

Wildflowers of the Suwannee River Basin in Florida

presented by
Emily Bell,
Florida Wildflower Foundation

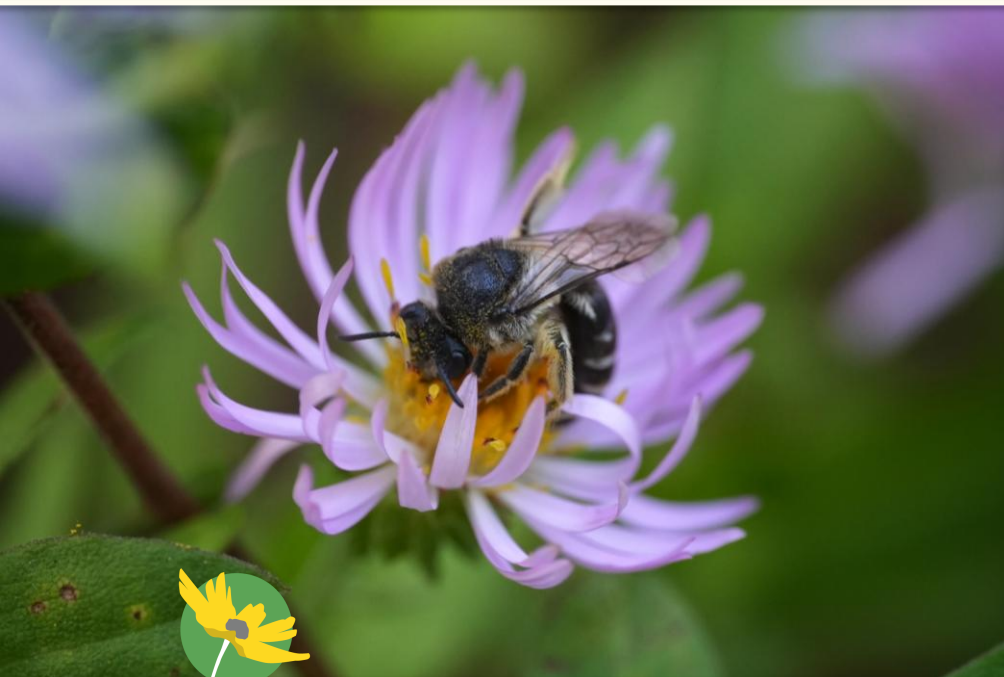


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The Florida Wildflower Foundation protects, connects and expands native wildflower habitats through education, research, planting and conservation.

www.FlaWildflowers.org



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Florida Wildflowers for Shade

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In nature, Florida's wildflowers are found in all light situations. Many beautiful species can adapt to varying light situations in your landscapes, as well.

Heavily treed landscapes mimic natural conditions found under pine and hardwood canopies, creating a mix of sunny and shady spots. This provides opportunities to try a variety of wildflowers to create habitat for groundhills birds and insects. Wildflowers prefer sun for best blooming potential, but filtered light will still promote flower formation, attracting butterflies and pollinator insects to your yard.

Think Diversity

Landscape with Florida's native wildflowers and plants provides refuge for birds, bees and butterflies while creating "habitat highways" through urban settings.

Planting and Maintenance

Wildflowers can be planted any time of year. Be prepared to keep them watered for less than three weeks after planting. Once established, you may need to water dry periods. Make sure tree roots allow plants to be planted at a depth of 6 to 12 inches so roots can develop.

There's no need to apply fertilizer or add mulch. Most shade-tolerant plants have an natural mulch of leaves or pine needles, adding much more impeding drainage, causing your plants to decline.

After a season of growth and flowering, the uplight of perennial wildflowers will be trimmed to the base, however, try to leave dried stems and leaves, and dead flower clumps until early spring to provide valuable overwintering habitat for beneficial insects.

Leave flowers flowering for dry natural and release seeds for future seedlings. Birds will also enjoy them.

Diversity is key when planning. Think diversity when planning the plant guide on slide 2, start a list of species to consider. Select plants appropriate for your region, include sunny locations that can adapt to lower light levels, as well as those that spread by roots, forming excellent groundcovers. Medium-size perennial and annual wildflowers can be interplanted in the same bed to create a diverse, larger flowering shrubs made an excellent background or accent plantings.

Because most vines use trees or shrubs for support, they are common in shady locations. In shaded areas, there may be an attractive addition to a shade garden, but keep in mind the potential for vines to spread by underground roots.

Plan for Success

- Evaluate the number of hours of shade or sunlight in the area you intend to plant. Is it partly shaded (receiving two to four hours of sunlight, or fully shaded, receiving less than two hours of sun daily)?
- Determine tree root interference. Wildflowers need a soil depth of 6 to 12 inches for root development.
- Remove competitive weeds, vines and grasses from the planting area.
- Determine moist soil use. Does the area drain well after rain, or does it hold moisture for 12 hours or more?
- Diversity is the key for a healthy sustainable native wildflower garden. What species will you include? Do you want native grasses as well?

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Establishing a small planting of native wildflowers from seed

Follow these 12 steps to establish a small landscape planting of native wildflowers:

1. **Location, location, location.**
Choose a site that is sunny most of the day, has well-drained soil, and is free of weeds.
2. **Determine suitable wildflower species.**
Pictures and descriptions of wildflowers that are suitable to your area of Florida are listed at the Florida Wildflowers Seed at Plant Owners Cooperative website, www.floridawildflowers.com. Common wildflowers are generally adaptable to a range of gardening conditions and are generally listed as suitable for North, Central or South Florida where they will thrive naturally in nature. Seeds can be purchased in small individual packets or as garden mixtures.
3. **Determine when to sow seeds.**
Seed sow from:
 - mid-September to mid-October in North Florida
 - mid-October to end of December in Central Florida
 - November through January in South Florida
 Planting can be extended to mid-April by using irrigation. Planting during hot months should be avoided because the soil's surface dries out too quickly.
4. **For areas with turfgrass.**
Once some gardeners prefer to chemically eradicate weeds with glyphosate, the Foundation recommends soil solarization as the best means of obtaining a weed-free planting site. This process takes time and patience, and must be done from June to mid-August. First, remove existing turf and weeds with a shovel. Then till the soil to 12 to 18 inches deep, breaking up roots and debris from the top texture, the better, flatter, steeper soils, north and other belts brought up by tilling. Flame the surface of the soil as much, then water the soil slightly moist but not soggy. Cover with clear plastic that is 3-to-6 mil thick. (Two is equal to .001 or less inch.) To prevent wind from lifting the sheet, bury the edges in up to 12 inches of soil. Water regularly about six weeks. Remove the plastic in place until the seed is sown.
5. **For areas with bare soil.**
Sow or firm up soil. For sites with bare soil, soil-to-bed contrast is critical, so use a dry before seeding, or just prior to seeding, lightly scratch former soils with a rake. Sandy soils might have to be made more firm by rolling, to ensure that seeds do not just lie too deep.

FloridaWildflowers.org
www.floridawildflowers.org
 FWFO.org

Pick a Native Wildflower. So many to choose from! Visit www.floridawildflowers.org for more information on Florida native wildflowers and how to grow them. For more information on Florida native wildflowers and how to grow them, visit www.floridawildflowers.org.

The image displays two book covers from the Florida Wildflower Foundation. The left book, titled "Attracting Birds with Florida's Native Wildflowers", features a blue and yellow bird perched on a branch. The right book, titled "Attracting Bees and Other Beneficial Insects with Florida's Native Wildflowers", shows a close-up of bees on yellow flowers. Both books include a "TAKE ACTION" callout and logos for the Florida Wildflower Foundation, Audubon Florida, and the Florida Department of Agriculture.

Attracting Bees and Other Beneficial Insects
with Florida's Native Wildflowers

TAKE ACTION
Help save bees and other insects by landscaping with native wildflowers.

Attracting Butterflies
with Florida's Native Wildflowers

TAKE ACTION
Learn how to help butterflies by planting native wildflowers.

