



Shade gardening with Natives

Live Oak Garden Club

Eamonn Leonard

Why Natives?

- Pollinators
- Birds
 - Nesting/Cover
 - Forage
 - Seed & insects
- Aesthetics
- Easier
- Reduced pesticide & fertilizer use
- Less water
- Wildlife habitat (Bring Nature Home)
- Increase biodiversity



- Right thing to do
- Natives are the new exotics!



Native plant selection

Right Plant, Right Spot

- **Spend time in nature** – woods, marsh, bog
- **Soil moisture** – wet, moist, dry, xeric
 - Some plants are flexible, some are not
 - Try it in a pot, dish bog garden, rain garden
- **Soil type** – sand, silt, clay
- **Soil exposure** – full, sun, shade
 - Often will bloom better in sun
- **Salinity exposure**
 - Some plants are flexible (seashore mallow, seaside goldenrod)



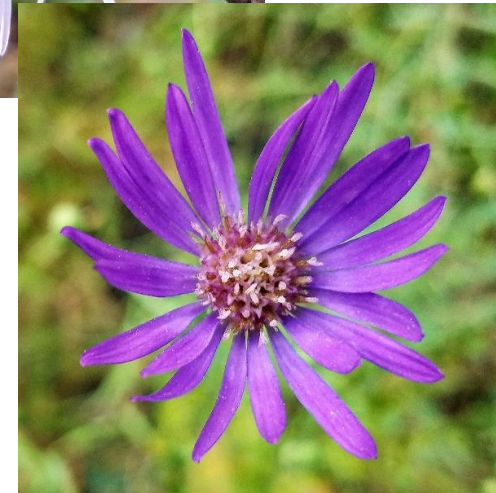
Seasonality of Bloom

- **Year round? Or mostly?** – scarlet sage, dune sunflower
- **Early Spring** – trees, white false indigo, red buckeye
- **Late Spring** – sneezeweed, coreopsis
- **Early Summer** – rattlesnake master, softhair coneflower, coral bean
- **Late Summer** – Chapman's goldenrod, coastal virgin's bower, summer farewell
- **Fall** – everything, Blazing star, Seaside goldenrod, swamp sunflower, asters
- **Winter** - witchhazel



Availability

- Native plant sale (spring & fall) – Coastal WildScapes
 - April and September – Ashantilly Center, Darien
- Local nurseries (ask for natives)
- Grow your own from seed
 - Purchase
 - be careful with “Wildflower mixes”
 - Collect seed responsibly
- Share your plants at swaps
- Join like minded groups
 - Coastal WildScapes
 - Georgia Native Plant Society
 - Georgia Botanical Society



Native Plant Resources

- Local Nurseries

- **Thompson's Garden**

- 6175 GA Hwy South I-16 Exit 127
912-839-2164 912-839-2164
plantguy@bulloch.net

- **Florabundance Gardens**

- Hwy 99, Darien
debshep@dariantel.net

- **NativeScapes of Beaufort**

- 48 Sherman Dr, Beaufort SC
843-525-9454 or 843-592-8150
danielpayne@naturescapesofbeaufort.com
tps://naturescapesofbeaufort.com

- **Lazy K Nursery** info@lazyknursery.com

- Mail Order

- **Ernst Seeds**

- 1-800-873-3321
www.ernstseed.com

- **RoundStone Native Seeds**

- 1-888-531-2353
<http://roundstoneseed.com>

- **Florida Wildflower Growers Cooperative**

- <http://floridawildflowers.com>

- **Mail Order Natives**

- www.mailordernatives.com

- **Georgia Native Plant Initiative**

- <http://botgarden.uga.edu/conservation-science/georgia-native-plant-initiative/>

- How local do you need to go

- How native is it? Check “The Biota of North America”
www.bonap.org



Designing with natives

- Landscape needs to read well at various scales
- Plant in groups (masses)
- Plant in odd numbers
- Size matters (go big)
- Plant Big to small
- Plant correctly





Key to Codes



Full Sun



Part Shade



Full Shade



Dry Soils



Moist Soils



Wet Soils



**Prune to maintain shape /
dead head. Or to remove
seed to prevent spread.**



**Attracts
Butterflies**



**Larval host
plant**



**Attractive to
bees**



**Seed / fruit
food for birds**



**Attracts
hummingbirds**



**Deer normally
do not eat plant**



**Deer will eat
this plant**

Herbaceous — year round, mostly

- Part shade
- Blooms until hard frost.
- Dead heading help re-blooming
- Deer resistant (mint family)
- Grows in dry sandy soils
- Perennial but re-seeds



Scarlet Sage

Salvia coccinea



This subshrub is a perennial in our area and treated as an annual in northern areas. Stems are square shaped and bear triangular leaves. Flowers are bright red at about 1 inch, and arranged in whorls on a tall stem. Once blooming, this plant keeps it up till the first frost. Unlike the Brazilian species available in garden centers, this plant reseeds and is attractive to our native pollinators. While drought tolerant, regular water gives more reliable flowers.

