

South Florida Slash Pine

Pinus elliottii var. densa

- Native to Rocklands, Keys, Everglades
- The dominant tree of south Florida
- High drought and salt tolerant
- Provides food, cover for wildlife
- Important to cavity nesters
- Wood borers can be a serious problem
- Used for railroad ties, fuel, and lumber



Shining Sumac

Rhus copallinum

- Native to eastern North America
- Also referred to as Winged Sumac
- Foliage turns brilliant orange in fall
- Provides cover for birds and wildlife
- Berry persists through winter
- Fruit is edible by wildlife and humans
- Spreads by roots suckers (sprouts)



Purple Beautyberry

Callicarpa dichotoma

- Native to Florida, Asia, & Americas
- Ideal for Florida-friendly landscaping
- Fruits persist through winter
- Provides food for wildlife
- Inedible to humans, except as a wine
- Used as an insect repellent
- American beautyberry is a taller tree



Poison Ivy

Toxicodendron radicans

- Native to America and temperate Asia
- Commonly eaten by many animals
- Touching can cause allergic reaction
- To heal skin, wash with cold water
- Urushiol is the oily allergen in ivy
- Urushiol is key compound in lacquer
- Dead ivy remains potent up to 5 years



Florida Privet

Forestiera segregata

- Native to Southeastern US, Caribbean
- Also called wild olive or ink-bush
- High drought and salt tolerant
- Bees are very attracted by the nectar
- Birds favor these berries
- Provides erosion control
- Good in xeriscape landscaping



Java Plum

Syzygium cumini

- Native to temperate & tropical Asia
- Category 1 (problematic) exotic plant
- Introduced to Florida in 1920 by USDA
- Can live more than 100 years
- Birds favor these fruits
- Rot-proof wood is used to make well
- Heals diabetes and blood pressure



Muscadine Grape

Vitis rotundifolia

- Native to southeast USA
- First species used to make wine in US
- Medicinal use against cancer
- Survives periods of dry weather
- Easy to propagate from cuttings wood
- Resistant to pests and diseases
- Used to make wine, jam, jelly



Golden Polypody Fern

Phlebodium aureum

- Native to tropical/subtropical America
- Common in cloud forests
- Colonizes canopies of tree
- Evergreen fronds
- Used for several ailments (asthma...)
- Renaissance treatment for mentally ill
- Grows on host plant



Wild Coffee

Psychotria nervosa

- Native to Florida & Jamaica
- Fruit look like coffee bean
- Bean can't be used to brew a drink
- White flowers from spring to summer
- Drought and salt tolerance
- Provides food for wildlife
- Leaves used for medicinal purposes



Sparkleberry

Vaccinium arboreum

- Native from Gulf to Atlantic US coast
- High drought tolerance
- Provides berries for bird and wildlife
- Edible by people
- Used to make jam, jelly, muffin
- Roots, barks, leaves treat diarrhea
- Pollinators are attracted by nectar



Shoestring Fern

Vittaria lineata

- Native to Florida
- Found in east US, Hawaii, Puerto Rico
- Grows on tree but it is not a parasite
- Gets all nutrients from air
- Grows usually in boot of sabal palm
- Found in moist woods, along streams
- In latin “vitta” means “band, ribbon“



Common Persimmon

Diospyros virginiana

- Native to North America
- Cultivated for its fruit and wood
- Fruit attracts wildlife: skunks, birds...
- Edible fruit but highly bitter
- American Indians made bread from it
- Seed used as a coffee substitute
- Diospyros is “fruit of Zeus” in Greek



Myrsine

Rapanea punctata

- Native to subtropical, tropical regions
- High salt tolerance
- Grown for its smooth green foliage
- Wildlife attractor, particularly birds
- About 200 different Myrsine species
- Older plants can have several trunks
- Miccosukee used leaves with tobacco



Guava

Psidium guajava

- Native to Tropical America
- Category 1 (problematic) exotic plant
- Sensitive to insect pests and diseases
- Easily pollinated by insects
- Provides food for wildlife
- Used to make jam, jelly, juice
- Chewing leaves treats diarrhea