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Attracting Butterflies
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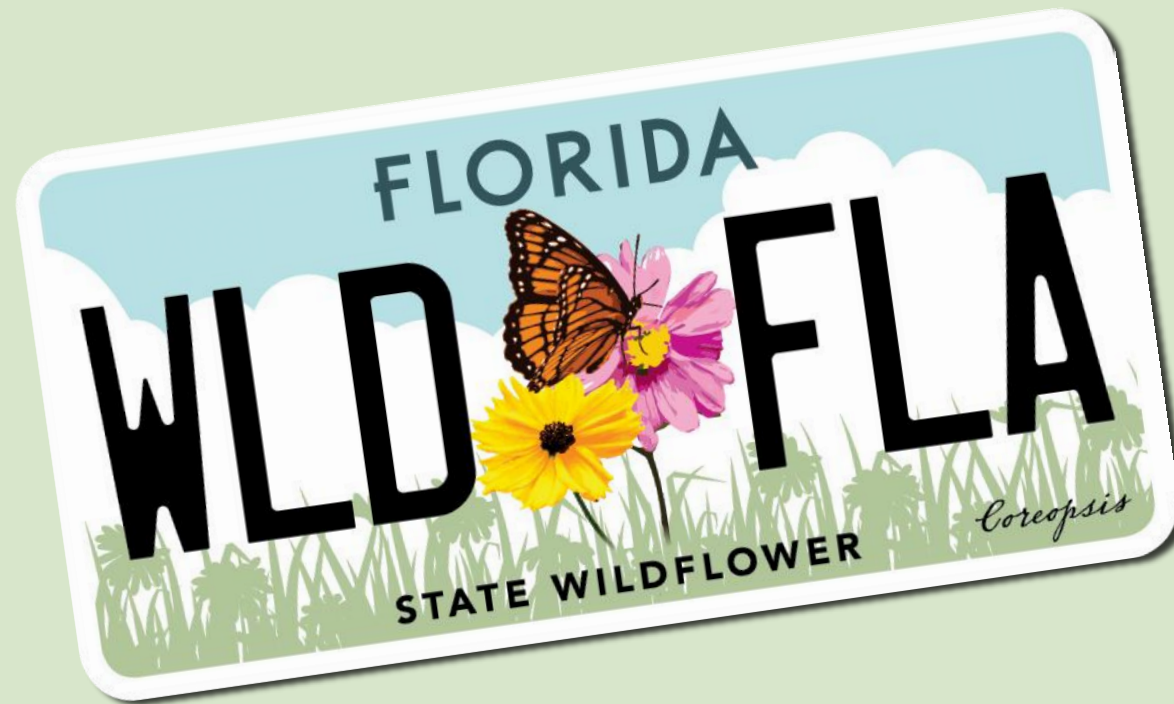
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EASY-TO-GROW
Wildflowers

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**Get growing with
resources from the
Foundation at**
[FlaWildflowers.org
/learn-to-grow/](https://FlaWildflowers.org/learn-to-grow/)

Brought to you by **THE STATE WILDFLOWER LICENSE PLATE**

With donations made by the sale of each State Wildflower license plate, the Foundation funds research, education and planting projects statewide.



Since 2000, more than \$6 million in license plate donations have supported projects that build awareness and knowledge of native wildflowers and plants and their roles in Florida's ecosystems.

Florida native plants by the numbers:

- 3,200 native plants
- 230 endemic plants
- 170 endemic wildflowers
- 566 threatened and endangered species
- 7th most botanically diverse state in the contiguous US

Plant Communities of the Suwannee River Basin

✓ Sandhills (yellow)

✓ Pine Flatwoods (pink)

✓ Upland Mesic Hardwood Forests (green)

✓ Hydric Hammocks (purple)

GENERAL MAP OF NATURAL VEGETATION OF FLORIDA

Agricultural Experiment Stations
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
University of Florida, Gainesville
J. R. Beckenbach, Director
June 1967

By John H. Davis, Botanist

- 1 Coastal strand. A zoned vegetation on sand dunes and rock, composed of pioneer herbs and shrubs near shore with scrub and forest zone more interior. The strand of the Florida Keys has many tropical forests and scrub.
- 2 Pine Flatwoods. Open woodlands of one to three species of pine: longleaf, slash, and pond pines. Many herbs, saw palmetto, shrubs and small trees form an understory. Included in general flatwoods areas are small hardwood forests, many kinds of cypress swamps, prairies, marshes, and bay tree swamps.
- 3 Southern Slash Pine Forests. Open woodlands of *Pinus elliotii densa*, mostly on rocklands. Some herbs, shrubs, and hardwood trees of understory are tropical. Small tropical and subtropical hammock forest areas are included.
- 4 Forests of Mixed Hardwoods and Pines. Mostly on uplands of clay soils in northwest section. Many differences in composition and age; some young second growth is mostly pines. The more mature forests are mostly hardwoods.
- 5 Sand Pine, *Pinus clausa*, Scrub Forests. Mostly on excessively drained deep sandy soils. These occur on old dunes of #1, and on old dunes or dry sands in the interior.
- 6 Forests of Longleaf Pine, *Pinus palustris*, and Xerophytic (dry site) Oaks. Mostly on well drained uplands. The turkey oak, *Quercus laevis*, and wire grass, *Aristida stricta*, are common. Many former areas of this type are now citrus groves in the central section.
- 7 Cypress Swamp Forests. Mostly in depressions and bordering rivers and lakes. Forests of many shapes, as round domes and long strands. Some have hardwood species associated. Cypress is also common in #2 and #8, and a scrub form in #14.
- 8 Swamp Forests, mostly of Hardwoods. Several kinds bordering most rivers and in basins. Some Bay Tree, Gum, *Nyssa*. Titi, and cypress zones occur in many of these hardwood swamps.
- 9 Mangrove Swamp Forests and Coastal Marshes. Usually there are tidal conditions which vary from saline to brackish. Tropical mangrove forests in southern area; and grass, sedge, and rush marshes along more temperate coasts.
- 12 Hardwood Forests. Mostly on rich soil uplands. These are mixed evergreen and deciduous hardwoods. Some areas are nearly original hardwood stands but many are old second growth with pines.
- 13 Grasslands of Prairie Type. Wet Prairies on seasonally flooded lowlands. Dry Prairies on seldom flooded flatlands. Many former areas of these are now improved pastures.
- 14 Region of open Scrub Cypress. Mostly on rock and marl soils that are often flooded. Small areas in this region are tall domes and strands. Also there are some hardwood and palm hammocks.
- 15 Forests of abundant Cabbage Palms, *Sabal palmetto*. Vary from scattered palms to groves of palms and oaks in hammocks. Cabbage palms are also abundant in #2, #3, #8, #13, #14, and #17.
- 16 Fresh Water Marshes. Some are mixed marshes of many kinds of herbs and bushes, and some are dominated by one plant, such as the Saw Grass Marshes, mainly of *Martensia juncifera*.
- 16a Everglades Region Saw Grass Marshes. Area mostly dense to sparse saw grass, a few tree islands and sloughs.
- 16b Everglades Region Marshes, Sloughs, Wet Prairies, and Tree Islands. The tree islands vary from Bay Tree type to Tropical Hardwoods. Region now changing.
- 17 Wet to Dry Prairie-Marshes on Marl and Rockland. Some are mostly thin saw grass, others are bushes and grasses.
- Water Areas. Only a few of the thousands of lakes and ponds are shown. These and rivers are habitats for abundant aquatic plants.

10 0 10 20 30 40
SCALE IN MILES

Circular S-178

Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Violet
Viola sp.

