscep-

tible to sooty mold and insect

problems; do not plant in marl

soil; high wind resistance;

provides cover for wildlife

shape; white/yellow, summer

flowers; susceptible to pests

species; flowers vary; cold

Extension office before final

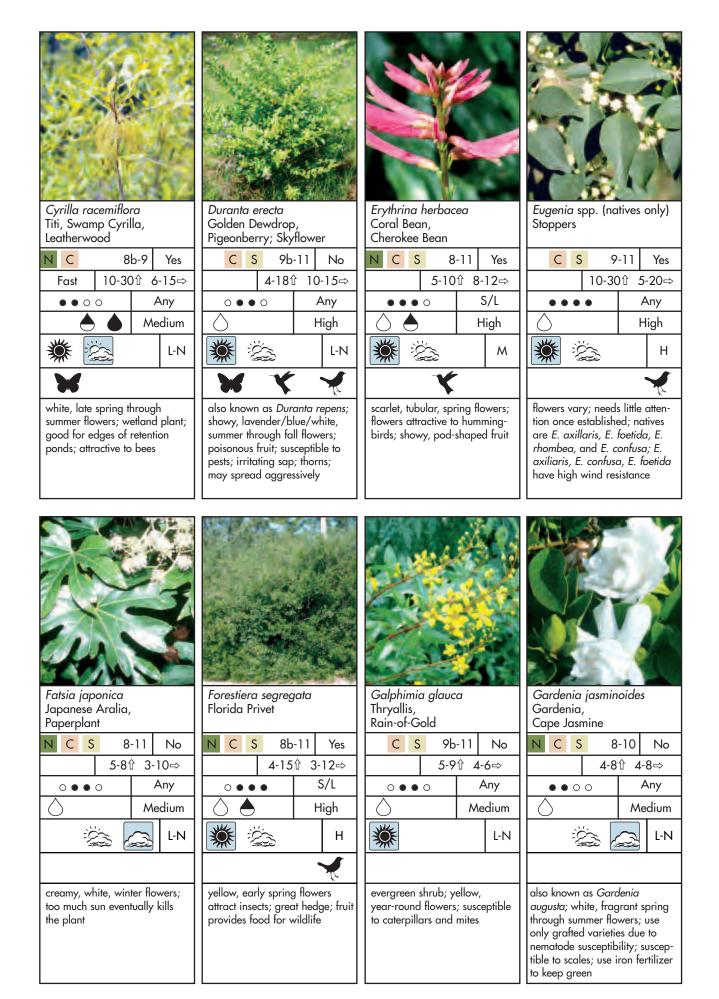
species selection

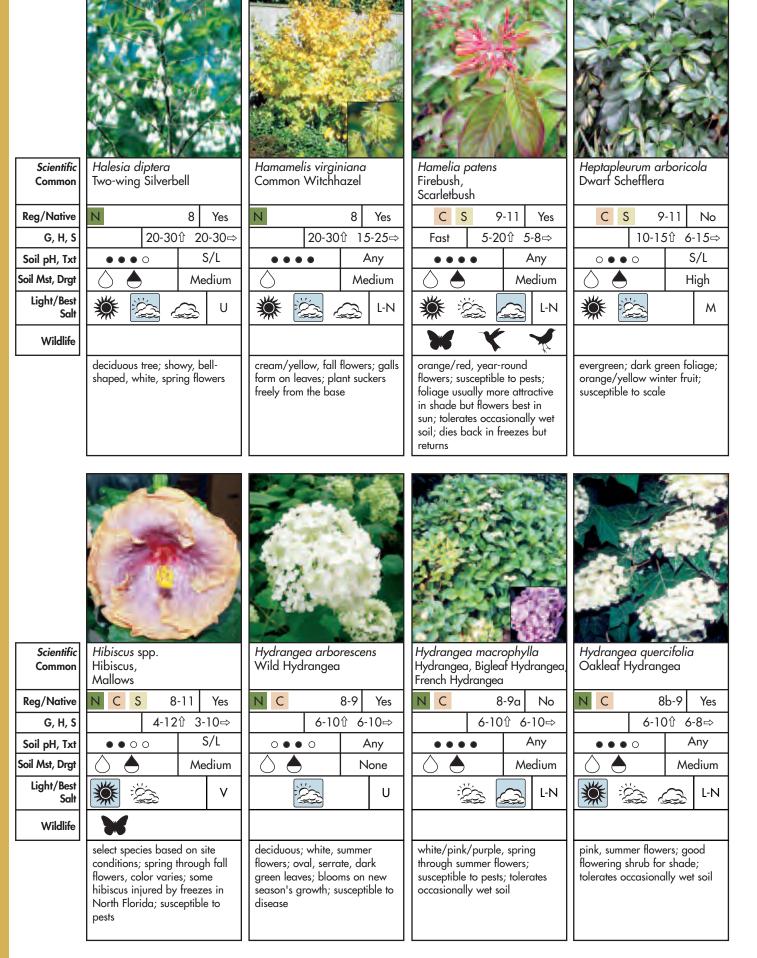
sensitive; check with your local

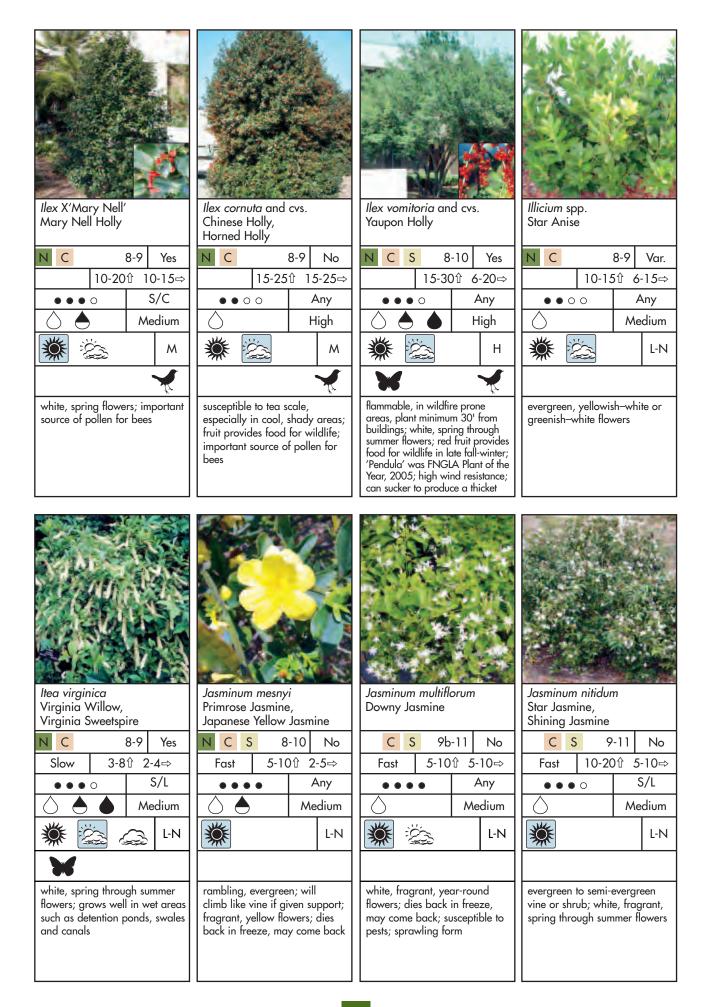
wildlife; flowers vary; best for

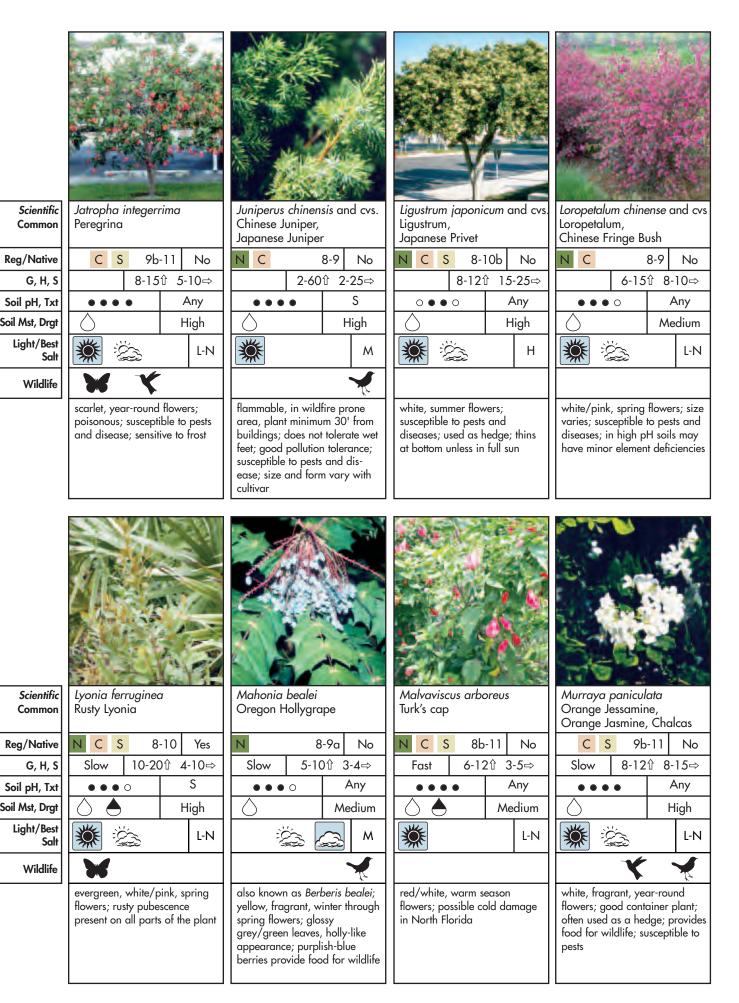
north Florida; many species

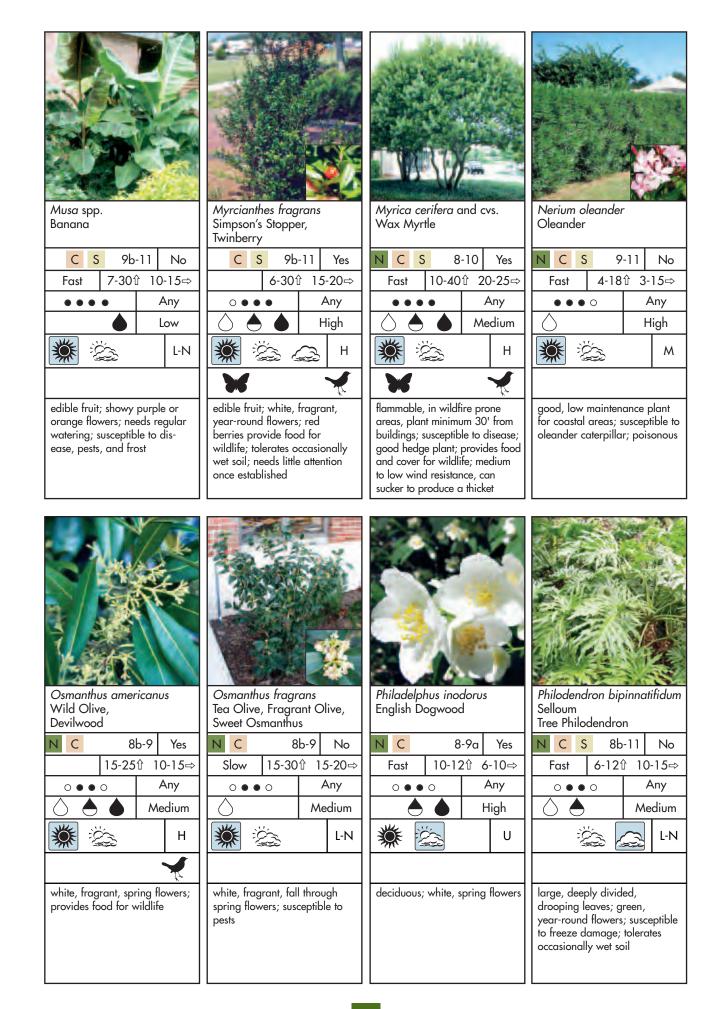
and cultivars

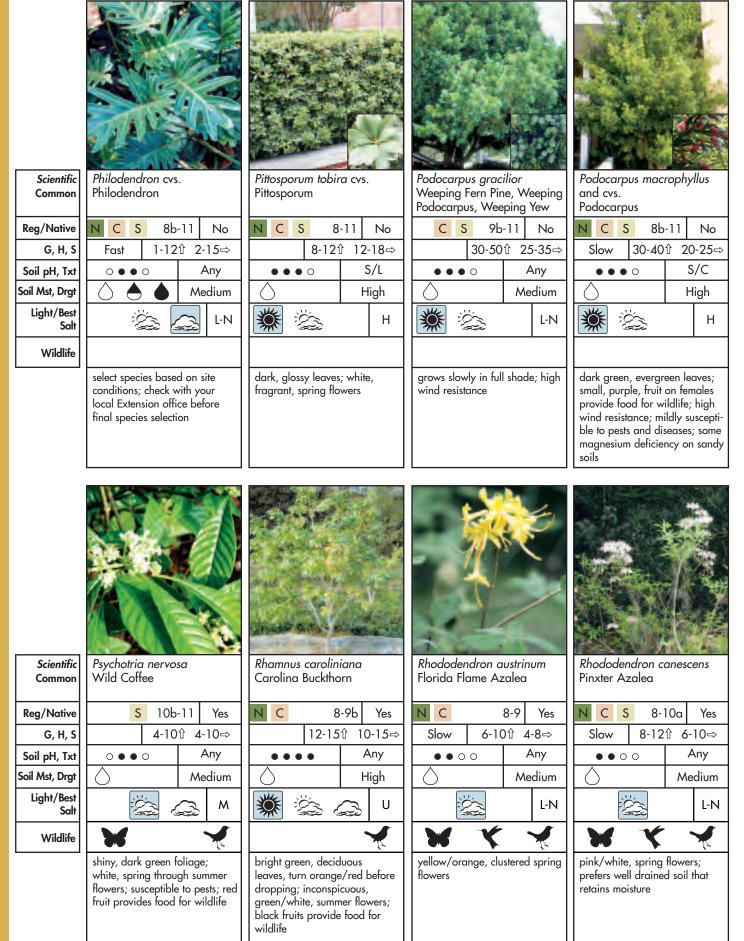


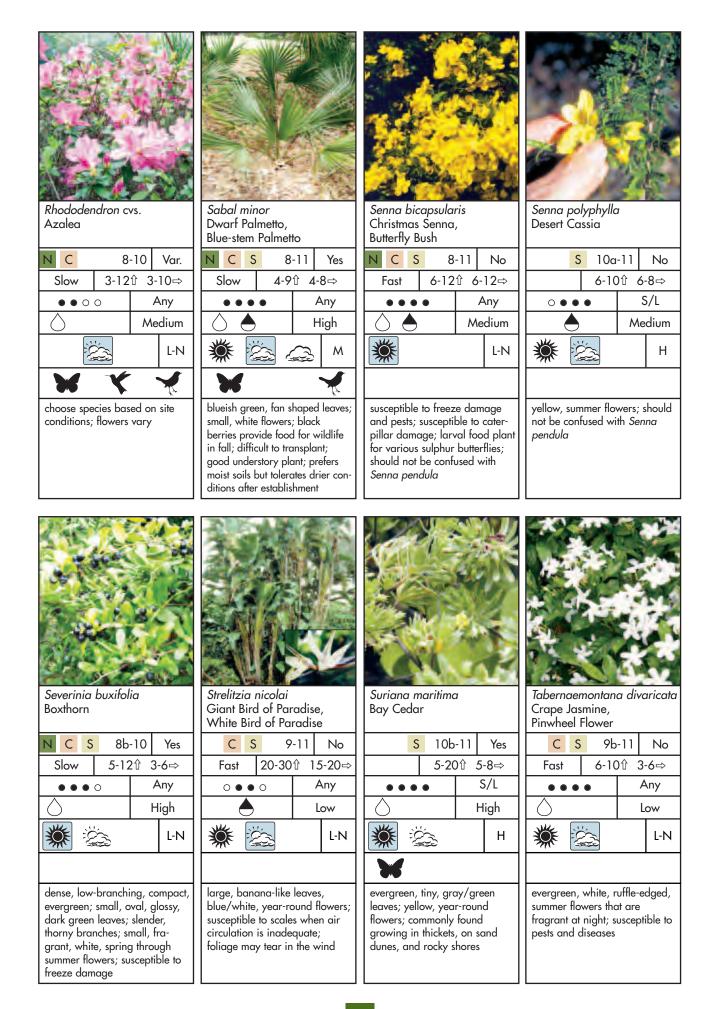


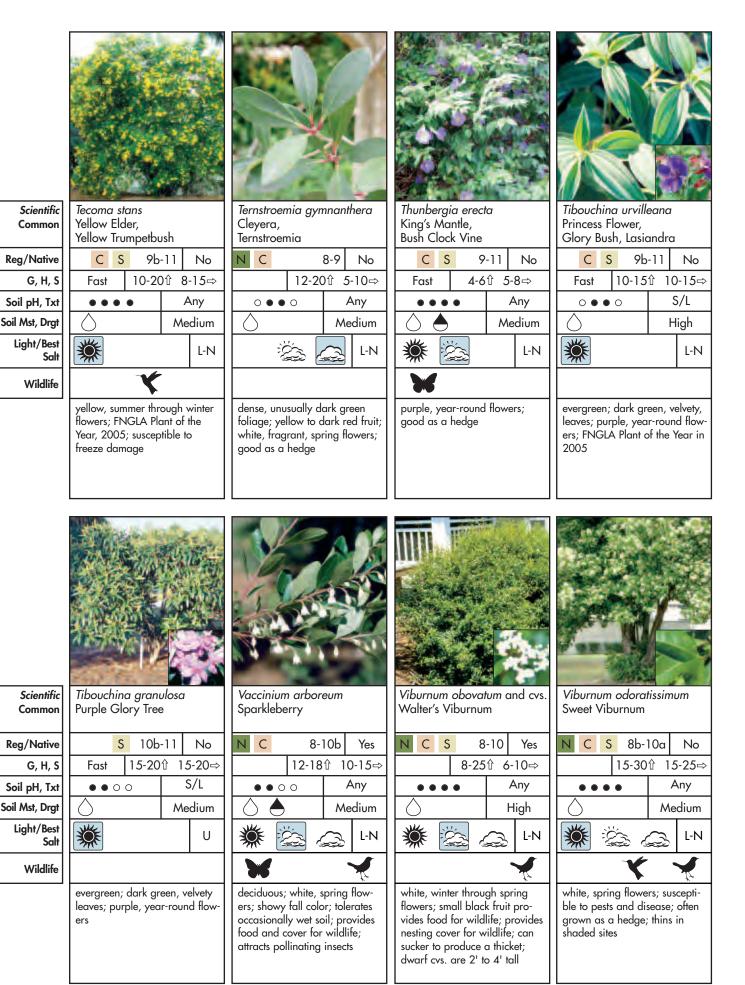


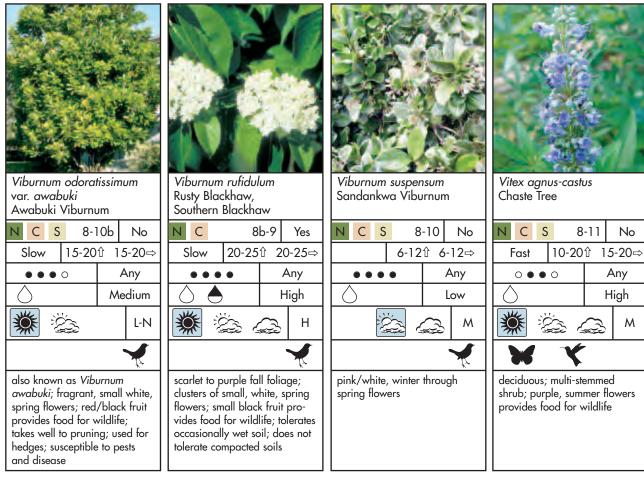


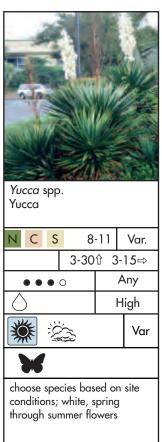


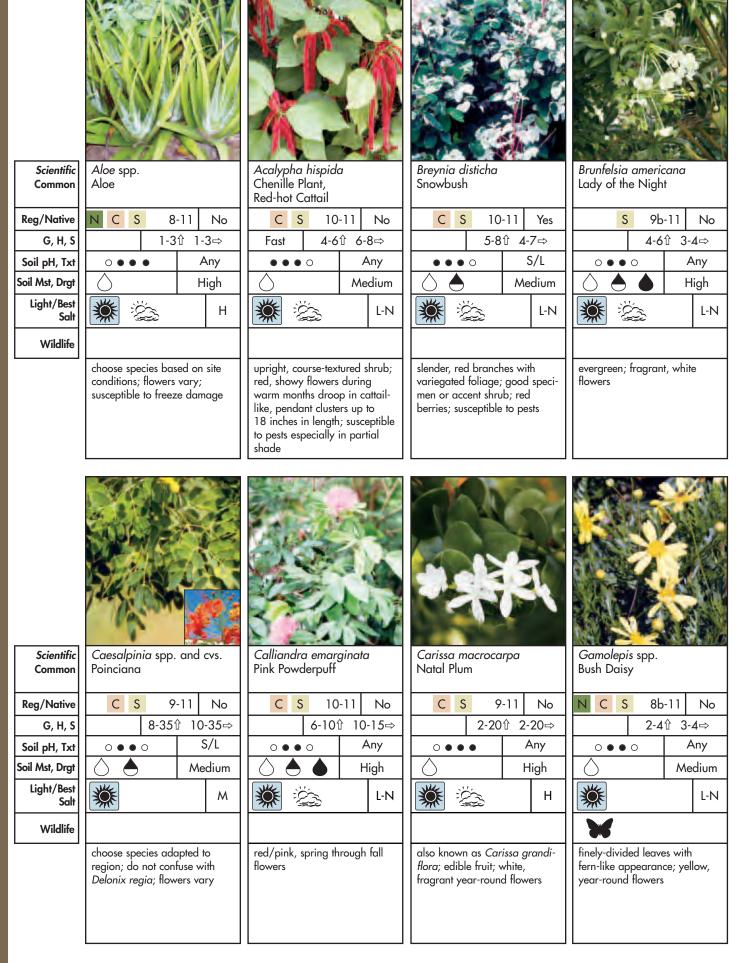


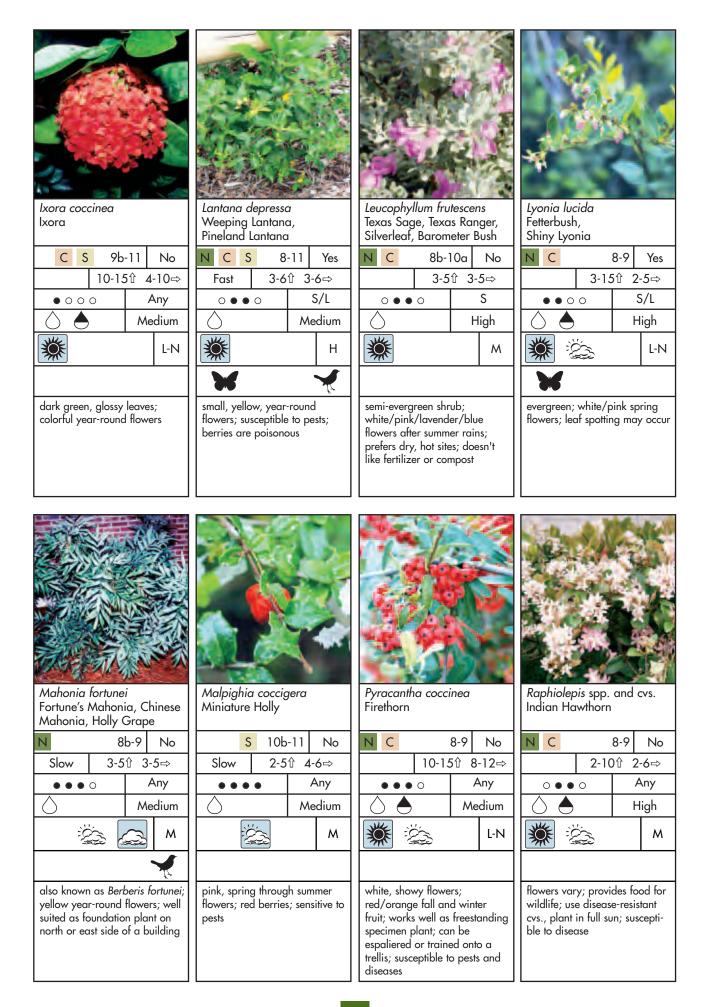


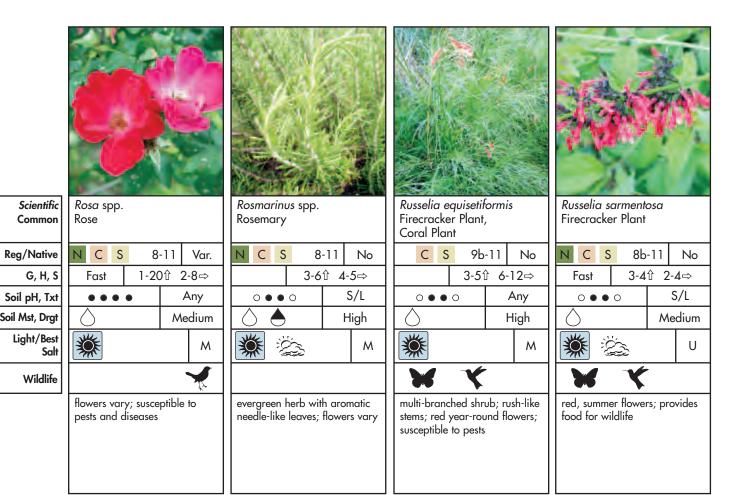


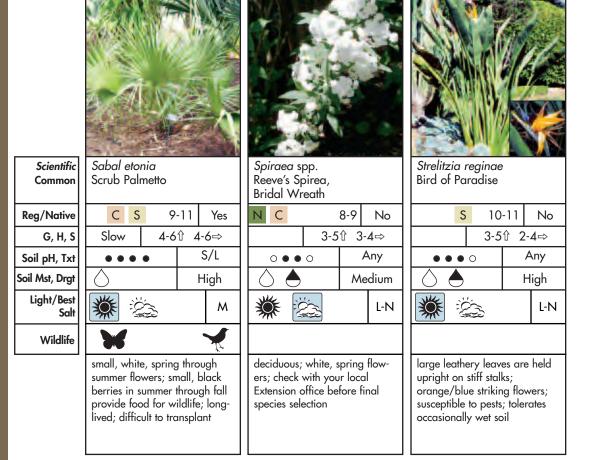


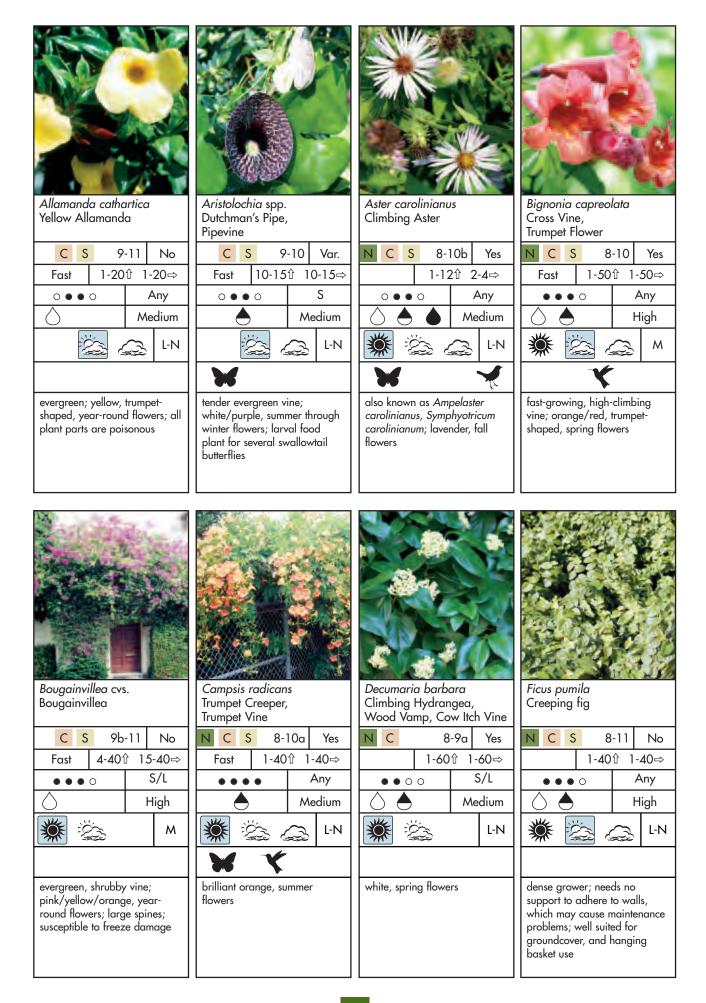


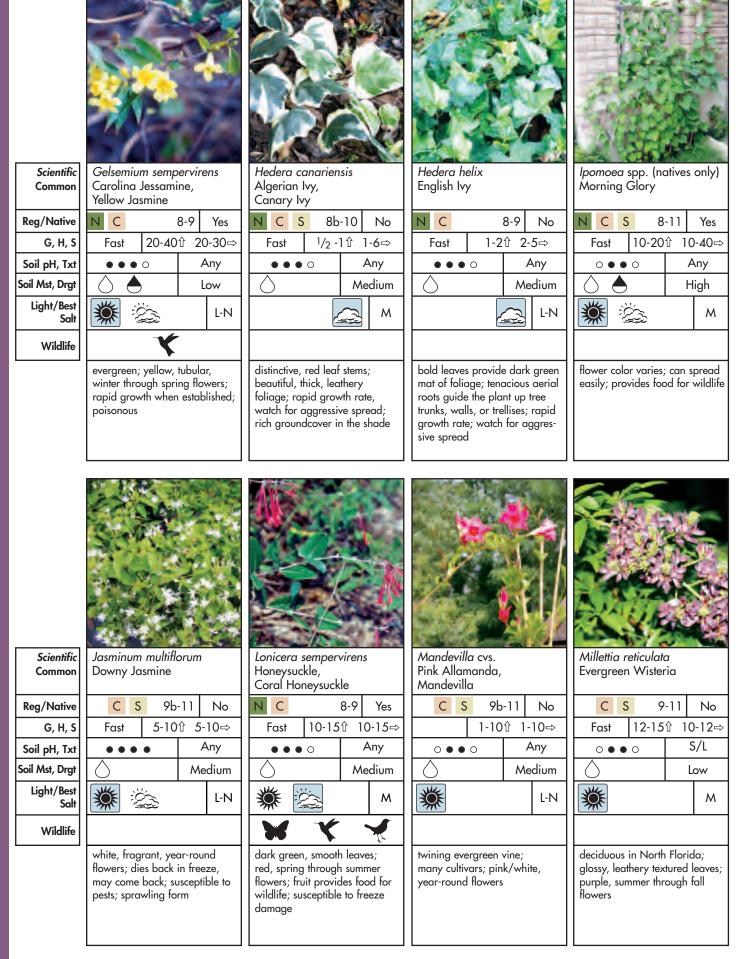


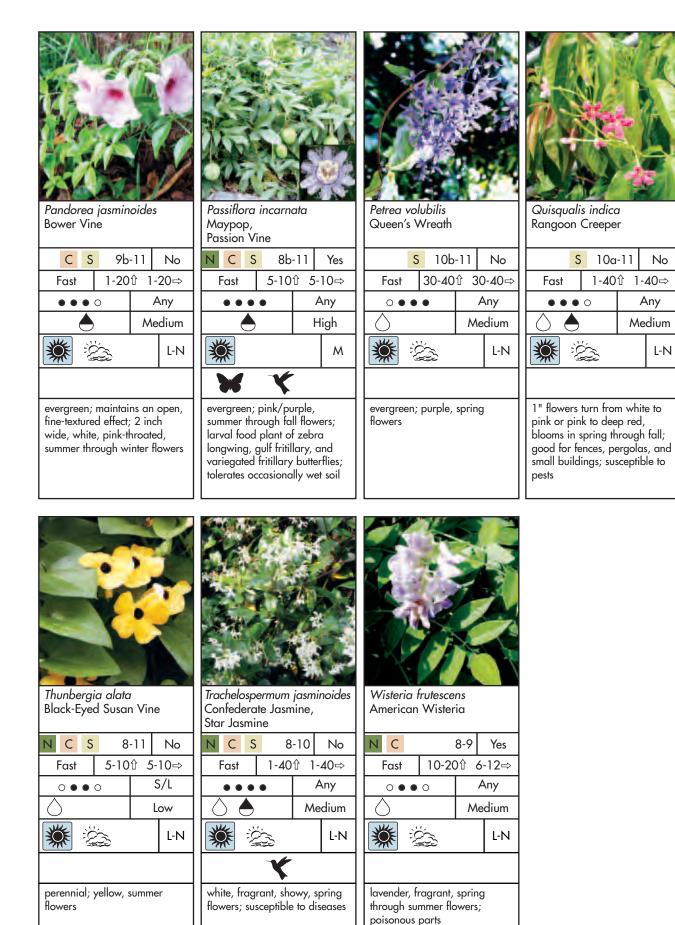