Leather Fern

Acrostichum danaeifolium

- Native to tropical America, west Africa
- High saltwater tolerance
- Thrives in wet sites like mangroves
- Giant fern rarely found in Florida
- Botanic Name: *Rumohra adiantiformis*
- Vase life leaf : 12 - 14 days
- Potential Pests: Scale insects, slugs



Marlberry

Ardisia escallonioides

- Native to Central, North America
- Habitat: moist to dry hammocks
- Fragrant white flowers
- Edible fruit but insipid
- Attracts butterflies and birds
- Common in hammock and thicket
- Provides fruits and cover for wildlife



Custard Apple

Annona reticulata

- Native to Carribean, Central America
- Cultivated in many parts of the world
- Sensitive to insect pests and diseases
- Grows in hot and wet area
- Used against hypertension, injury...
- Fruit eaten by lower classes in India
- Seed kernels are very toxic



Saw Palmetto

Serenoa repens

- Native to Subtropical America
- Endemic in sandy areas of Florida
- High drought and salt tolerant
- Fruits used by mammals and birds
- Can live a long time: 500-700 years
- Natives eat fruit as "small dates "
- Used against urinary problems



Common Hackberry

Celtis occidentalis

- Native to North America
- First cultivated in Europe in 1636
- Moderately long lived
- Highly susceptible to fire damage
- Berries are eaten by birds, mammals
- Tree is a butterfly larval host
- Leaves eaten by insects



Virginia Creeper

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

- Native to North and Central America
- "Virginia" refers to its native locations
- Fruits are toxic to humans, mammals
- Provides winter food for birds
- Considered as an invasive plant
- Resists to temperatures of -25 °C
- Used to cover walls and buildings



Water Hickory

Carya aquatica

- Native to southern US
- Reproduces aggressively
- Major component of wet US forests
- Important in cleansing drainage water
- Refuge for threatened plants, animals
- Attacked by borers
- Provides nuts for wildlife



Laurel Oak

Quercus laurifolia

- Native to southeast US
- Grows quickly
- Fruit ripen 18 months after pollination
- Acorns are eaten by wildlife and birds
- Host to general oak-feeding insects
- Often used as an ornamental tree
- Resists to temperature of -18°C



Spanish Moss

Tillandsia usneoides

- Native to southeastern US
- Grows upon larger trees
- Prefer to grow on Southern Live Oak
- Favors hot climate & high humidity
- Absorbs nutrients from air (epiphyte)
- Used in padding of car seats
- Used to fill traditional voodoo dolls



Spatterdock

Nuphar advena

- Native to eastern US, parts of Canada
- Locally naturalized in Britain
- Provides food for wildlife
- Root and seed are edible
- Leaves provide cover for predators
- Seeds, roots are beneficial to body
- Seeds can be ground into flour



Red Cedar

Juniperus silicicola

- Native to Florida
- Drought and salt tolerant
- Provides nesting cover, winter food
- The oldest reported was 795 years old
- Used to repopulate damaged land
- Considered as an invasive species
- Used to make fence posts



Surinam Cherry

Eugenia uniflora

- Native to tropical South America
- Category 1 (problematic) exotic plant
- Introduced to US as an ornamental
- Edible fruit, used in making jam, jelly
- Used as an antitumor, antidiabetic...
- Resistant to pests
- South Americans use for stomach pain



Cardinal Air Plant

Tillandsia fasciculata

- Native to tropical America
- Very broad environmental tolerance
- Able to grow without soil (Epiphyte)
- Status in Florida: Endangered
- Illegal to collect or destroy habitat
- Mexican weevil destroyed this plant
- Flowers all year



Resurrection Fern

Pleopeltis polypodioides

- Native to tropical America
- Resides also in southern Africa
- Widely found in Florida
- Grows on host plant
- Able to dehydrate in drought period
- Can look dead and next day alive
- Survives long periods of drought



Sour Orange

Citrus aurantium

- Native to India
- Introduced to Europe with Crusade
- Introduced to Florida in 1565
- Used as a rootstock for sweet orange
- Used to make marmalade, liqueurs...
- Found in perfume
- Sedative and anxiolytic (antianxiety)



Gopher Tortoise

Gopherus polyphemus

- Native to southeastern United States
- Terrestrial turtle
- Herbivore & scavenger
- One of oldest species: 60M years ago
- Hole provides cover for other animals
- Burrows can reach 39ft long
- Threatened by habitat destruction



Saw Greenbrier

Smilax Spp.