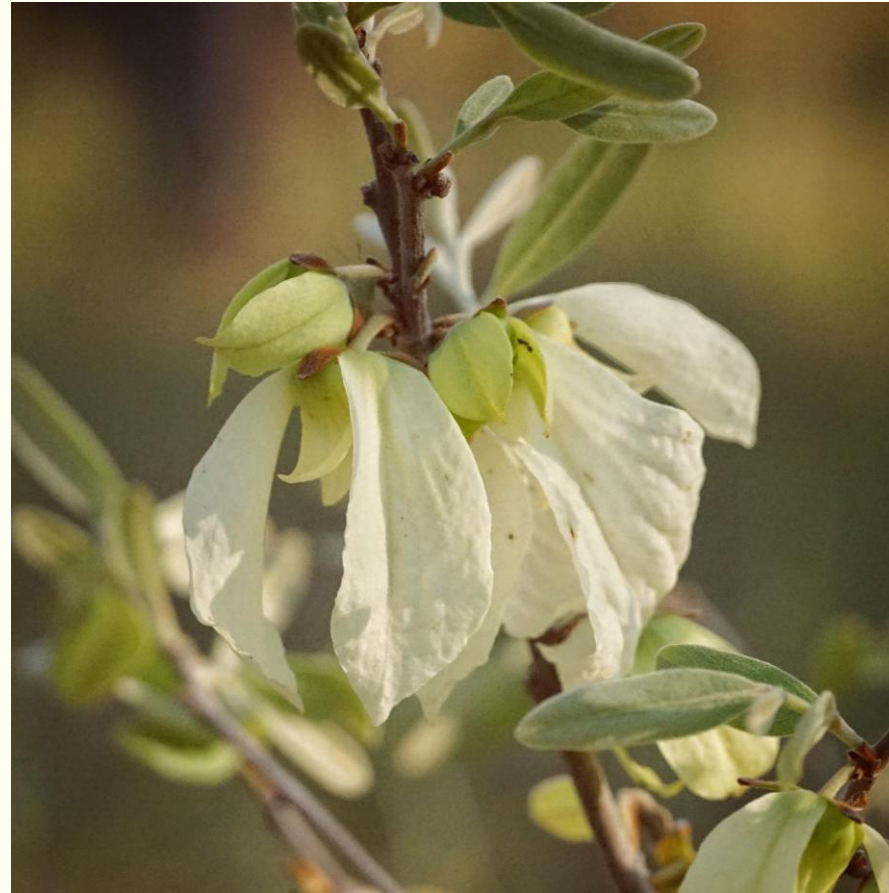


Fringed bluestar
Amsonia ciliata

Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Slimleaf pawpaw
Asimina angustifolia



Woolly pawpaw
Asimina incana



Dwarf pawpaw
Asimina pygmaea

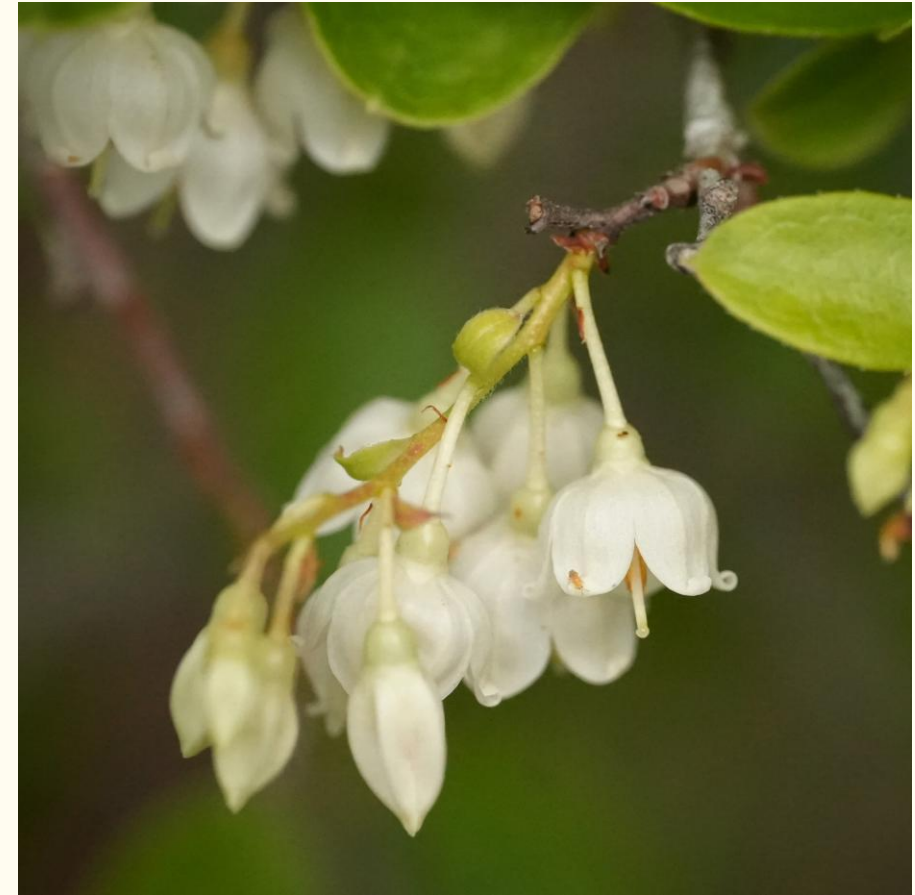
Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Shiny blueberry
Vaccinium myrsinites



Deerberry
Vaccinium stamineum



Sparkleberry
Vaccinium arboreum

Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Rusty staggerbush
Lyonia ferruginea



Shiny lyonia
Lyonia lucida



Staggerbush
Lyonia mariana

Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Tread-softly
Cnidoscolus stimulosus

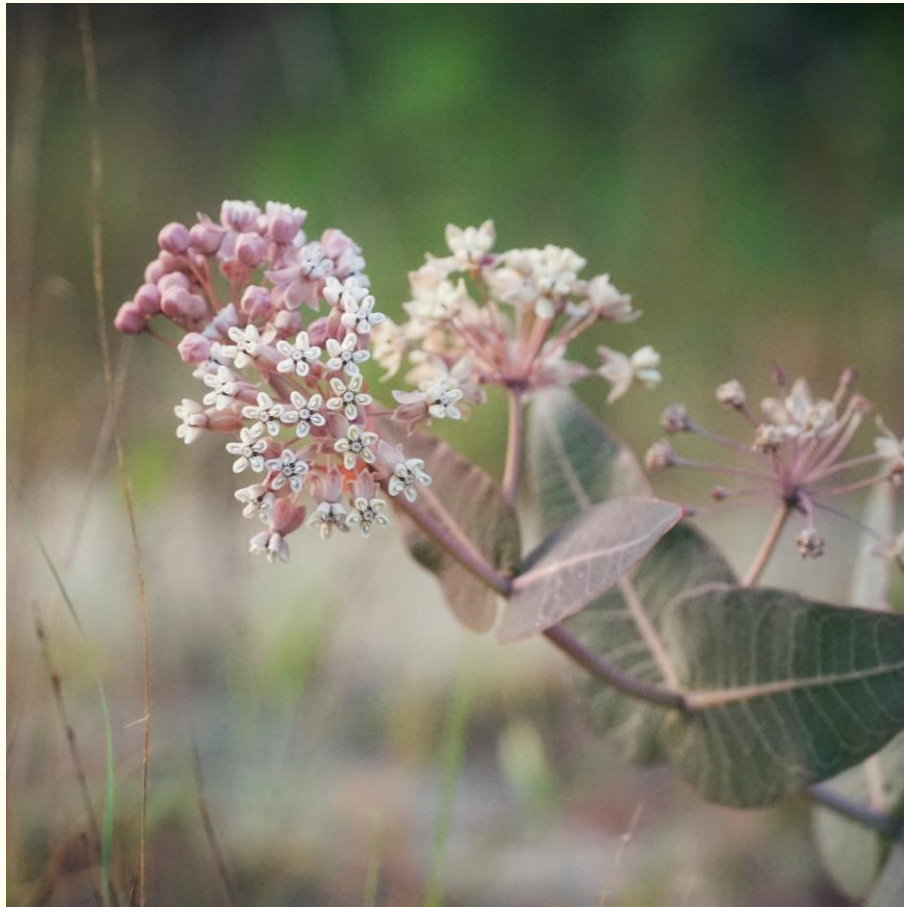


Pricklypear
Opuntia sp.