- Perennial - Grows 2 feet - Found in open woods, forest edges



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Flowering Time

Herbaceous – Fall flowers

- Blue flowers variable (blue, white with blue edges, etc.)
- Native to Maritime Forests
- Prune early summer to make more bushy
- Wide adaptability. Dry sandy soils
- Not favored by deer (mint family)
- Perennial



What a beauty! This plant is from the mint family, and sports white or blue flowers. You don't see this true a blue that often. Plants tend to get floppy, so they're best situated in a garden where other plants can support them or provide added stakes. Pruning in early summer will cause plant to branch and become bushier.

- Perennial - Grows 3-6 feet - Found in meadows, pastures



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Flowering Time

Herbaceous – Summer



Coral Bean

Erythrina herbacea

- Large spikes of red tubular flowers
- Attractive to pollinators (Hummingbirds)

- Seeds are poisonous

- Drought tolerant & salt tolerant

- Grows in sandy soils

- Long-lived Perennial shrub



A shrub, this plant produces annual stems from the woody stem and perennial root. Leaves are arrow shaped and disappear in winter. But before leaves reappear in spring, spikes of clustered, tubular flowers emerge. Dark seed pods take the place of flowers, with bright red beans inside that stay on the plant for months. Considered poisonous if ingested, in Mexico its seeds are used to kill rats and fish. Other areas use the seeds as novelty items or in jewelry, but since it is poisonous, care should be taken. This plant will die back in the winter; prune dead growth in spring before new growth appears.

- Perennial - Grows 6-12 feet (3) - Found in open, sandy woods & clearings



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Flowering Time

Herbaceous – Spring

- Drought tolerant
- Great Cut flower
- Attractive to pollinators
- Deer will eat this plant
- Grows in dry sandy soils
- Short-lived Perennial – reseeds forms colonies



Lanceleaf Tickseed *Coreopsis lanceolata*



This member of the Aster family is a reliable bloomer in early to mid-spring. Growing in small clumps it can form colonies. Flower heads are yellow, 1-1 1/2 inches across. The yellow center or disk flowers stand out distinctly from the ray flowers, which appear to be attached just below them. A great cut flower for a vase, frequent deadheading will keep it in bloom longer. Great pollinator plant.

- Perennial - Grows 1-2 feet - Found in open woods, fields, roadsides



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Flowering Time

Herbaceous – Summer

- Larval host for moth and butterflies
- Attractive to pollinators
- Dried powdered leaves and flowers sneezing.
- Foliage bitter and avoided by herbivores
- Grows better in moist soils
- Perennial



Purple-head Sneezeweed *Helenium flexuosum*



Dried, powdered leaves and flowers of this plant cause violent sneezing fits. The genus gained its name because of the myth that Helen of Troy cried tears and these sprang up where they fell. Blossoms are yellow with purple centers, where the true flowers lie. This plant is a larval host for some butterfly and moth species.

- Perennial - Grows 3 feet - Found in swamps, wet prairies, rocky glades



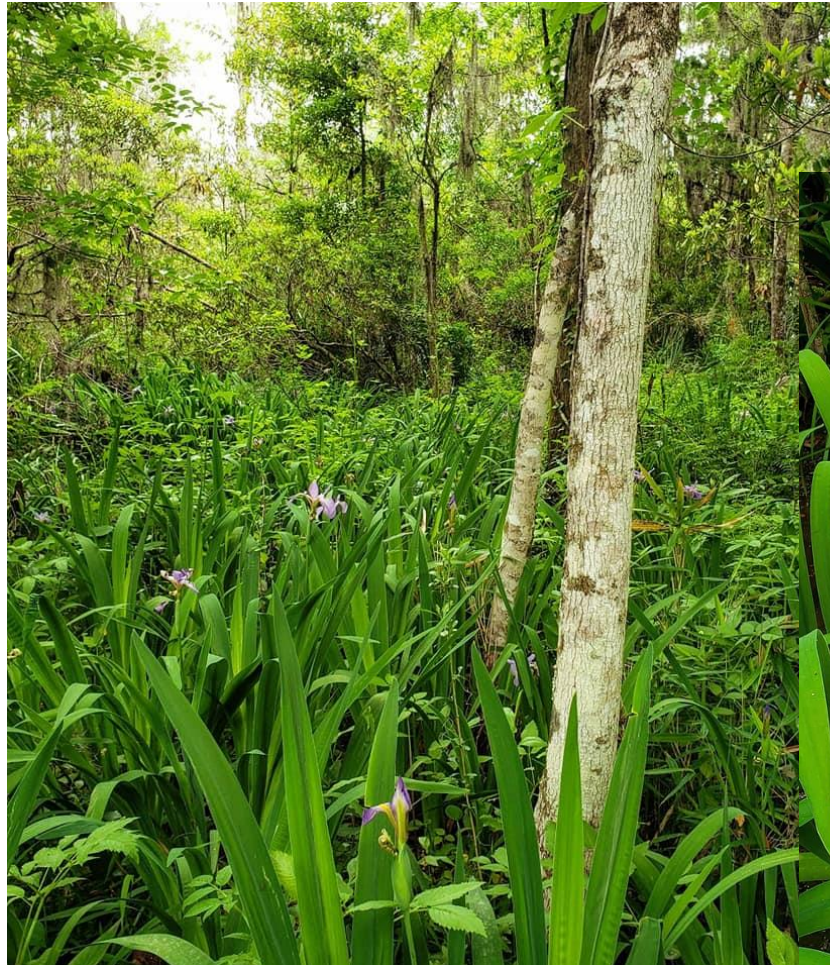
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Flowering Time