- Native to southeastern US and Mexico
- Provides food and shelter for wildlife
- Persistent fruit, falls off in spring
- Leaves used for cigarette wrappers
- Roots treat urinary infections
- Used to make bread and cake
- Used also with dyes



Water Oak

Quercus nigra

- Native to southeastern United States
- Provide food for wildlife
- Little invasive potential
- High drought tolerance
- Resistant to pests & diseases
- Short life span of only 30 to 50 years
- Used for timber and fuel



Wax Myrtle

Myrica cerifera

- Native to North and Central America
- Flammable in wildfire prone area
- Drought and high salt tolerant
- Used for candlemaking
- Antibiotic properties
- Provides food, cover for wildlife
- Main source food for birds in winter



Chinaberry

Melia azedarach

- Native to Asia
- Introduced in 1830 as an ornamental
- Category 2 (problematic) exotic plant
- Poisonous fruit for humans, mammals
- Used as fuel wood
- Adapts to many environments
- 'Azedarach' is a 'noble tree' in Persian



Myrtle Oak

Quercus myrtifolia

- Native to South Florida
- Resides in Southeastern US
- Edible acorn
- Provides food and cover for wildlife
- Leaves serve as insect larval host
- Threatened scrub-Jay feed on acorns
- Folk legends attribute magical powers



Southern Live Oak

Quercus virginiana

- Native to southeastern US
- Supports plants like Spanish moss
- Extremely resistant to strong winds
- Tends to survive fire
- The wood is used to make ships
- Provides food and shelter for wildlife
- Can measure its lifetime in centuries



Prickly Pear Cactus

Opuntia humifusa

- Native to eastern North America
- Resides in France, Italy, Switzerland...
- Edible fruit
- Gopher Tortoise eat pad, fruit, flower
- Pulp used on injuries, snakebites...
- Painful spines that cause irritation
- High drought tolerance



Pond Cypress

Taxodium ascendens

- Native to North America
- Fire resistant bark
- High drought tolerant
- High wind resistant
- Maximum longevity is 1000 years
- Develops aerial root (knee) to breathe
- Protects fish & amphibians from peril



Air Potato

Dioscorea bulbifera

- Native to Africa, southern Asia
- Naturalized in many world regions
- Category 1 (problematic) exotic plant
- Some varieties are edible
- Invades open or disturbed areas
- Wild Florida species can be toxic
- Can grow extremely quickly



Powdery Strap Airplant

Catopsis berteroniana

- **Native from south Florida to Brazil**
- **Carnivorous plant**
- **Traps insects with tube shaped leaves**
- **Rainwater falls into plant to form pool**
- **Insect are drowned and digested**
- **Status in Florida: Endangered**
- **Illegal to collect or destroy habitat**



Wild Cucumber

Cyclanthera pedata

- Native to Andes Cordillera
- Lives in tropical zone of America, Asia
- Grows in wet and hot climate
- Edible fruit
- Cultivated for many centuries
- Can be used to treat cholesterol level
- Seeds used against hypertension



Rough Lemon

Citrus jambhiri

- Native to northeastern India
- Sensitive to salt
- Fruit is used as a lemon substitute
- Thorns inflict painful punctures
- Juice used for tongue inflammation
- Used as a citrus rootstock
- Cold hardy & large citrus tree



Cabbage Palm

Sabal palmetto

- Native to Southeastern United States
- Very common in Florida
- High drought and salt tolerant
- It said to be hurricane-proof
- Adapts well and is easy to transplant
- Relatively disease resistant
- “Palmetto” means “small palm”



Bald Cypress

Taxodium distichum

- Native to Southeastern US
- Small seeds eaten by some birds
- Drought & high wind resistant
- Can live more than 1700 years
- 200-year old stumps can sprout
- Resistant to pests & diseases
- Aerial roots (knee)