Purple thistle
Cirsium horridulum

Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Pinewoods milkweed
Asclepias humistrata



Coastalplain honeycombhead
Balduina angustifolia



White wild indigo
Baptisia alba

Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Lady lupine
Lupinus villosus



Ocala lupine
Lupinus ocalensis



Sundial lupine
Lupinus perennis

Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Queen's delight
Stillingia sylvatica



Dawnflower
Stylisma patens



Ciliate wild petunia
Ruellia ciliosa

Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Clasping milkweed
Asclepias amplexicaulis



Whorled milkweed
Asclepias verticillata

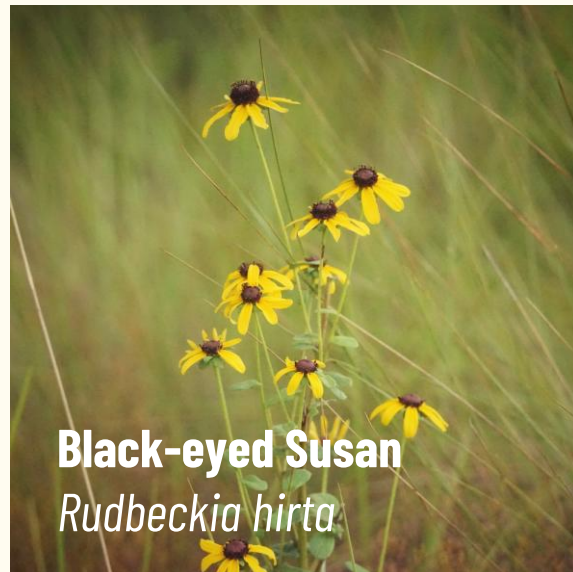


Velvetleaf milkweed
Asclepias tomentosa



Butterflyweed
Asclepias tuberosa

Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta



Butterflypea
Centrosema virginianum



Tarflower
Bejaria racemosa



Soft greeneyes
Berlandiera pumila

Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Adam's needle
Yucca filamentosa



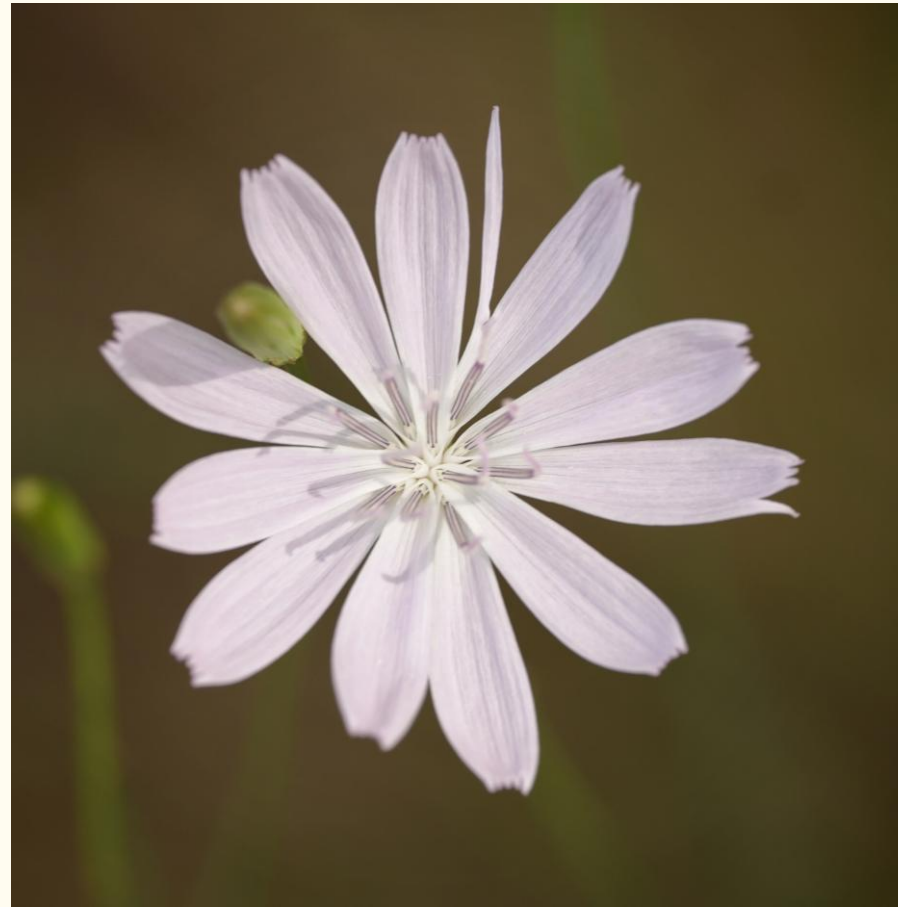
Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Whitemouth dayflower
Commelina erecta



Roserush
Lygodesmia aphylla



Florida Indian plantain
Arnoglossum floridanum

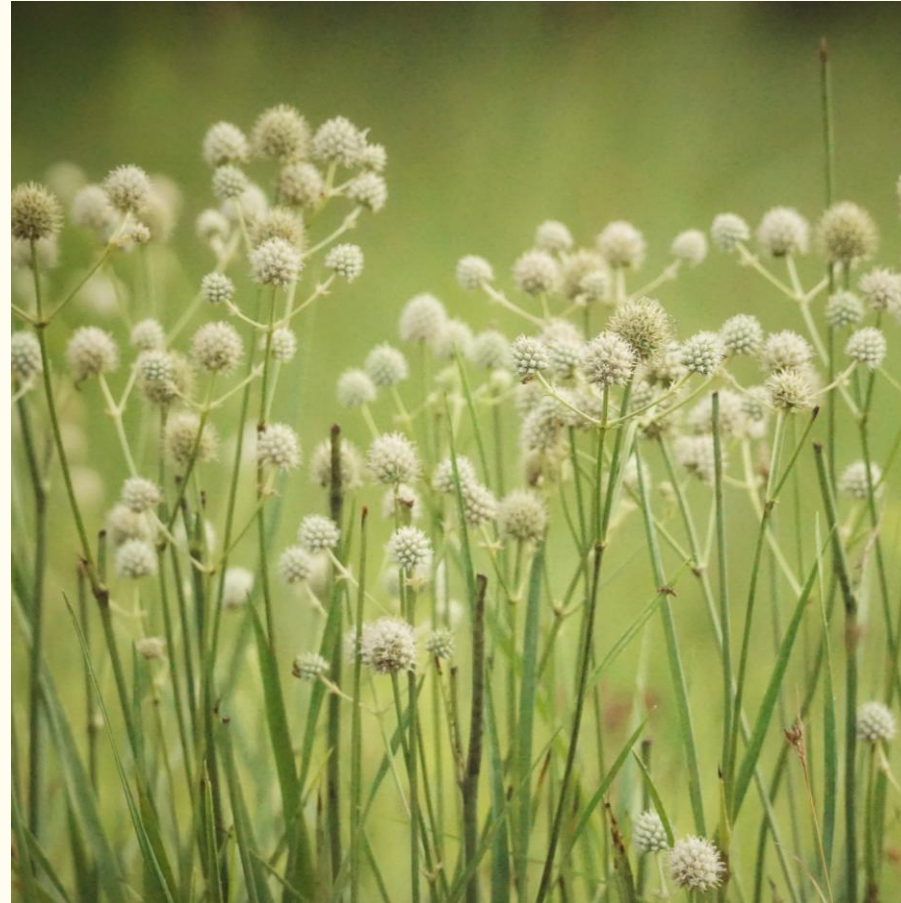
Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Partridge pea
Chamaecrista fasciculata