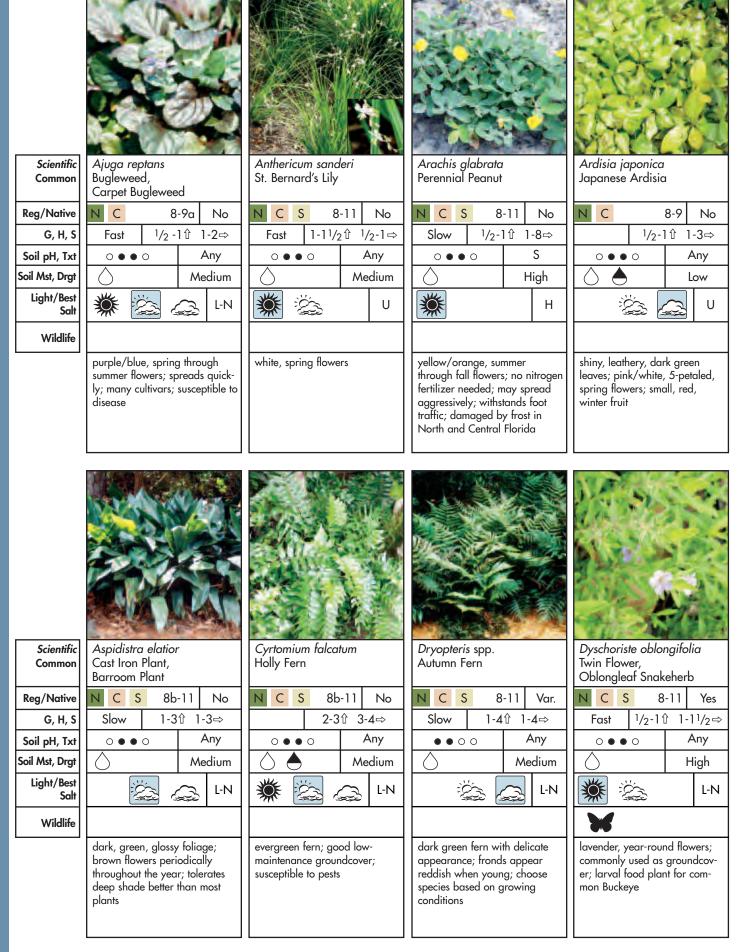


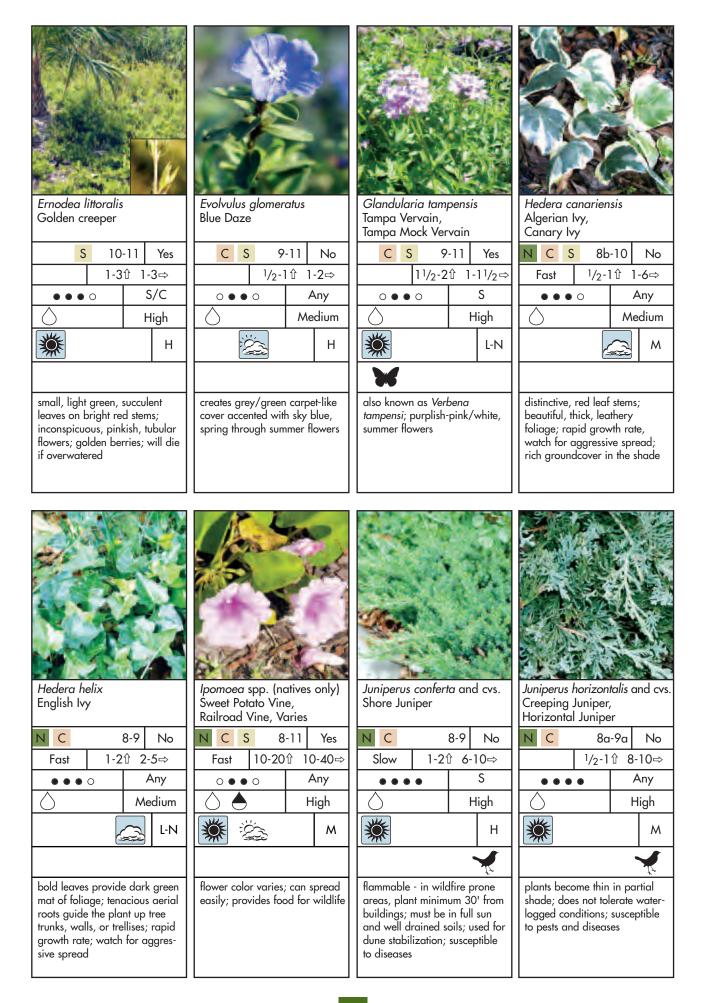


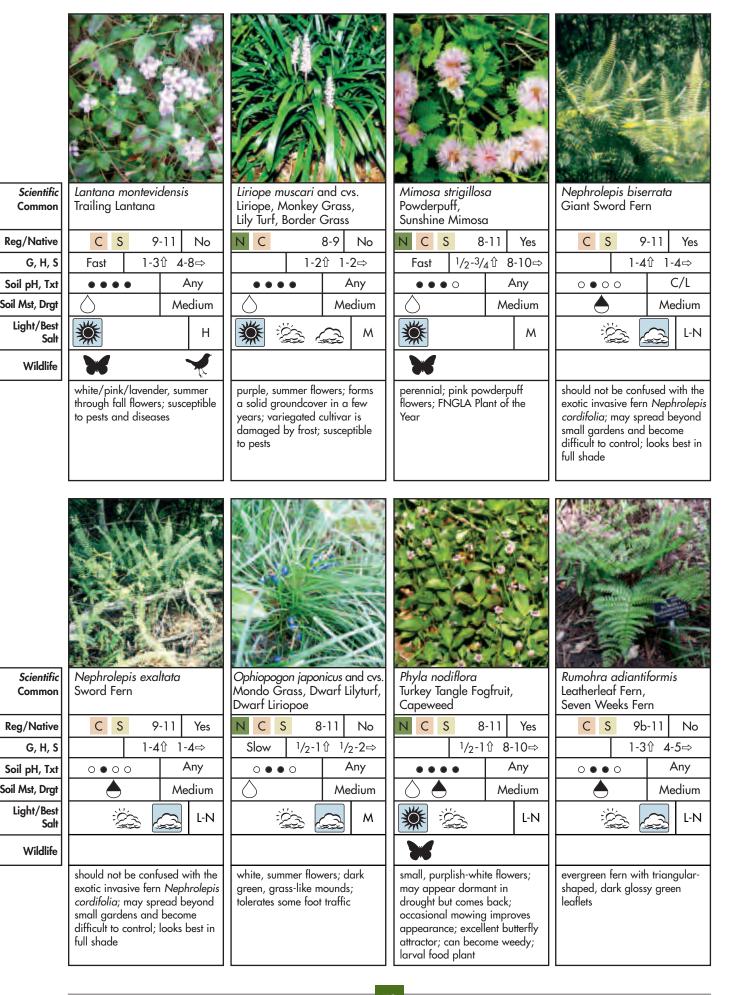


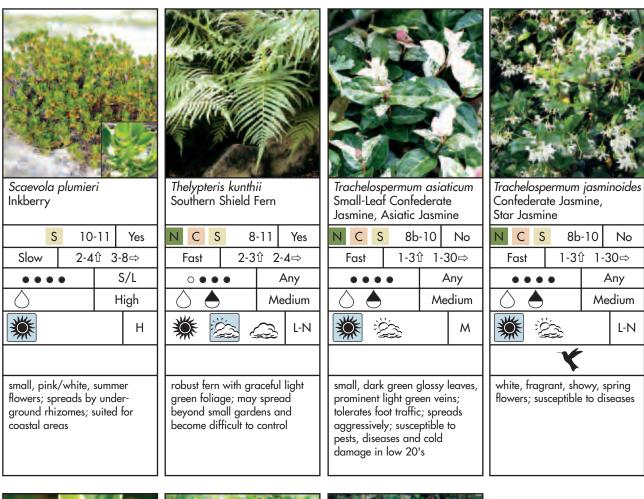


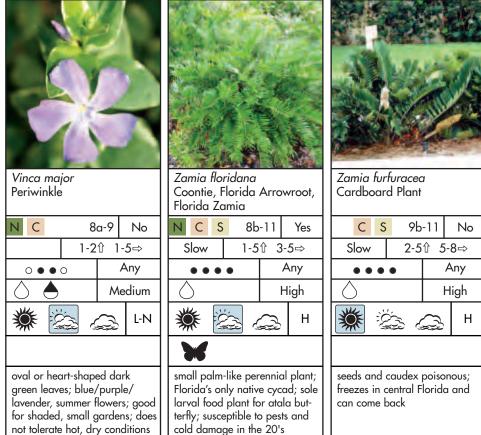


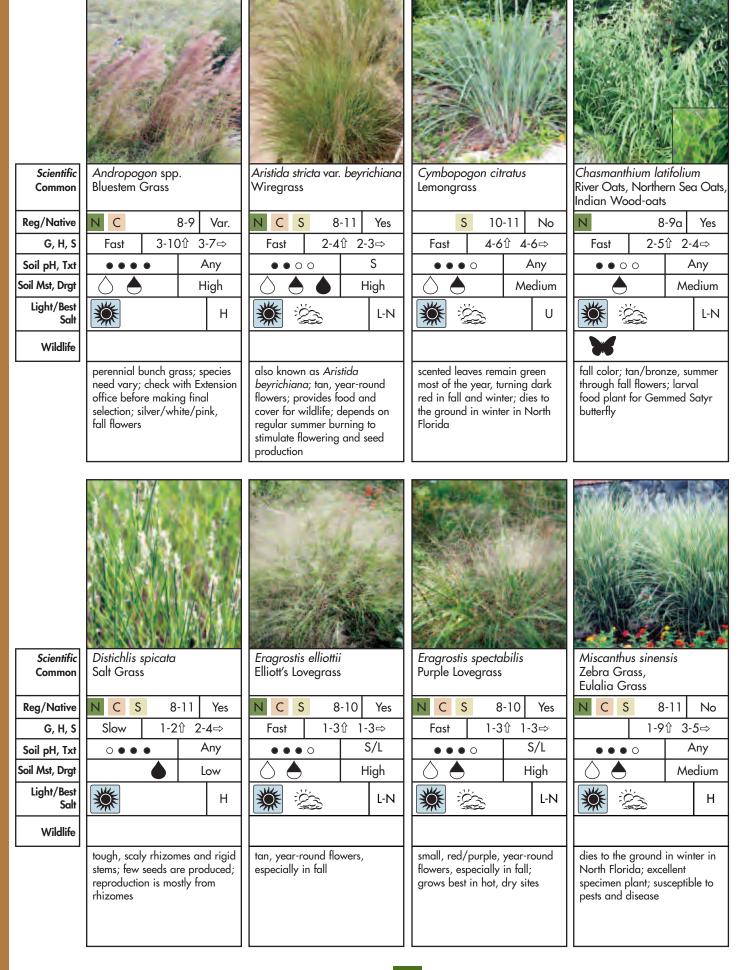


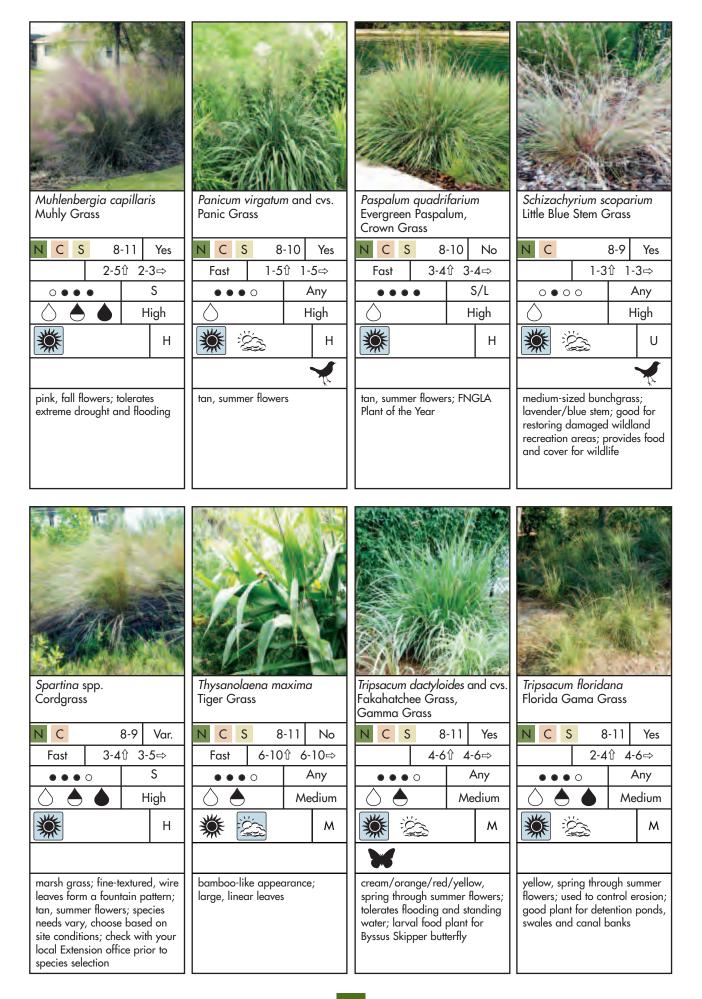


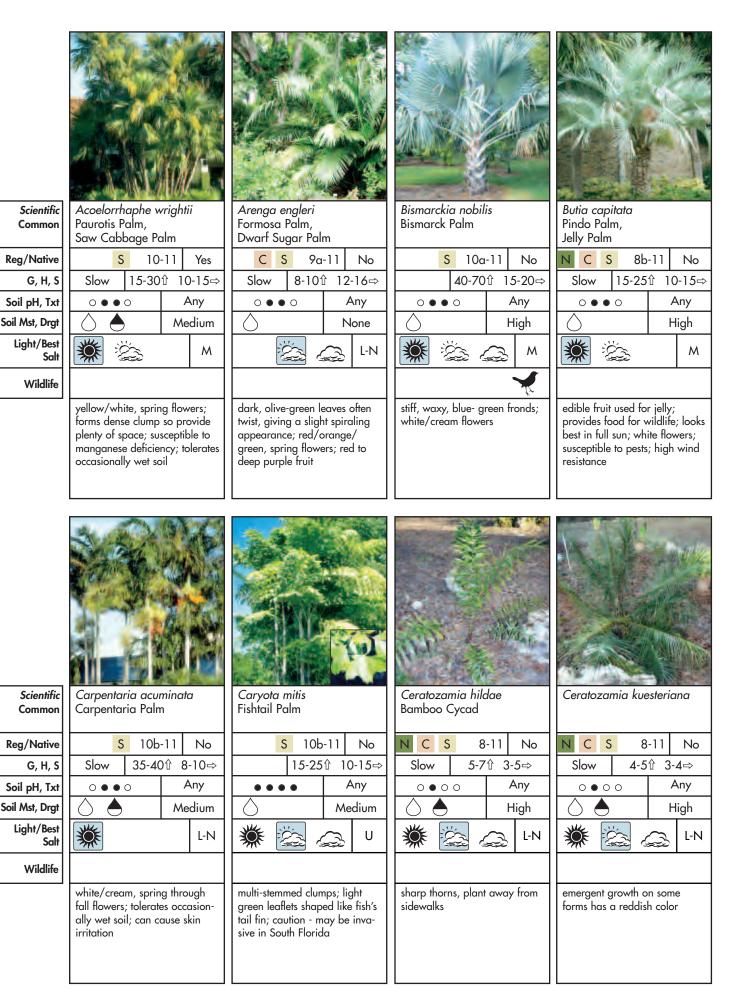


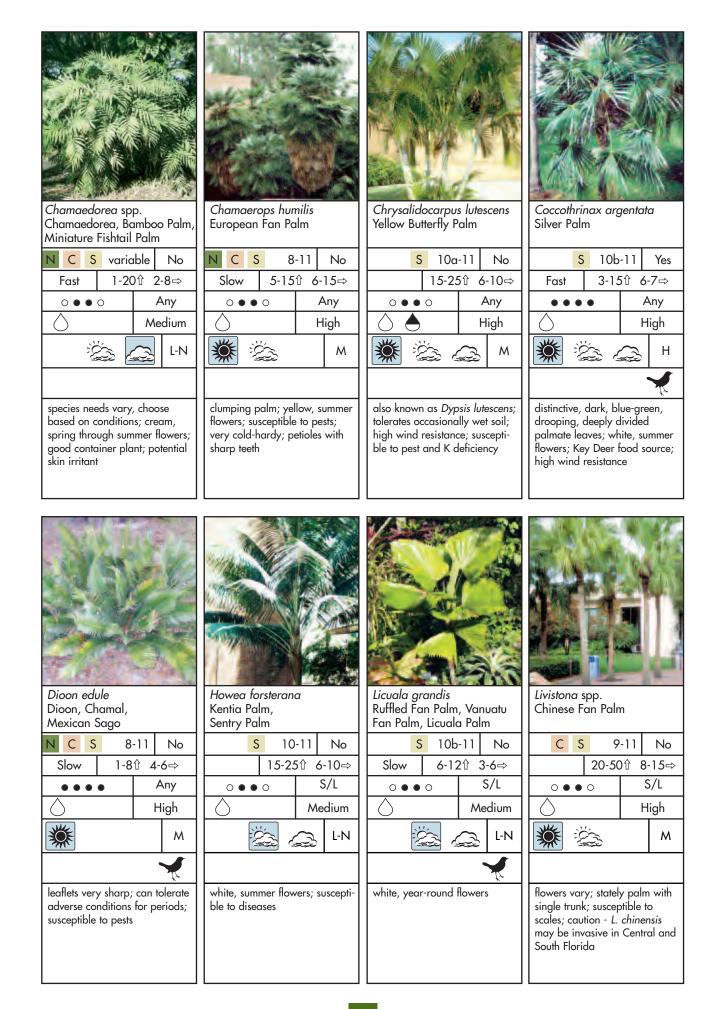




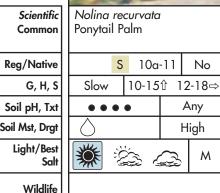












unique plume of long leaves atop a single trunk with a bulblike base; susceptible to pests and diseases



Phoenix spp. except Phoenix reclinata Date Palms

Ν	C	S	8	8-11 N					
3	Slow 6-80				-80û 6-25⇒				
	0	•	0	S/L					
	) (	High							
THE IT					T				

Μ

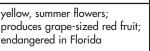
yellow, summer flowers; Phoenix canariensis, Phoenix dactylifera and Phoenix roebelinii have high wind resistance; provides food for wildlife



Pseudophoenix sargentii Buccaneer Palm, Sargent's Palm

	S	10a	-11	Yes	
Slow		10-40	û 1	0-20⇒	
• • • •			Any		
$\Diamond$				High	
.W.				T	