Smooth Aster

Aster laevis

- Native to Florida & much of US
- Also called Smooth American Aster
- Nectar attracts butterflies and bees
- Used for flower arrangements
- Lavender flower pedals
- Propagated by softwood cuttings
- Found in many types of habitats



Whisk Fern

Psilotum nudum

- Native to tropical and hot regions
- Doesn't have leaves, flowers, roots
- Considered as a primitive plant
- Spores used as a medicinal purge
- Cultivated as a greenhouse plant
- Popular ornamental plant in Japan
- *Psilotum nudum* means "bare naked"



Turkey Oak

Quercus laevis

- Native to southeastern United States
- Leaves look like turkey's foot
- Provides shelter & food for wildlife
- Drought tolerant and need little care
- 'Quercus' is a Latin name for "oak"
- Allergen & produces a lot of pollen
- Wood is excellent fuel



Brazilian Pepper

Schinus terebinthifolius

- Native to Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay
- Introduced to US as an ornamental
- Category 1 (problematic) exotic plant
- One of the most aggressive exotics
- Allergen (elicits immune response)
- Roots can reach 7-10 m deep
- Cultivated for its berries



Silver-leaved Aster

Pityopsis graminifolia

- Native to Florida & Southeast US
- Also called narrowleaf silkgrass
- Also called grass-leaved goldenaster
- Not grass, but a rhizomatous herb
- Nectar attracts butterflies and bees
- Yellow, sunburst flower & white fruit
- Likes sunny, dry, sandy soils



Wild Pine

Tillandsia fasciculata

- Native to Florida & Cent/So America
- Grows on tree branches (a bromeliad)
- Epiphyte, grows on but does not harm
- Found single, occasionally in clumps
- Endangered due to bromeliad weevil
- “Tank plant” stores water in leaf pond
- Illegal to collect or destroy its habitat



Pepper Vine

Ampelopsis arborea

- Native to Florida
- Lives in cypress swamps, hammocks
- Common from Virginia to New Mexico
- Produces purple grapes for wildlife
- One of four *Ampelopsis* species in US
- Flowers from spring through fall
- Used as ornamental plant in garden



Leatherleaf Airplant

Tillandsia variabilis

- Native to tropical/subtropical America
- Status in Florida: Threatened
- Illegal to collect or destroy its habitat
- Found single, occasionally in clump
- Grows on host plant (epiphyte)
- Habitat is moist, shaded area
- Attacked by Mexican bromeliad weevil



American Beautyberry

Callicarpa americana

- Native to southeastern US, Mexico
- High drought tolerance
- Provide berries and cover for wildlife
- Leaves eaten by deer
- Fast growing
- Edible only in small amounts
- Mosquito repellent



Mosquito Fern

Azolla caroliniana

- **Native to the Americas**
- **Also called Carolina Fern**
- **Hairs on leaf give velvet appearance**
- **Bio-fertilizer (fixes nitrogen from air)**
- **Provides food for fish and poultry**
- **Grown in Asia as natural fertilizer**
- **Provide habitats for invertebrates**



Caloosahatchee River

C-43 (Central & Southern Florida Project)

The Caloosahatchee River stretches 67 miles inland from Ft. Myers & Sanibel to Moore Haven. The name derives from Calusa, the region's extinct native people and Hatchee, the Seminole (Creek/Muscogee) term for river. The original river began near Lake Hicpochee, but since 1880 the river has been gradually modified to a straight, wide and deep channel connecting Lake Okeechobee to the Gulf of Mexico. The new channel is called C-43 by government agencies.



Caloosahatchee Oxbow

The Old River Channel

The oxbows are the remnants of the original Caloosahatchee. The Caloosahatchee was a small river that snaked its way from Ft. Thomson (just east of LaBelle) to the estuary at Ft. Myers. Dredging in the 1950's eliminated the meandering course of the river leaving some of the original bends of the river outside the main river channel. These bends, known as oxbows, are all that remain of the historic meandering river bed.