Button rattlesnakemaster
Eryngium yuccifolium



Netleaf leather-flower
Clematis reticulata

Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



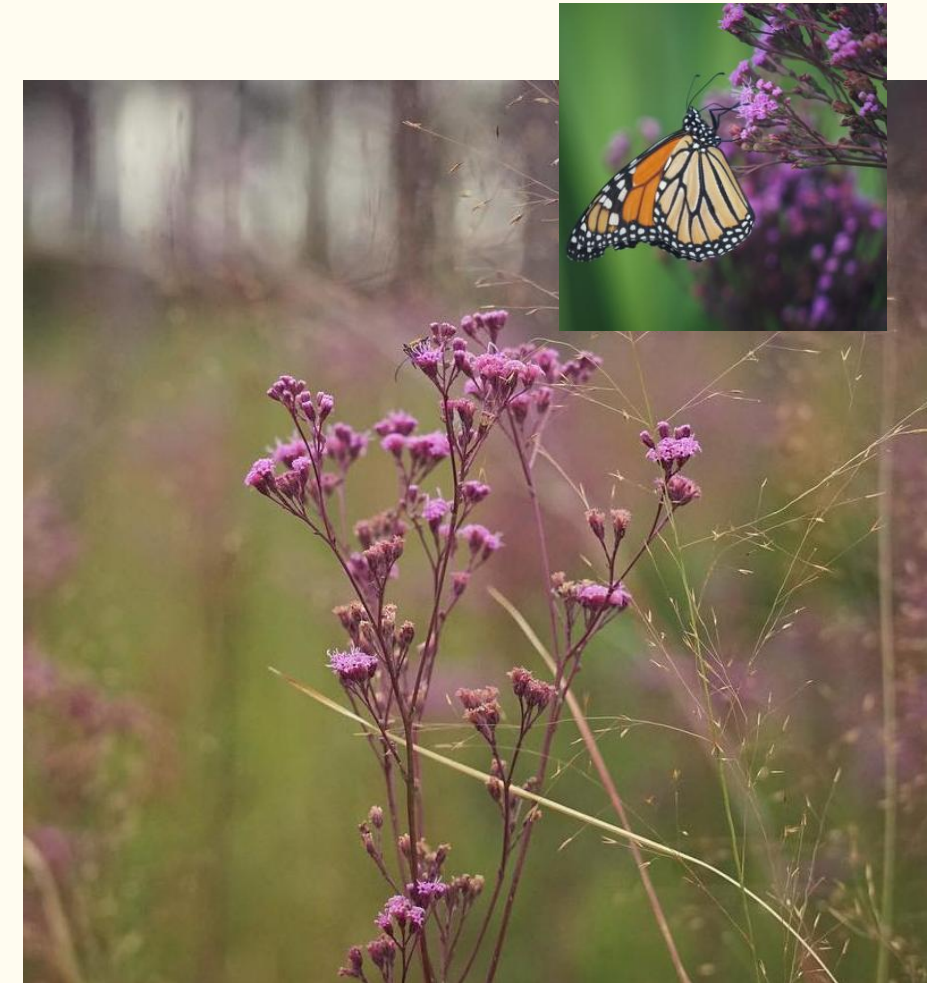
Hairy chaffhead

Carphephorus paniculatus



Florida paintbrush

Carphephorus corymbosus



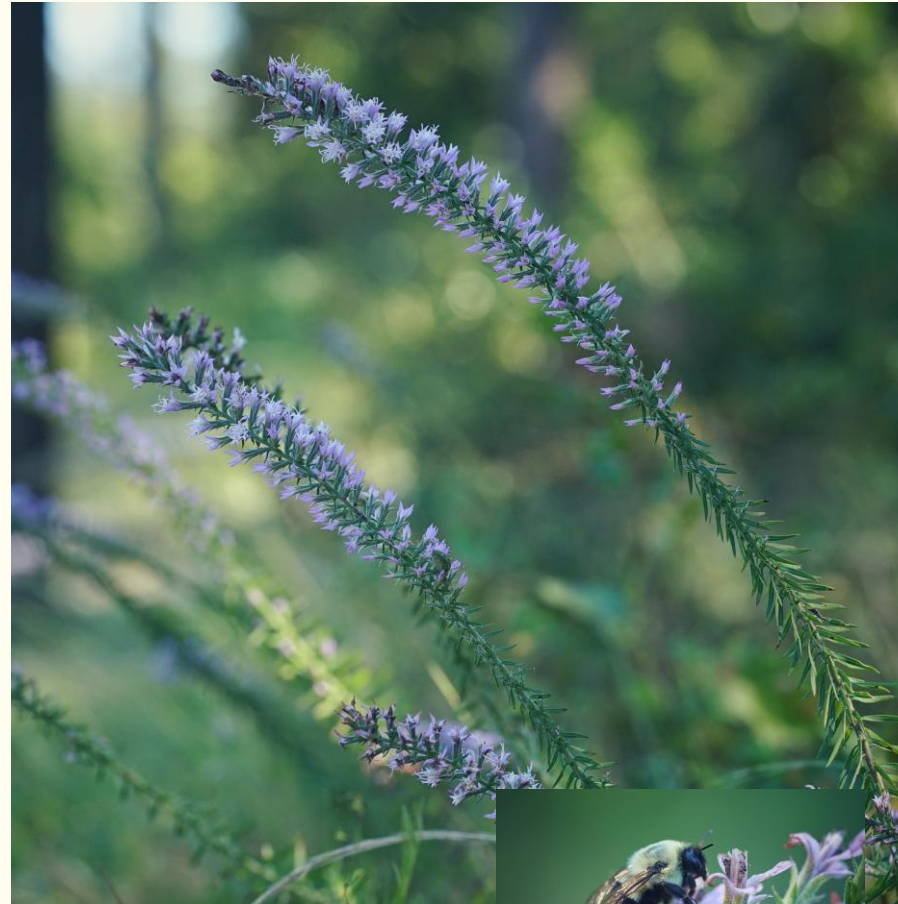
Vanilaleaf

Carphephorus odoratissimus

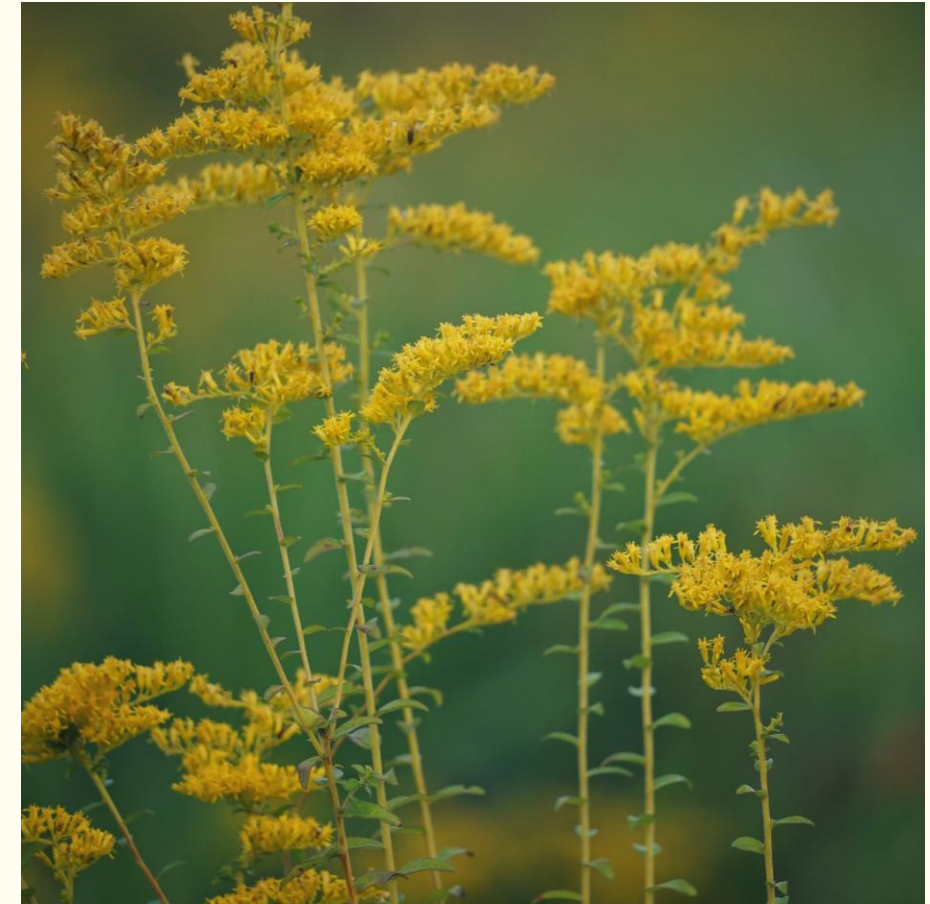
Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Dense blazing star
Liatris spicata