Ptychosperma elegans Alexander Palm, Solitary Palm, Solitaire Palm

	S	10a	-11	No	
Slow		15-25û 6-10⇒			
0 • • 0			S/L		
				High	





white, summer flowers; resistant to lethal yellowing; high wind resistance; caution - may be invasive in South and Central Florida



Ptychosperma macarthuri Macarthur Palm

Scientific

Common

Reg/Native G, H, S Soil pH, Txt Soil Mst, Drgt Light/Best Salt

Wildlife

S	10b	-11	No
	15-25	5Û (	6-10⇒
0 • •	0		S/L
		1	Vone
- 144	,		

noted for multiple, slim, ringed grey trunks; soft green, feathery, flat, broad leaves; branched flower stalks with white, summer flowers; bright red, showy sprays of fruit



Ravenea rivularis Majesty Palm

	S	10a	-11	No
		50-80	<b>企</b> 1	0-15⇨
0 •	• (	O		C/L
$\Diamond$			ŀ	High
**	Į.			М

feather-leafed with symmetrical, smooth, flared trunk; creamy white, summer flowers



Rhapidophyllum hystrix Needle Palm

Z	С	S	8-11		Yes		
ı	ast		6-81 5-10⇒				
0 • • 0			S/L				
			Medium				
¥		· /		<u>س</u>	L-N		



red, summer flowers; yellowish fruit provides food for wildlife



Rhapis excelsa Lady Palm

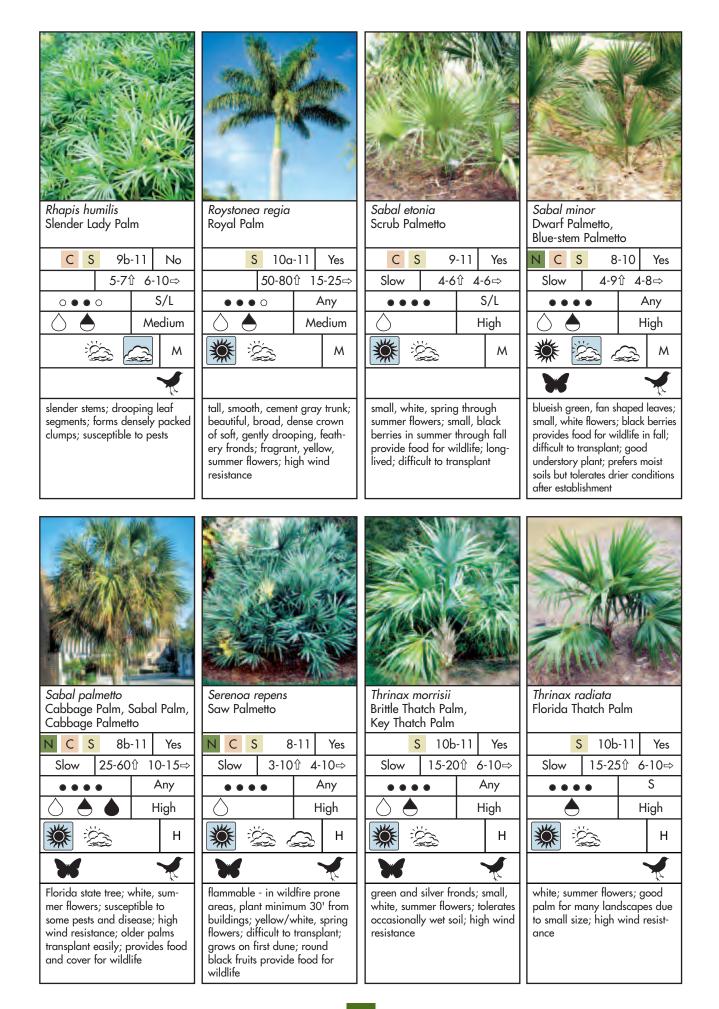