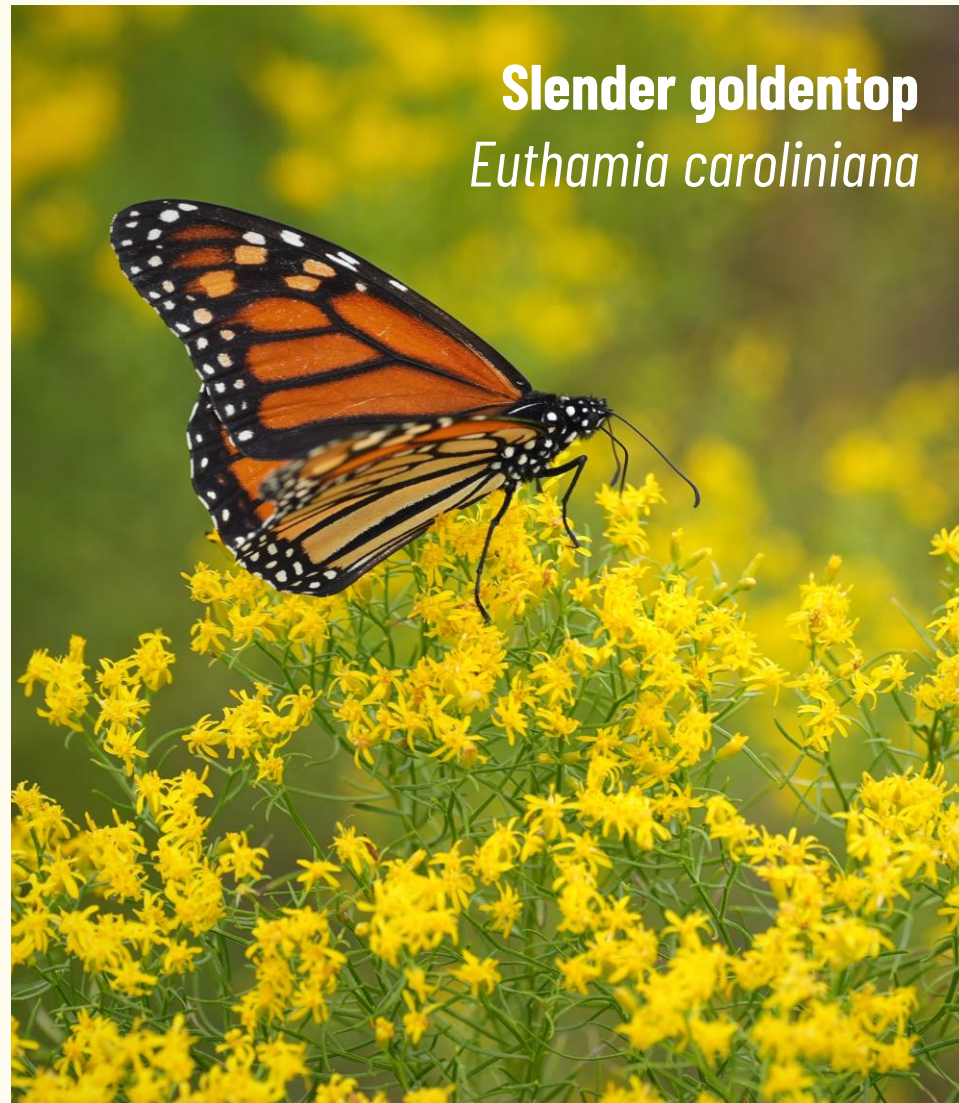


Elegant gayfeather
Liatris elegans

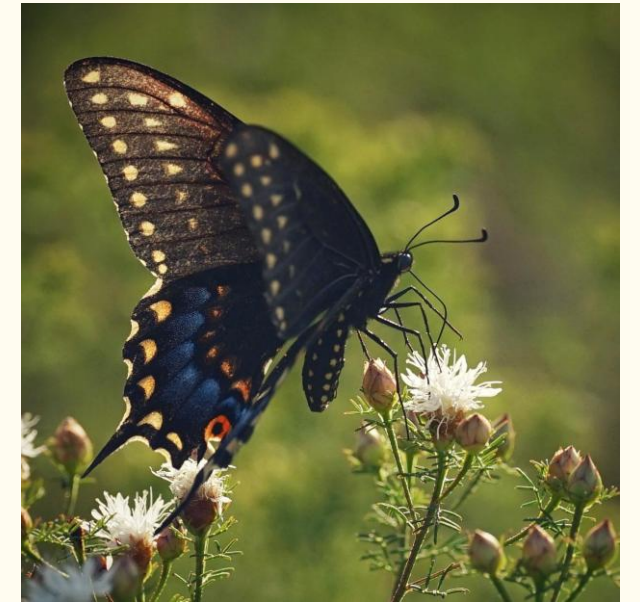


Goldenrod
Solidago odora

Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Sandhill to Dry Pine Flatwoods



Wet Pine Flatwoods

(includes prairies,
cypress swamps)



Small butterwort
Pinguicula pumila



Yellow butterwort
Pinguicula lutea



Blue butterwort
Pinguicula caerulea

Wet Pine Flatwoods

(includes prairies,
cypress swamps)



Hooded pitcherplant
Sarracenia minor



Pink sundew
Drosera capillaris

Wet Pine Flatwoods

(includes prairies,
cypress swamps)



American white waterlily
Nymphaea odorata



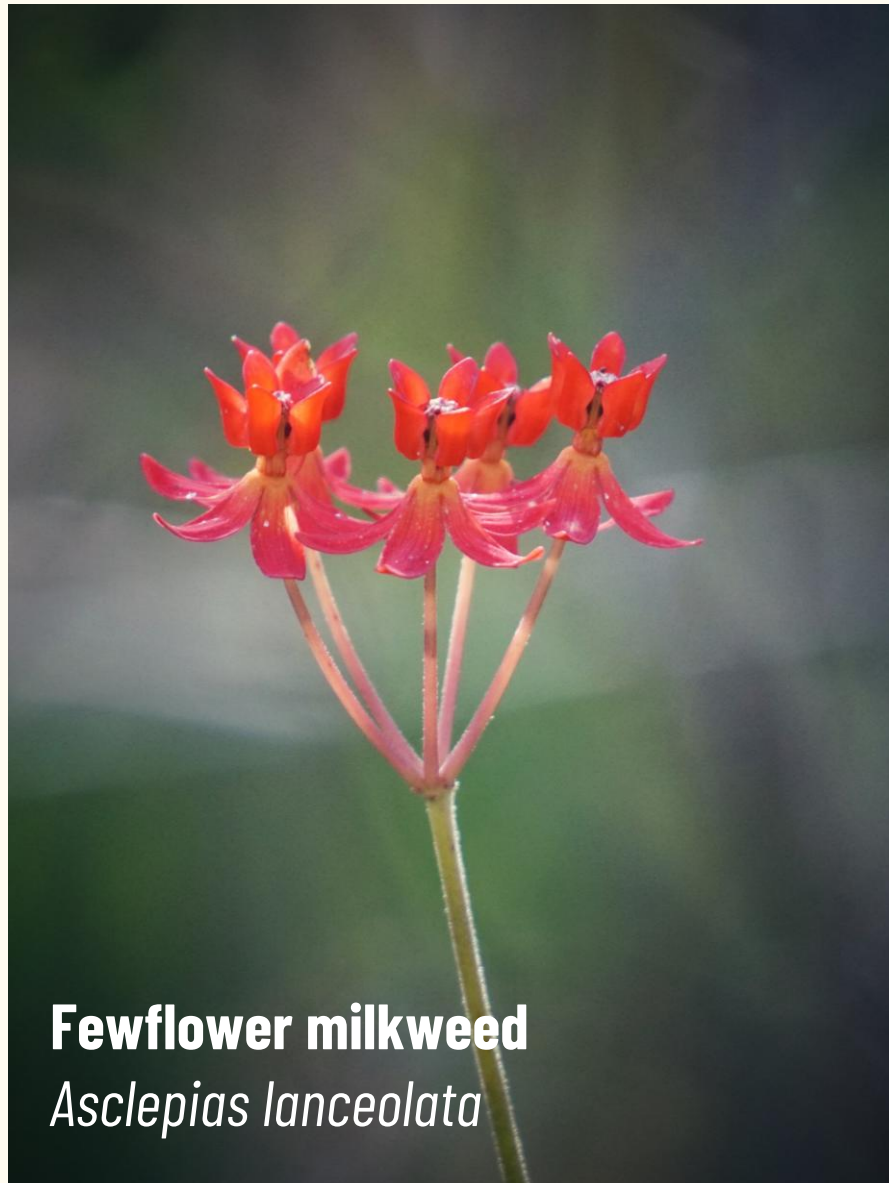
Duck potato, Arrowleaf
Sagittaria sp.



Bladderwort
Utricularia sp.

Wet Pine Flatwoods

(includes prairies,
cypress swamps)



Wet Pine Flatwoods

(includes prairies,
cypress swamps)



Candyroot
Senega nana



Orange milkwort
Senega lutea

Wet Pine Flatwoods

(includes prairies,
cypress swamps)



Narrowleaf sunflower
Helianthus angustifolius



Rayless sunflower
Helianthus radula

Mesic Hardwood Forests



Carolina jessamine
Gelsemium sempervirens



Spotted wakerobin
Trillium maculatum



Spring coralroot
Corallorhiza wisteriana

Mesic Hardwood Forests



Mesic Hardwood Forests



Mesic Hardwood Forests



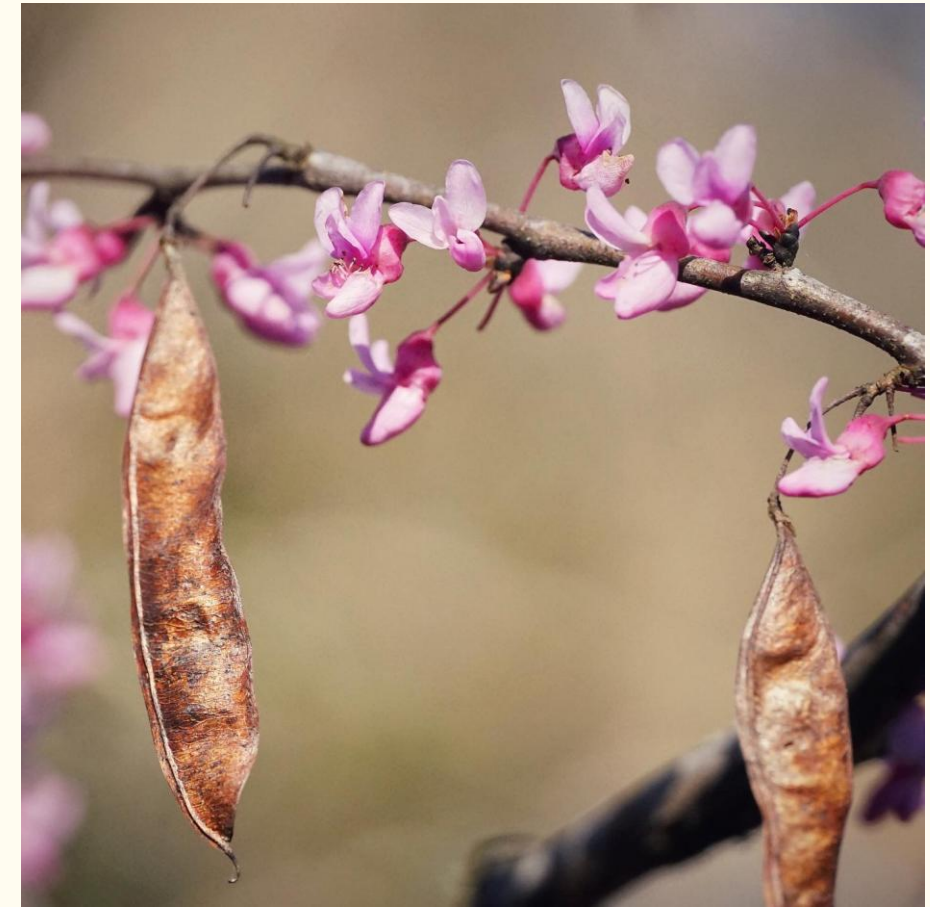
Fringetree

Chionanthus virginicus



Flowering dogwood

Cornus florida



Eastern redbud

Cercis canadensis

Mesic Hardwood Forests



Mesic Hardwood Forests



Yaupon holly
Ilex vomitoria



American holly
Ilex opaca



Dahoon holly
Ilex cassine

Mesic Hardwood Forests



Swamp leatherflower
Clematis crispa



Carolina wild petunia
Ruellia caroliniensis



Rain lily
Zephyranthes atamasco

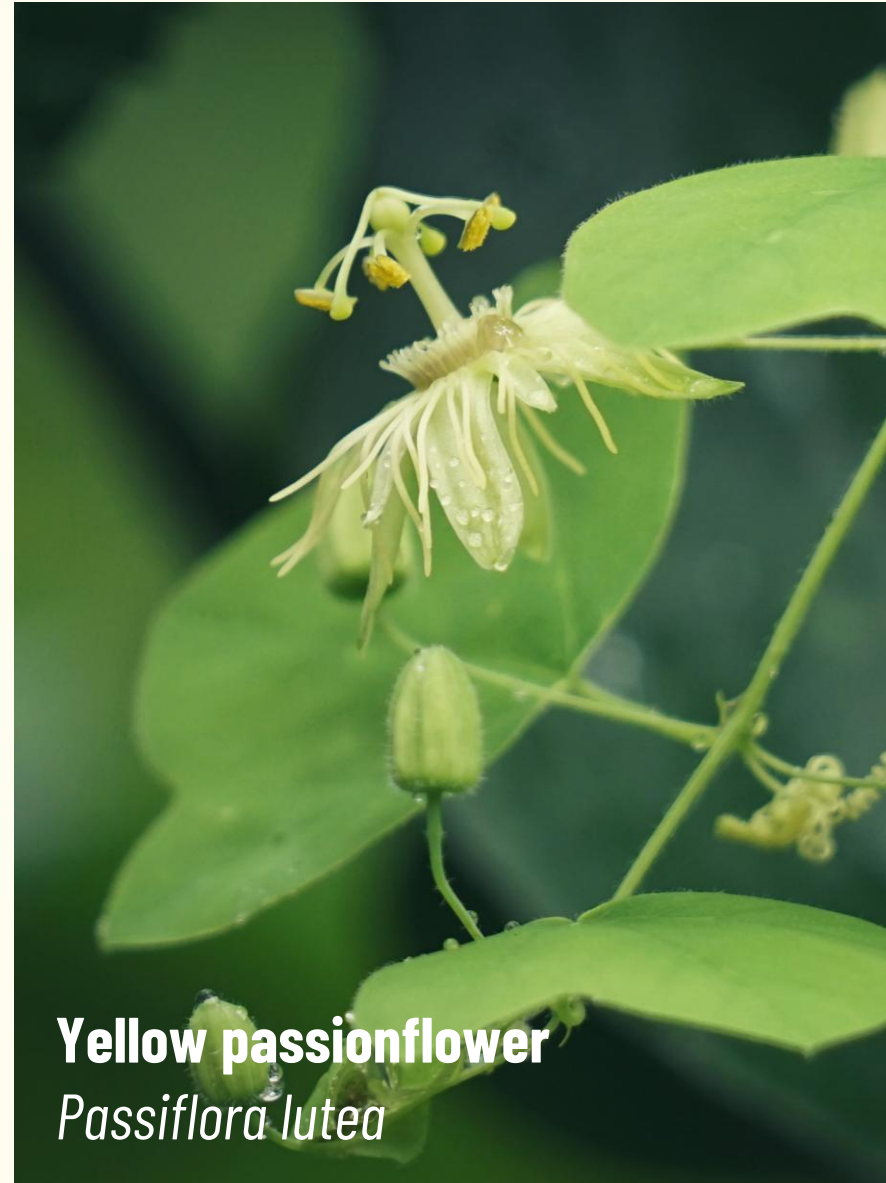
Mesic Hardwood Forests



Crested coralroot
Hexalectris spicata



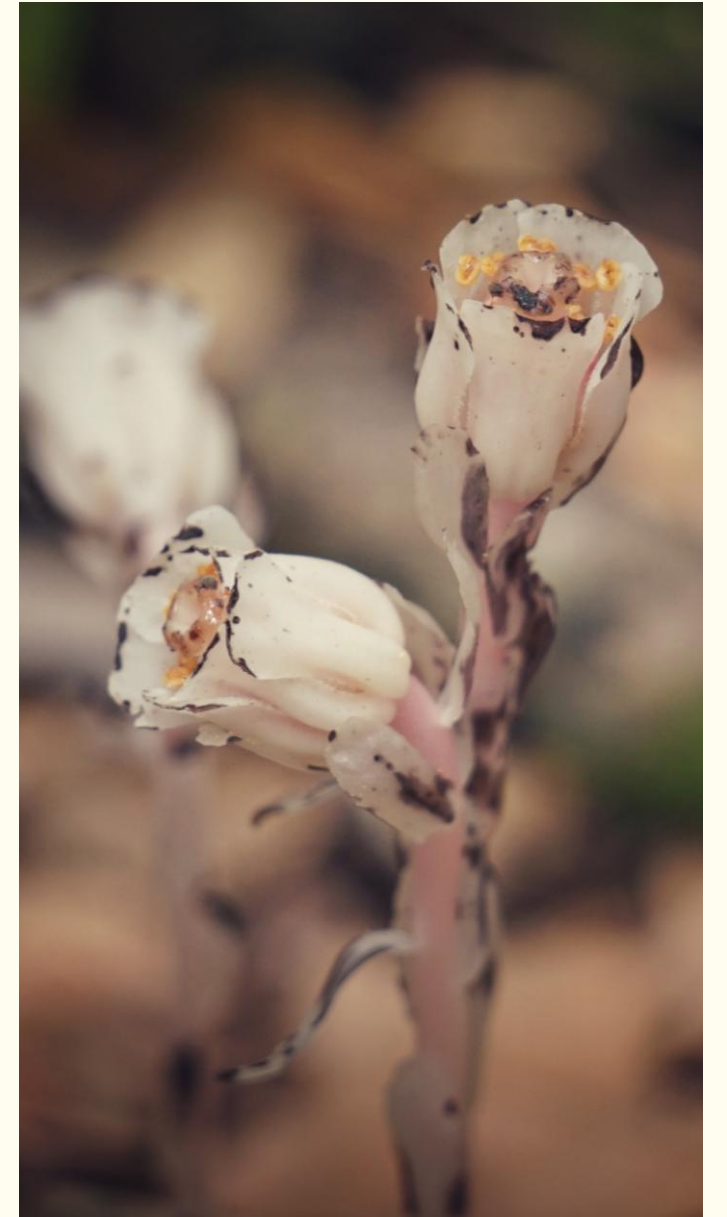
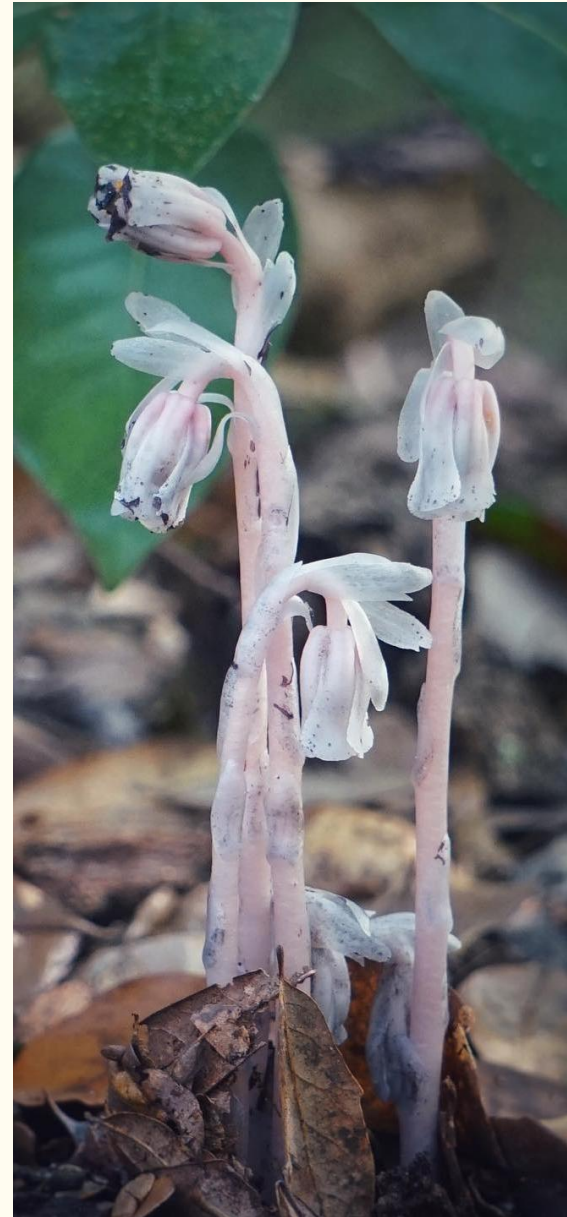
Mesic Hardwood Forests