CS	9	-11	No	
Slow	<b>7-14</b> 1	1 1	0-15⇒	
0 • •	0	o S/L		
$\Diamond$		Μ	edium	







forms clumps of bamboo-like stalks topped with very dark green fan-shaped leaves; susceptible to pests and disease





Scientific Common Reg/Native G, H, S Soil pH, Txt Soil Mst, Drgt Light/Best Salt

Wildlife

Windmill Palm

C S 8-11 No 10-251 6-10⇒ Any • • • • Medium

Μ

dense, brown, hair-like fibers that resemble burlap wrapping; 3-foot wide, fan-shaped fronds; inconspicuous, fragrant, summer flowers; good palm for shaded landscapes; tolerates occasional sun; susceptible to pests and disease



Washingtonia robusta Washington Palm

Ν 9a-11 Νo C 60-90û 10-15⇒ Any High

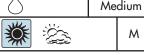
Μ

too tall for most home landscapes; caution - may be invasive in South Florida



Wodyetia bifurcata Foxtáil Palm

S 10-11 No Slow 20-301 8-20⇒ Any  $\circ \bullet \bullet \circ$ Medium



pale green, arching fronds with leaflets radiating from leaf stem, giving appearance of bottlebrush or foxtail; white, spring flowers; colorful clusters of red to orange/red fruit