Mesic Hardwood Forests

Indianpipe

Monotropa uniflora



Hydric Hammocks



Pinxter azalea

Rhododendron canescens

Hydric Hammocks



Jack-in-the-pulpit
Arisaema acuminatum



lizard's tail
Sarracenia minor



Virginia sweetspire
Itea virginica

Hydric Hammocks



False indigo
Amorpha fruticosa

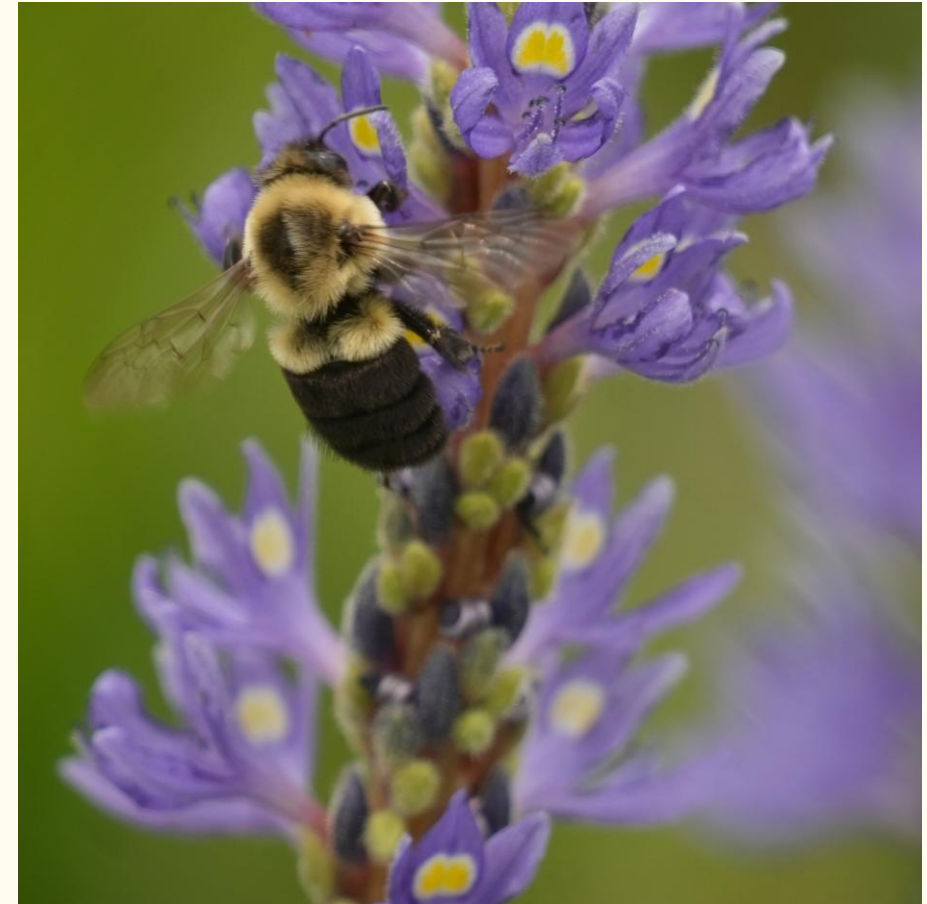
Hydric Hammocks



Aquatic milkweed
Asclepias perennis



Prairie iris
Iris savannarum



Pickerelweed
Pontederia cordata

Hydric Hammocks



Cardinalflower
Lobelia cardinalis



Spatterdock
Nuphar advena



Spring-run spiderlily
Hymenocallis rotata

Hydric Hammocks



Elderberry
Sambucus canadensis



Hydric Hammocks



Swamp rose
Rosa palustris



Buttonbush
Cephalanthus occidentalis



Climbing aster
Ampelaster carolinianus

Resources:

- ❖ FWF Plant Profiles: <https://www.flawildflowers.org/plant-profiles/>
- ❖ Atlas of Florida Plants: <https://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>
- ❖ Flora of the Southeastern US:
<https://fsus.ncbg.unc.edu/main.php?pg=index.php>
- ❖ iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/home>

THANK YOU!



WEBSITE: FlaWildflowers.org | **CONTACT:** info@FlaWildflowers.org