Zamia floridana Coontie, Florida Arrowroot, Florida Zamia

С S 8b-11 Yes 3-5⇒ 1-5û Fast Any . . . . High







Η

small palm-like perennial plant; Florida's only native cycad; sole larval food plant for atala hairstreak butterfly; susceptible to pests and cold damage in the 20's



Scientific Common

Reg/Native G, H, S Soil pH, Txt Soil Mst, Drgt Light/Best

Wildlife

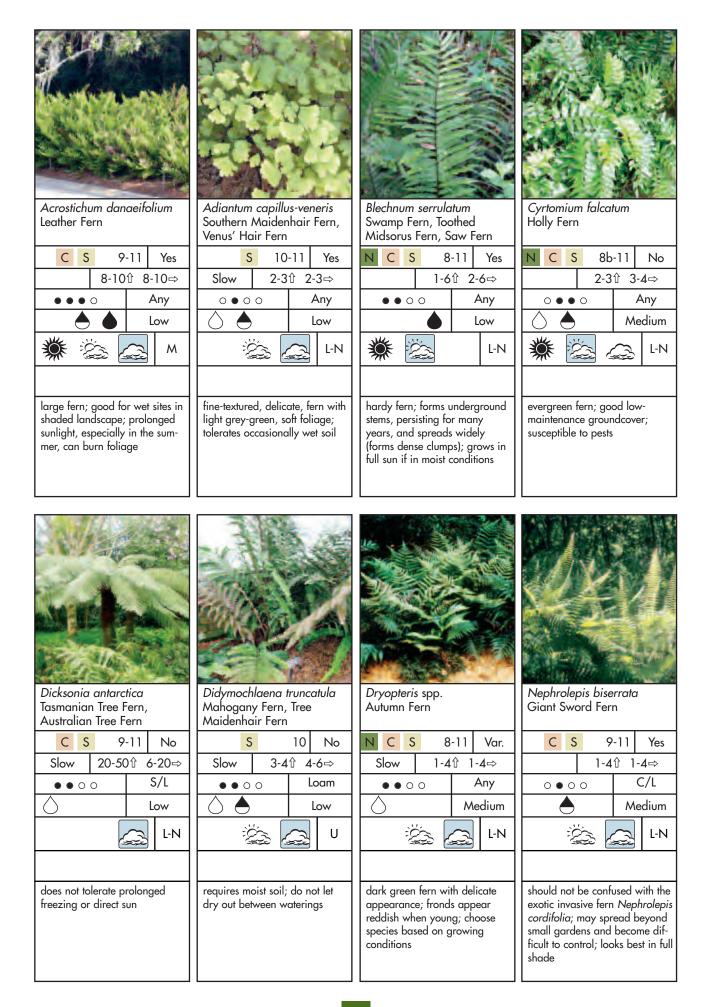
Salt

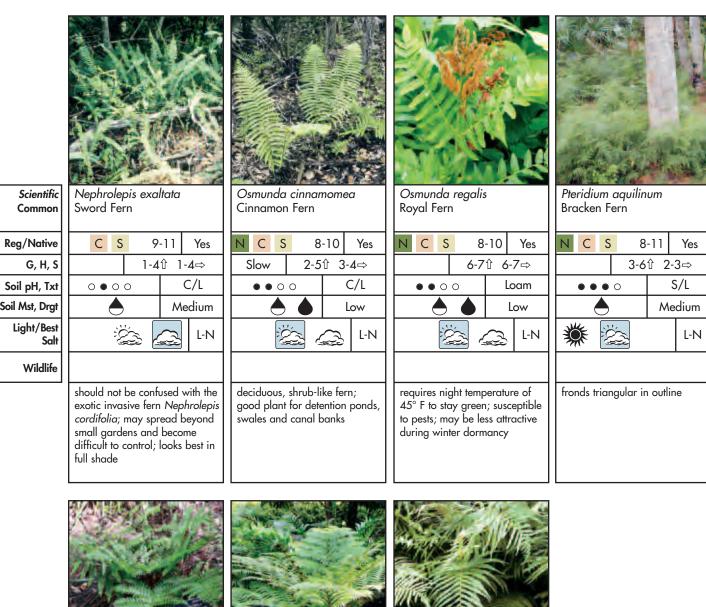
Cardboard Plant

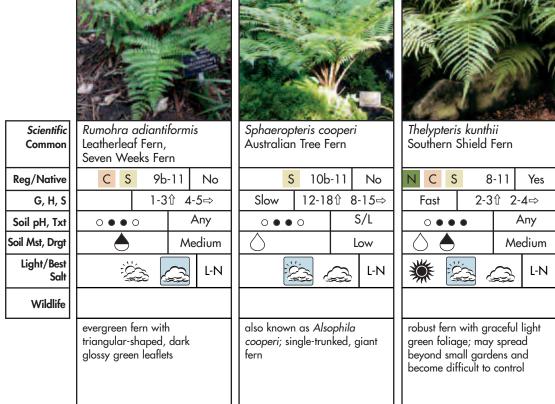
C S 9b-11 No 5-8⇒ Slow 2-5û Any • • • • High

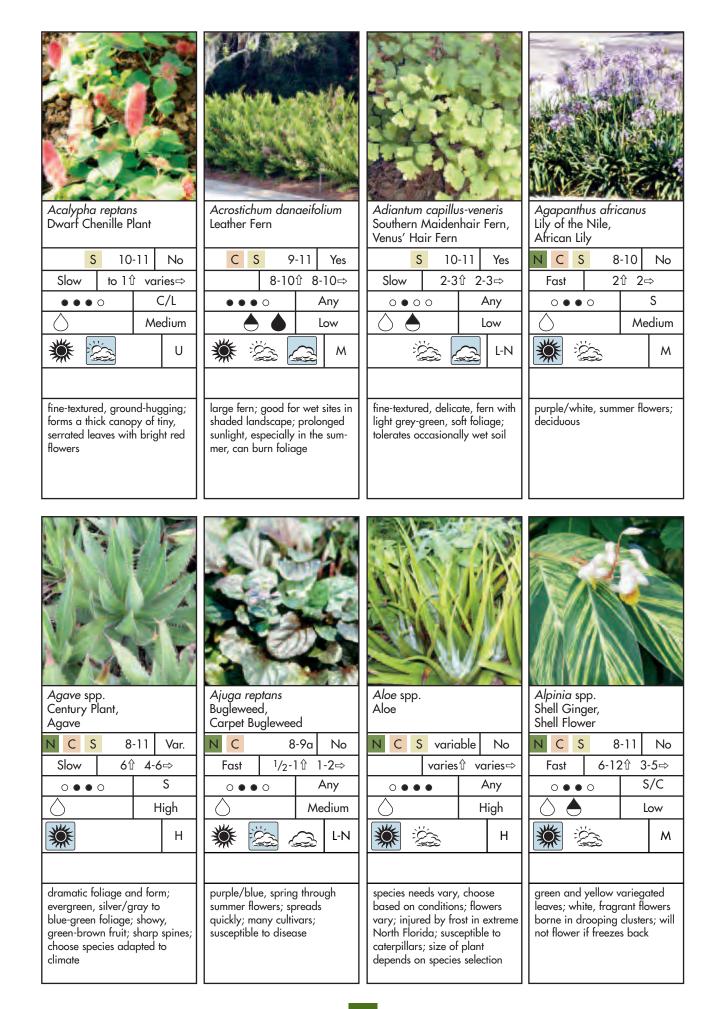
Н

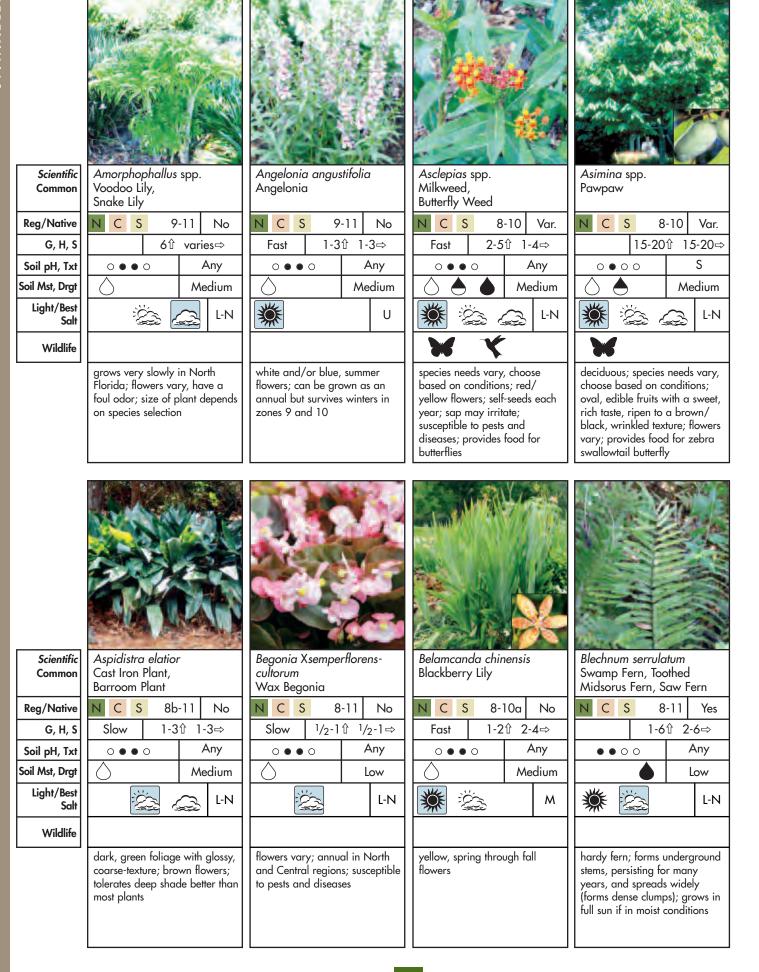
seeds and caudex poisonous; freezes in central Florida and can come back

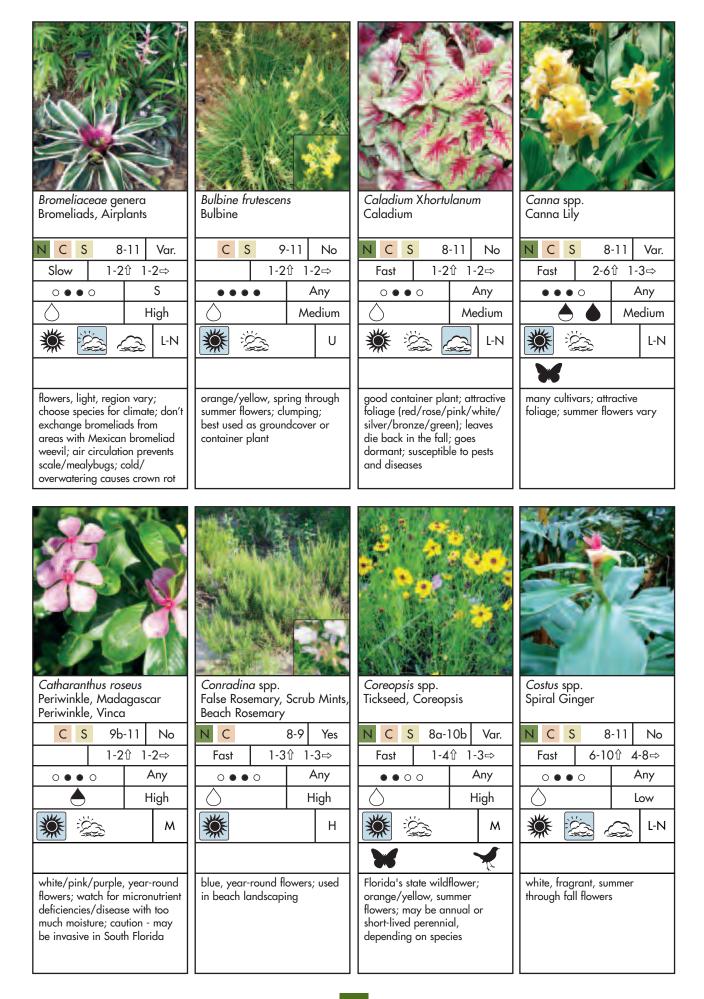


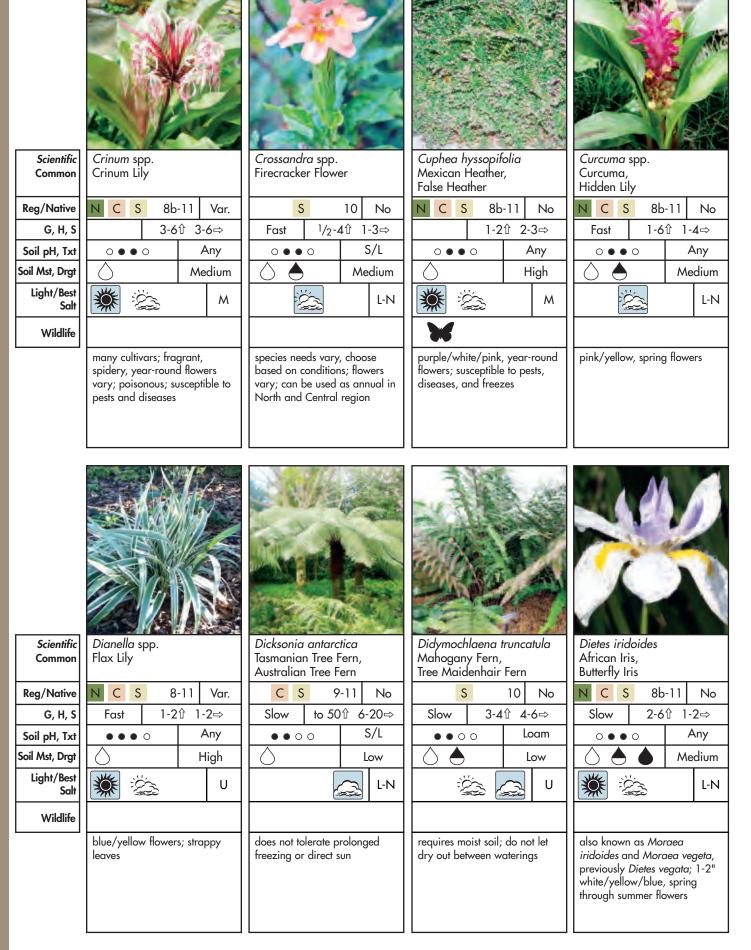


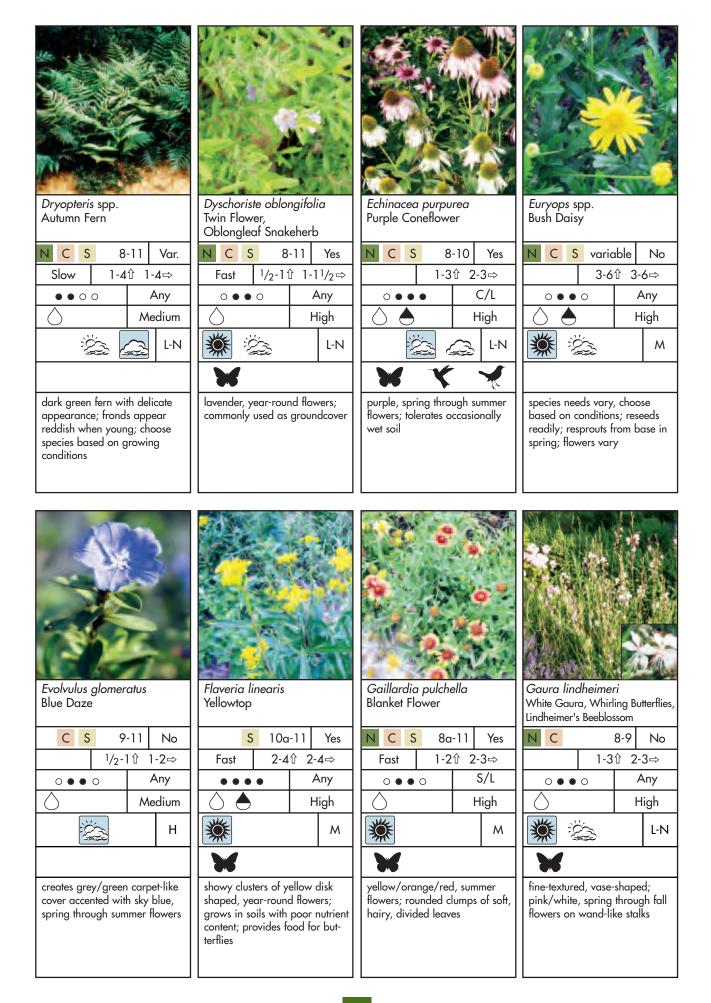


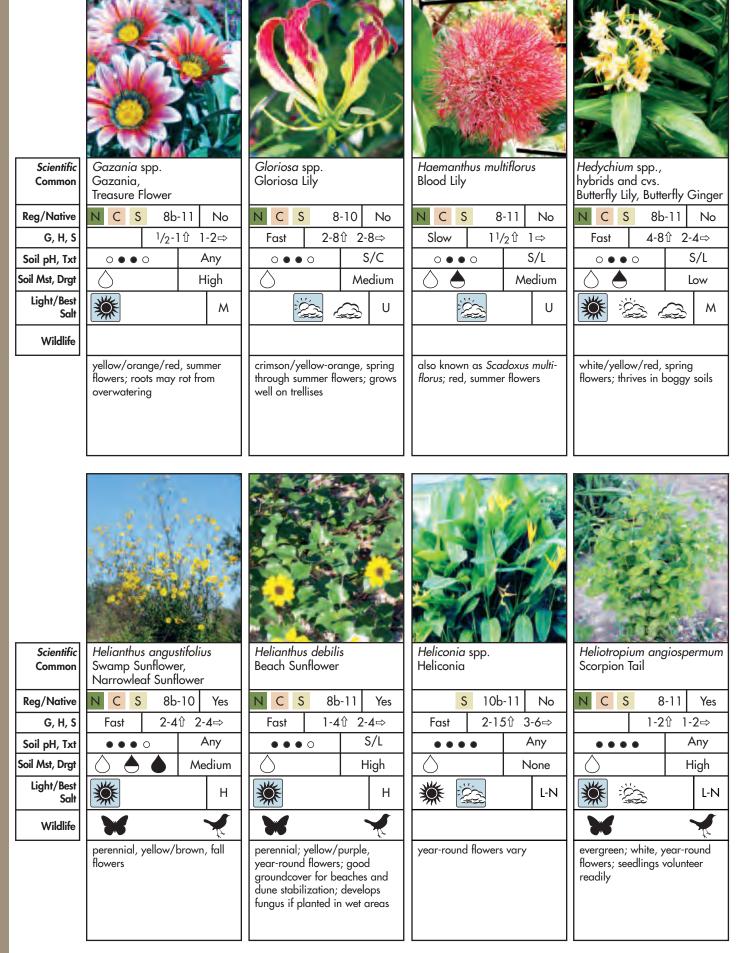


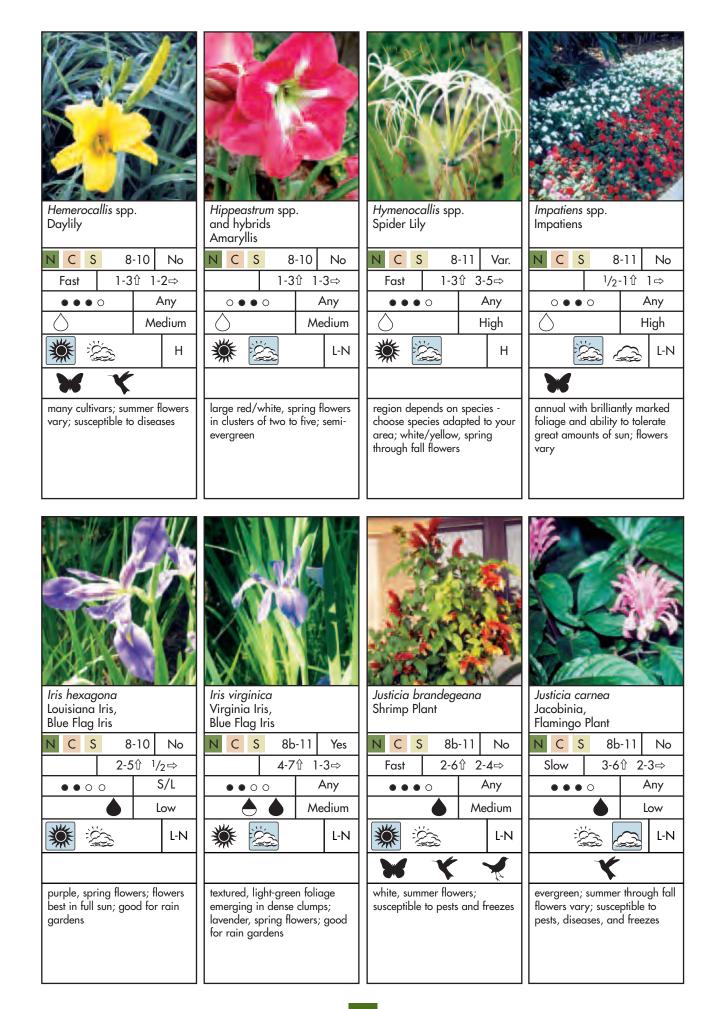


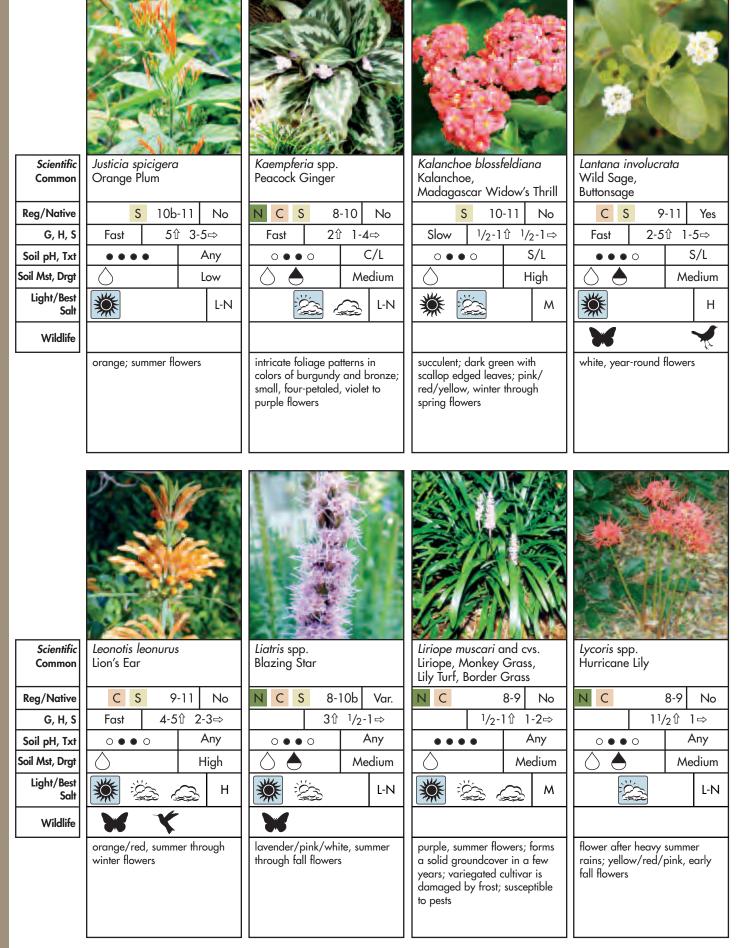


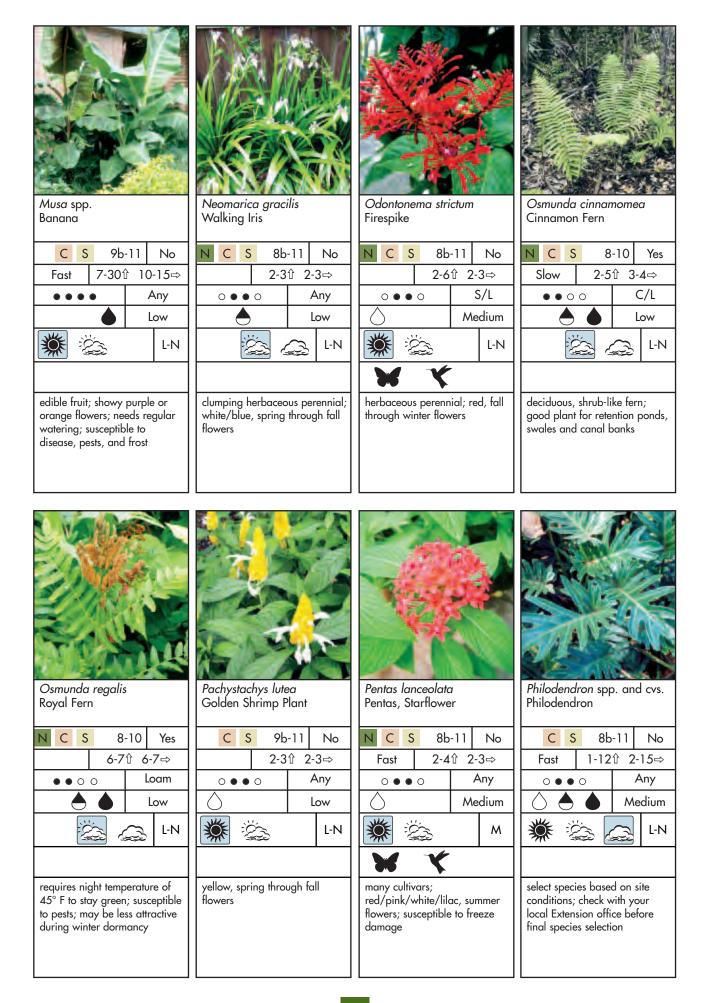


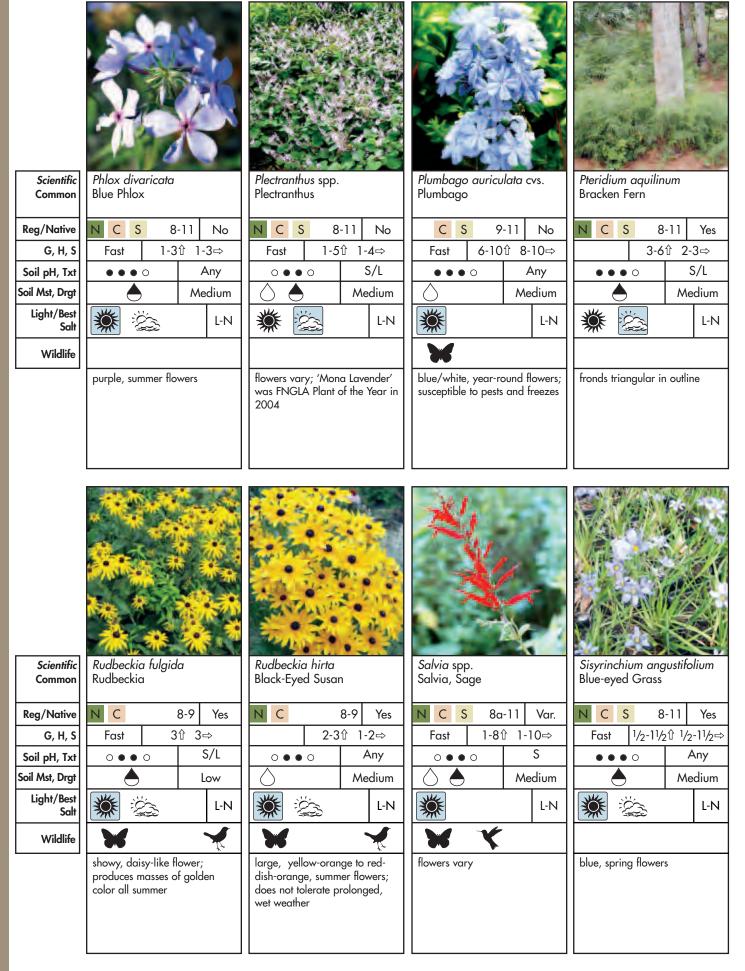


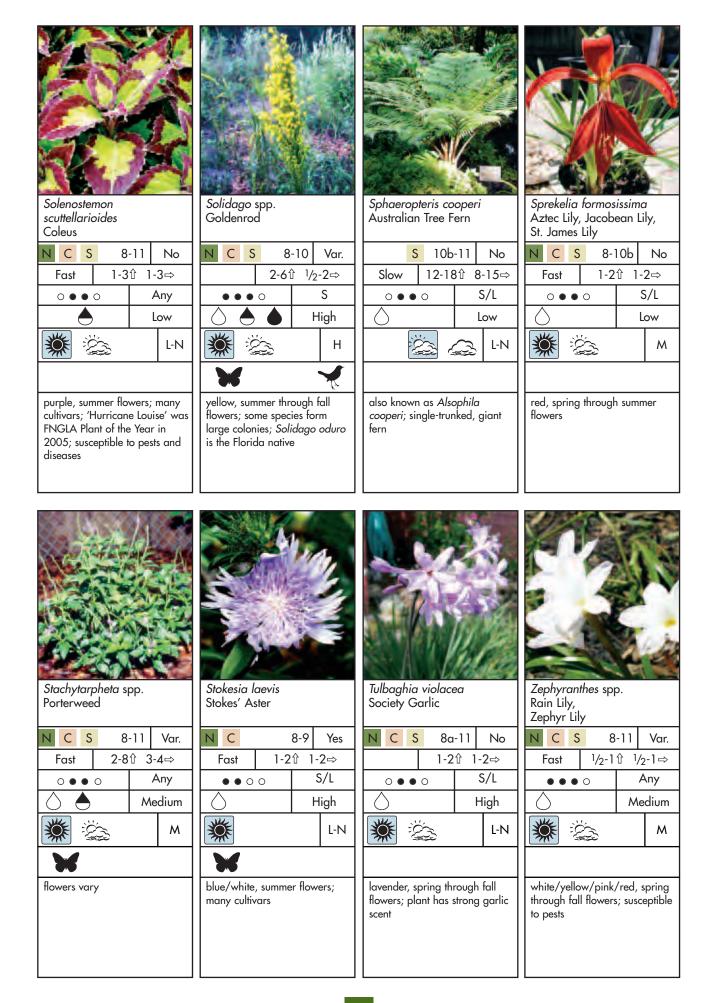


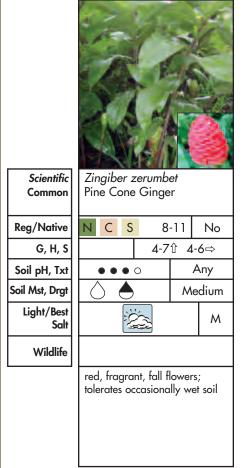


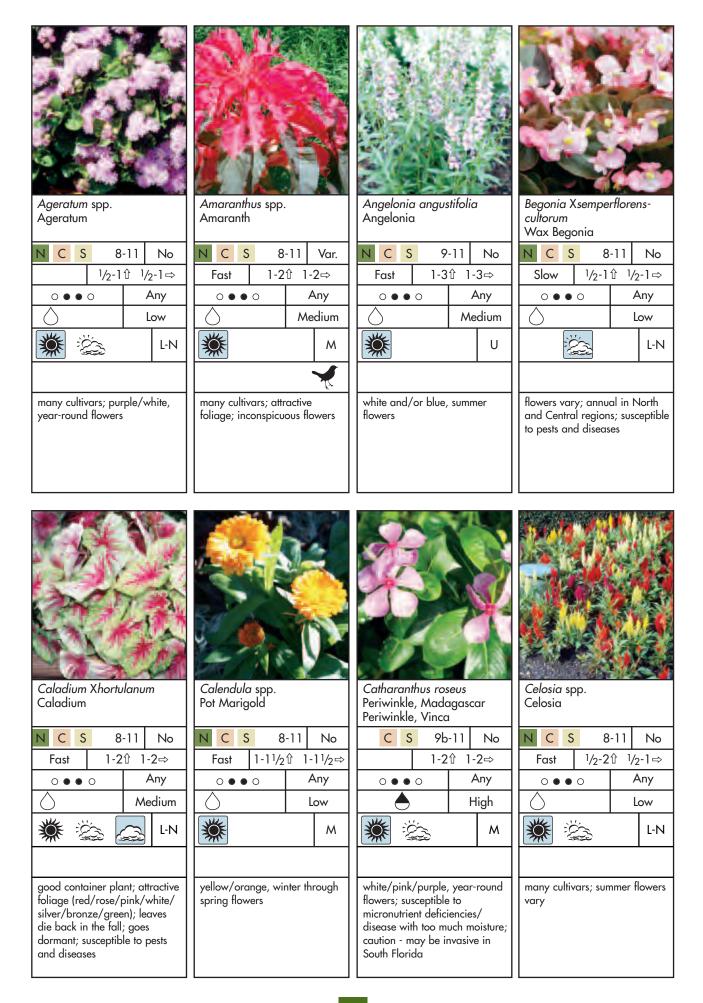


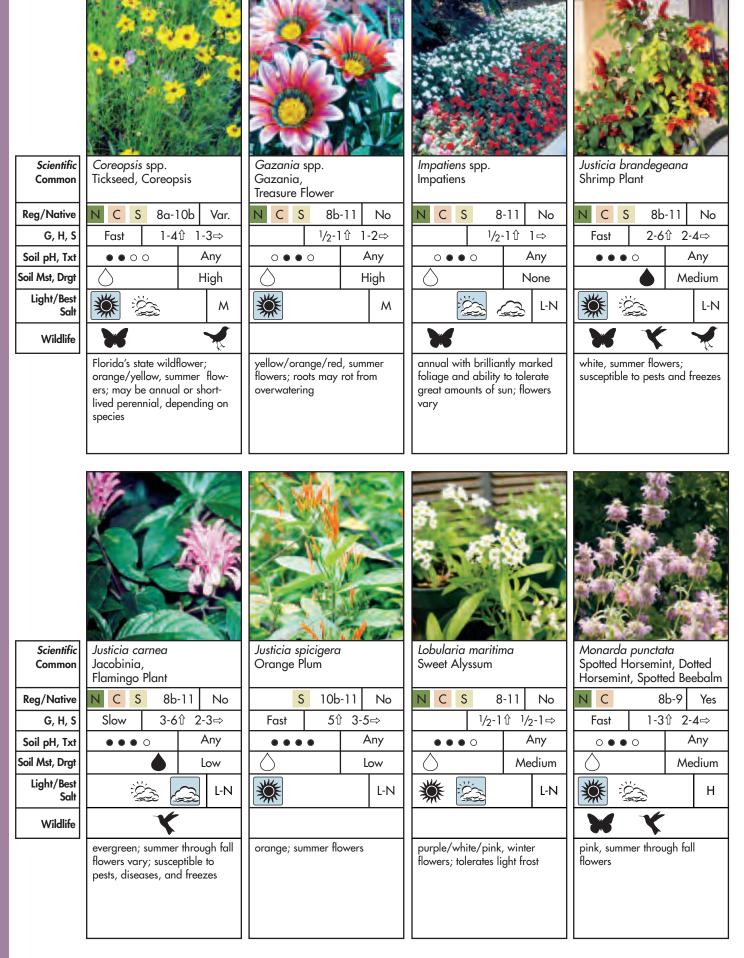


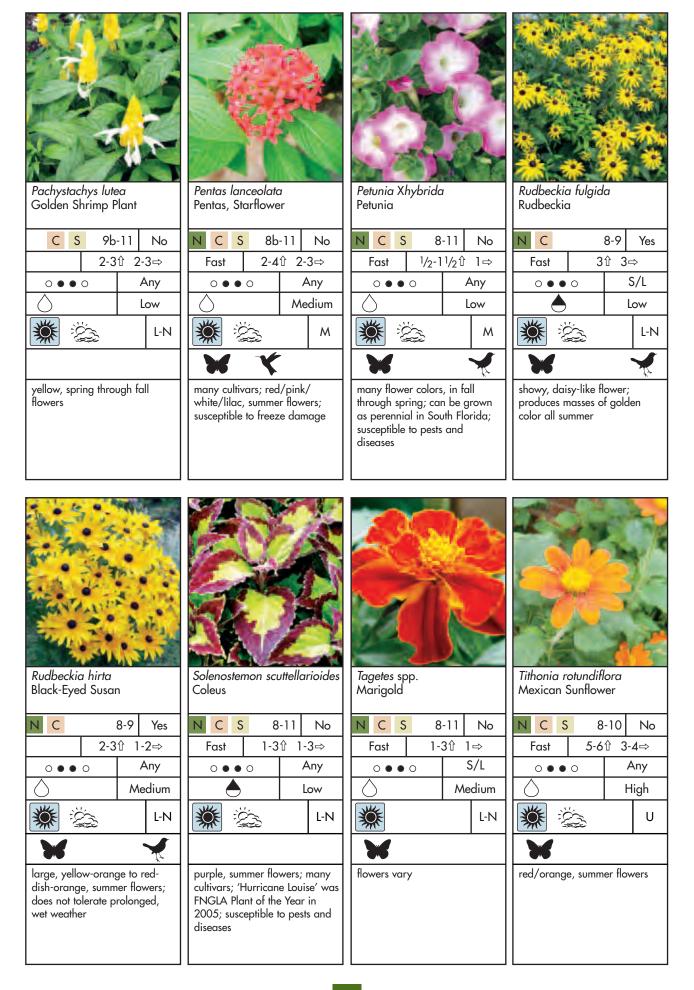


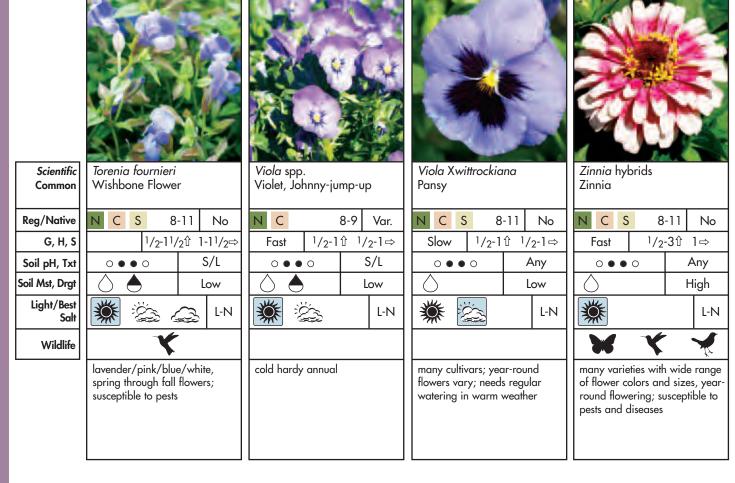












### **LEGEND FOR TURFGRASS**

MOWING HT: Mowing turf below the recommended height can stress the grass and subject it to invasion by weeds.

LEAF: Fine, Medium, Coarse, Fine-Medium, Coarse-Medium (Relative measure of leaf blade width. Texture is merely a visual preference.)

MAINT. LEVEL: Low, Medium, High, Medium-High (Amount of fertilization, irrigation, and mowing required.)

SOIL pH: Any, Acid (Ideal soil pH and texture for healthy turf.)

DROUGHT TOLERANCE: Low, Medium, High (Measure of how well the turf will survive extended dry periods without irrigation or rainfall after it has been properly established.)

SALT: Low, Medium, High, None (Ability to thrive when subjected to salt stress from irrigation water, saltwater intrusion, or salt spray from the ocean.)

SHADE: Low, Medium, High (Ability to thrive when exposed to shade.)

ESTABLISHMENT METHODS: Sod, Sprigs, Plugs, Seed (A quality lawn can be established by any method listed if the site is properly prepared and maintained.)



Scientific Common Mw Ht/Leaf/Mnt Lv Soil pH/Drgt/Slt/Sh

Estab. Methods

Cynodon dactylon Bermudagrass						
1-2 in. F-M M-H						
Any	٨	Λedium	М	L		
Sod, sprigs, plugs, some seed						
adapted to entire state; medium wear tolerance; low nematode tolerance						



Eremochloa ophiuroides Centipedegrass

1.5-2 in.		М	Lo	w	
Acid 1		∧edium	L	М	
Sod, sprigs, plugs, seed					

adapted to North Florida and the Panhandle; low wear tolerance; low nematode tolerance



Paspalum notatum **Bahiagrass** 

3-4 in.		C-M	Lo	w
Acid		High	Ν	L
		Sod seed	1	

adapted to entire state; low wear tolerance; high nematode tolerance



Common Mw Ht/Leaf/Mnt Lv Soil pH/Drgt/Slt/Sh Estab. Methods

Scientific

BRIDGE AND THE COMPANY OF THE STREET
Stenotaphrum secundatum
St. Augustinegrass
Stenotaphrum secundatum St. Augustinegrass 'Semi-dwarf cvs.'

'Semi-dwarf cvs.'					
2-2.5	in.	Med	lium		
Any		Low	М	٧	
Sod, sprigs, plugs					

adapted to entire state; low wear tolerance; medium nematode tolerance; shade tolerance varies depending on cultivar selection



Stenotaphrum secundatum St. Augustinegrass 'Standard height cvs.'

Medium 3.5-4 in. C-M Any Low Sod, sprigs, plugs

adapted to entire state; low wear tolerance; medium nematode tolerance; shade tolerance varies depending on cultivar selection



Zoysia japonica Zoysiagrass

2-2.5in.		F-M	High	
Any	Medium		М	٧
Sod, sprigs, plugs				

adapted to entire state; medium wear tolerance; low nematode tolerance; shade tolerance varies depending on cultivar selection

# **Additional Information**

### REFERENCES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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# PHOTO CREDITS

Bowden, Robert.

Small Trees: Arenga engleri, Magnolia figo, Prunus campanulata, Tabebuia aurea.

Large Shrubs: Agarista populifolia, Agave spp., Aloysia virgata, Barleria micans,
Callicarpa americana, Cestrum aurantiacum, Erythrina herbacea, Galphimia glauca,
Gardenia jasminoides, Malvaviscus arboreus, Philodendron selloum, Psychotria nervosa,
Rhododendron cvs., Sabal minor, Severinia buxifolia, Tabernaemontana divaricata,
Thunbergia erecta, Viburnum suspensum.

Small Shrubs: Aloe spp., Malpighia coccigera, Pyracantha coccinea, Sabal etonia,

Vines: Aster carolinianus, Aristolochia spp., Bignonia capreolata, Hedera canariensis, Hedera helix, Petraea volubilis, Trachelospermum jasminoides, Wisteria frutescens.

<u>Groundcovers</u>: Anthericum sanderii, Arachis glabrata, Evolvulus glomeratus, Hedera canariensis, Hedera helix, Juniperus conferta, Trachelospermum asiaticum, Trachelospermum jasminoides, Zamia pumila.

<u>Grasses</u>: Chasmanthium latifolium, Panicum virgatum, Paspalum quadrifarium, Thysenolanea maxima, Tripsacum dactyloides.

<u>Palms and Palm-Like Plants</u>: Arenga engleri, Chamaedorea spp., Licuala grandis, Ptychosperma macarthurii, Rhapis excelsa, Rhapis humilis, Sabal etonia, Sabal minor, Zamia pumila.

Perennials: Agave spp., Aloe spp., Alpinia spp., Angelonia angustifolia, Belamcanda chinensis, Bromeliaceae genera, Bulbine frutescens, Crossandra spp., Curcuma spp., Dianella spp., Dietes iridoides, Echinacea purpurea, Evolvulus glomeratus, Gaura lindheimeri, Gloriosa spp., Hedychium spp., Helianthus debilis, Hippeastrum spp., Iris hexagona, Justicia spicigera, Kaempferia spp., Leonotis leonurus, Pachystachys lutea, Plectranthus spp., Rudbeckia hirta, Solenostemon scuttellaroides, Stokesia laevis, Zephyranthes spp.

Annuals: Amaranthus spp., Angelonia angustifolia, Calendula spp., Justicia spicigera, Pachystachys lutea, Petunia Xhybrida, Rudbeckia hirta, Solenostemon scuttellaroides, Torenia fournieri, Viola spp., Zinnia hybrids.

### Brown, Stephen.

Small Trees: Baccharis halimifolia, Sophora tomentosa.

<u>Large Shrubs</u>: Acrostichum danaeifolium, Allamanda nerifolia, Baccharis halmifolia, Jasminum nitidum.

Groundcovers: Ernodea littoralis, Scaevola plumieri

Grasses: Cymbopogon citratus.

Ferns: Acrostichum danaeifolium, Blechnum serrulatum.

<u>Perennials</u>: Acrostichum danaeifolium, Blechnum serrulatum, Heliotropium angiospermum, Hymenocallis spp.

### Caldwell, Doug.

Medium Trees: Elaeocarpus decipens.

#### Davis, Jim.

Perennials: Euryops spp.

### Delvalle, Terry.

Grasses: Schizachyrium scoparium.

#### Durr, Audrey.

Medium Trees: Avicennia germinans. Ferns: Sphaeropteris cooperi.

### Friday, Theresa.

Perennials: Neomarica gracilis.

### Gelmis, Georgia.

Large Trees: Quercus virginiana.

Palms and Palm-Like Plants: Trachycarpus fortunei.

Perennials: Sphaeropteris cooperi

### Gillman, Ed.

Large Trees: Acer barbatum, Acer rubrum, Betula nigra, Bucida buceras, Carya spp., Chorisia speciosa, Conocarpus erectus, Ficus aurea, Fraxinus americana, Fraxinus caroliniana, Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Gordonia lasianthus, Halesia carolina, Juniperus virginiana, Liquidambar styraciflua, Liriodendron tulipifera, Litchi chinensis, Lysiloma latisiliquum, Magnolia grandiflora, Magnolia virginiana, Nyssa sylvatica, Persea americana, Pinus clausa, Pinus elliottii var densa, Pinus glabra, Pinus palustris, Pinus taeda, Piscidia piscipula, Platanus occidentalis, Quercus acutissima, Quercus alba, Quercus austrina, Quercus falcata, Quercus michauxii, Quercus nuttallii, Quercus shumardii, Simarouba glauca, Swietenia mahagoni, Taxodium spp., Ulmus alata, Ulmus americana, Ulmus crassifolia, Ulmus parvifolia.

Medium Trees: Bursera simaruba, Caesalpinia spp, Carpentaria acuminata, Carpinus caroliniana, Cassia fistula, Cercis canadensis, Chrysophyllum oliviforme, Cocoloba diversifolia, Cordia sebestena, Crataegus spp., Cypressus arizonica var. arizonica, Ficus citrifolia, Illex Xattenuata, Ilex cassine, Ilex opaca, Ilex rotunda, Jacaranda mimosifolia, Juniperus silicicola, Lagerstroemia indica, Ostrya virginiana, Persea borbonia, Podocarpus gracilior, Quercus lyrata, Rhizophora mangle, Tabebuia chrysotricha, Tabebuia heterophylla, Tabebuia impetiginosa.

Small Trees: Acacia farnesiana, Aesculus pavia, Aralia spinosa, Ardisia escallonoides, Butia capitata, Callistemon spp., Camellia japonica, Camellia sasanqua, Canella winterana, Capparis cynophallophora, Cephalanthus occidentalis, Cornus florida, Eriobotrya japonica, Eugenia spp., Forestiera segregata, Ilex X'Nellie R. Stevens', Ilex cornuta, Ilex decidua, Ilex vomitoria, Jatropha integerrima, Ligustrum japonicum, Magnolia Xsoulangiana, Musa spp., Myrcianthes fragrans, Myrica cerifera, Olea europa, Osmanthus americanus, Parkinsonia aculeata, Plumeria rubra, Podocarpus macrophyllus, Prunus angustifolia, Prunus umbellata, Quercus geminata, Raphiolepis spp., Senna polyphylla, Sideroxylon spp., Tecoma stans, Viburnum obovatum, Viburnum odoratissimum, Viburnum odoratissiumu var awabuki, Viburnum rufidulum.

<u>Large Shrubs</u>: Abelia Xgrandiflora, Acacia farnesia, Acca sellowiana, Aralia spinosa, Ardisia escallonioides, Asimina spp., Brugmansia Xcandida, Brunfelsia grandiflora, Buddleia lindleyana, Calliandra haematocephala, Camellia japonica, Camellia sasanqua, Capparis cynophallophora, Carissa macrocarpa, Cephalanthus occidentalis, Cephalotaxus harringtonia, Chrysobalanus icaco, Citharexylum spinosum, Coccoloba uvifera, Cocculus laurifolius, Codiaeum variegatum, Conocarpus erectus, Cordyline spp., Crataegus spp., Duranta erecta, Eugenia spp., Fatsia japonica, Forestiera segregata, Halesia diptera, Hamamelis virginiana, Hydrangea macrophylla, Hydrangea quercifolia, Ilex cornuta, Ilex vomitoria, Itea virginica, Jatropha integerrima, Juniperus chinensis, Ligustrum japonicum, Loropetalum chinense, Mahonia bealei, Murrya paniculata, Musa spp., Myrcianthes fragrans, Myrica cerifera, Nerium oleander, Osmanthus americanus, Philodendron cvs., Podocarpus gracilior, Podocarpus macrophyllus, Rhamnus caroliniana, Senna polyphylla, Strelitzia nicolai, Tecoma stans, Tibouchina urvilleana, Tibouchina granulosa, Vaccinium arboreum, Viburnum obovatum, Viburnum odoratissimum, Viburnum odoratissimum var awabuki, Yucca spp.

<u>Small Shrubs</u>: Breynia disticha, Caesalpinia spp., Ixora coccinea, Mahonia fortunei, Strelitzia reginae.

<u>Vines</u>: Allamanda cathartica, Bougainvillea cvs., Campsis radicans, Gelsemium sempervirens, Lonicera sempervirens.

 $\underline{Groundcovers}{:}\ Ajuga\ reptans,\ Aspidistra\ elatior,\ Dryopteris\ spp.,\ Liriope\ muscari,\ Zamia\ furfuracea.$ 

Grasses: Miscanthus sinensis, Spartina spp., Tripsacum floridana.

Palms and Palm-Like Plants: Acoelorrhaphe wrightii, Bismarckia nobilis, Butia capitata, Carpentaria acuminata, Caryota mitis, Chamaerops humilis, Chrysalidocarpus lutescens, Coccothrinax argentata, Howea forsterana, Livistona spp., Nolina recurvata, Phoenix spp., Pseudophoenix sargentii, Ravenea rivularis, Rhapidophyllum hystrix, Roystonea regia, Sabal palmetto, Serenoa repens, Thrinax morrisii, Thrinax radiata, Washingtonia robusta, Wodyetia bifurcata, Zamia furfuracea.

Ferns: Dryopteris spp.

<u>Perennials</u>: Agapanthus africanus, Ajuga reptans, Asimina spp., Aspidistra elatior, Caladium Xhortulanum, Cuphea hyssopifolia, Dryopteris spp., Heliconia spp., Impatiens spp., Justicia brandegeana, Justicia carnea, Liriope muscari, Musa spp., Philodendron cvs., Stachytarpheta spp.

Annuals: Ageratum spp., Caladium Xhortulanum, Celosia spp., Impatiens spp., Justicia brandegeana, Justicia carnea.

### Gasper, Joaquim.

Large Shrubs: Nerium oleander-inset.

#### Girin, Bruno.

Annuals: Viola Xwittrockiana.

### Granson, Sandy.

Small Trees: Calliandra spp., Dodonaea viscosa, Myrciaria cauliflora.

Large Shrubs: Lyonia ferruginea, Suriana maritima.

Small Shrubs: Acalypha hispida, Brunfelsia americana, Carissa macrocarpa, Gamolepis

spp., Lantana depressa, Leucophyllum frutescens, Rosmarinus spp.

Vines: Ficus pumila, Thunbergia alata.

Grasses: Andropogon spp.

<u>Ferns</u>: Pteridium aquilinum

Perennials: Begonia semperflorens, Hemerocallis spp., Lantana involucrata, Pteridium aquilinum.

Annuals: Begonia semperflorens, Monarda punctata.

### Green, Tim.

Ferns: Dicksonia antarctica.

Perennials: Dicksonia antarctica.

## Jacinto, Valter.

Large Shrubs: Jasminum mesnyi.

### Karekar, Kapil.

Perennials: Haemanthus multiflorus.

### Keisotyo.

<u>Small Trees</u>: Podocarpus macrophyllus (inset).

<u>Large Shrubs</u>: *Podocarpus macrophyllus* (inset).

### Kenpei.

Large Shrubs: Heptapleurum arboricolum, Hydrangea arborescens, Ternstroemia gymnan-

Small Shrubs: Raphiolepis spp.

Groundcovers: Juniperus horizontalis, Ophiopogon japonicus.

### Kern, Bill.

Medium Trees: Persea palustris.

Small Trees: Cyrilla racemiflora, Sophora tomentosa (inset).

Large Shrubs: Cyrilla racemiflora, Senna bicapsularis.

Small Shrubs: Lyonia lucida.

### Larsen, Claudia.

<u>Large Shrubs</u>: Calycanthus floridus, Rhododendron canescens.

<u>Groundcovers</u>: Glandularia tampensis, Lantana montevidensis.

Grasses: Eragrostis elliottii.

Perennials: Conradina spp., Coreopsis spp., Flaveria linearis, Gaillardia pulchella,

Helianthus angustifolius, Sisyrinchium angustifolium, Solidago spp. Annuals: Coreopsis spp.

# Murray, Ann. University of Florida/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

Ferns: Osmunda cinnamomea.

Perennials: Iris virginica, Osmunda cinnamomea.

### Niemann, Brian.

Small Trees: Ilex X'Mary Nell'.

<u>Large Shrubs</u>: Berberis julianae, Clethra alnifolia, Ilex X'Mary Nell', Osmanthus fragrans, Pittosporum tobira.

<u>Vines</u>: Decumaria barbara.

Groundcovers: Mimosa strigillosa.

### Pagnier, Veronique.

<u>Vines</u>: Mandevilla cvs.

### Pellegrini, Mark.

Groundcovers: Ardisia japonica.

### Quillia, Oliver.

Vines: Passiflora incarnata (inset).

# Ramey, Vic. University of Florida/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

Small Trees: Cornus foemina.

<u>Large Shrubs</u>: Rhododendron austrinum. <u>Groundcovers</u>: Nephrolepis biserrata.

Ferns: Nephrolepis biserrata.

# Richard, Amy. University of Florida/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

Groundcovers: Nephrolepis exaltata.

Ferns: Nephrolepis exaltata.

### Schumaker, Paul.

Groundcovers: Ipomoea spp.

### Shebs, Stan.

**Groundcovers**: Rumohra adiantiformis.

Grasses: Aristida stricta var. beyrichiana.

Ferns: Rumohra adiantiformis.

### Storch, Hedwig.

Perennials: Kalanchoe blossfeldiana.

## Sullivan, Jessica.

Medium Trees: Elaeocarpus decipens, Zanthoxylum clava-herculis.

## Tau'olunga.

<u>Vines</u>: Quisqualis indica.

### Taylor, Kim.

Large Shrubs: Hamelia patens.

# Wasowski, Sally and Andy. Lady Bird Johnson

Wildflower Center

Groundcovers: Thelypteris kunthii.

Ferns: Thelypteris kunthii.

### Wichman, Tom.

Large Shrubs: Bambusa spp., Hibiscus spp.

<u>Vines</u>: Millettia reticulata.

Groundcovers: Vinca major.

Palms and Palm-Like Plants: Ceratozamia hildae, Ceratozamia kuesteriana, Dioon

Perennials: Amorphophallus spp., Asclepias spp., Lycoris spp.

### Wilber, Wendy.

Annuals: Tithonia rotundiflora.

### Wildes, Carolyn.

Small Shrubs: Russelia sarmentosa.

# Yasalonis, Anne.

Small Trees: Illicium spp.

Large Shrubs: Illicium spp., Jasminum multiflorum.

Small Shrubs: Russelia equisetiformis.

Vines: Jasminum multiflorum.

 $\underline{Ground covers} : Dy schoriste\ oblong ifolia.$ 

Perennials: Conradina spp. (inset), Dyschoriste oblongifolia.

### CREATE A FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE

Yards and landscapes can be a positive asset to Florida. You can design and maintain your own Florida-Friendly Landscape by following the simple practices in this book. You will learn the basics of designing a landscape featuring carefully selected plants suited to Florida's unique climate, natural conditions, and wildlife.

We offer you cost-saving tips that, if implemented properly, will help you reduce water, fertilizer, and pesticide use. There is also a helpful section for waterfront homeowners addressing the special concerns of shoreline landscape management.

Whether you are starting from scratch with a new landscape or considering changes to an existing yard, the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook offers helpful concepts, tools, and techniques for creating your own Florida-Friendly yard. We hope you enjoy the publication and look forward to assisting you in creating an aesthetically pleasing landscape that will also help to protect Florida's natural resources.