Herbaceous – Late Spring

- Part Shade
- Wetland to moist soil
- Great for a rain garden, and to reduce erosion
- Blooms in Late Spring
- Attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinators.
- Showy in big masses
- Perennial

Blue flag iris (*Iris virginica*)



Herbaceous – Late Summer

- Part Shade
- Dry sandy soils
- Forest edges (Maritime Forest)
- Blooms in Late Spring
- Attract butterflies and other pollinators.
- Showy in big masses
- Perennial

Goldenrod (*Solidago odora*)



Herbaceous – Late Fall

- Part shade (grows to 8ft)
- Large slightly fragrant aster flowers
- Attractive to Butterflies and other pollinators
- Grows in on edges of Forested Wetlands.
- Scrambles up a trellis or other plants (not a true vine)



Climbing Aster *Ampelaster carolinianus*



This unique plant will climb a trellis or wall with its scrambling stems. Small lavender to pink flowers with yellow centers appear in late fall into early winter. Bushy and with lightly fragrant flowers, the best thing about this plant is that it comes back year after year!

- Perennial - Grows 6-8 feet - Found in swamps, wet or dry, sandy woods



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Flowering Time

Herbaceous – Summer

- Part Shade
- Drought tolerance & some salt tolerance
- Unique flower
- Great pollinator plant
- Moderate deer resistance (mint)
- Trim early summer to promote bushy habit
- Grows in dry sandy soils and moist soils
- Perennial – re-seeds



Yellow, purple-spotted flowers appear among white, purple tinged leaf-like bracts. These form a dense cluster on spikes and are aromatic. Even the leaves have a scent: like Greek oregano. Good for butterflies and, like its namesake, for bees. This plant is also known as horsemint.

- Perennial - Grows 3 feet - Found in old fields, meadows, prairies



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Flowering Time

Herbaceous – Fall flowers

- Part Shade
- Purple wand of flowers
- Native to Maritime and inland Forests
- Drought tolerant
- Wide adaptability. Dry sandy soils
- Great Pollinator Plant
- Tough long-lived Perennial



Blazing Star

Liatris elegans



Leaves on this plant resemble pine needles and are gathered on the stem in whorls. Flowers are purple to pink and appear on a tall spike 6-20 inches long, opening from the top down. These are especially attractive to bees and butterflies.

- Perennial - Grows 4 feet - Found in prairies, pinelands, sandy areas



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Flowering Time

Herbaceous - Fall Flower



Hammock Snakeroot *Ageratina jucunda*



This plant flowers at the same time as wingstem and goldenrod; together they make a lovely fall palate. Clusters of small white flowers attract every butterfly in the area which is especially welcomed by those fall migrating species. It blooms for months and then produces attractive, light catching seed heads and leaves that turn to burnt sugar in the dead of winter. Encourage it if you have it and spread seeds in dry areas if you don't.

- Perennial - 2-3 feet tall - salt tolerant - Found in dry woodlands, hammocks



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Flowering Time

- Part Shade
- Forest edges on upland sandy soils
- Late fall flowers
- Attractive to a variety of pollinators, especially important to fall migrating species.
- Deer tolerant

Herbaceous - Fall Flower



Wingstem

Verbesina occidentalis

- Part Shade
- Forest edges on upland sandy soils
- Early fall flowers
- Attractive to a variety of pollinators.
- Can see out so deadhead after flower to reduce spread.
- Deer tolerant



Also called Yellow Crownbeard, this member of the aster family has yellow flowers. A defining feature is the leaf petioles, which are winged and remain on the plant through winter. Leaves are in an opposing arrangement.

- Perennial - Grows 3-10 feet - Found along creeks



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Flowering Time

Native Palms –

Needle Palm (*Rhapidophyllum histrrix*)

- Native Forested wetlands
- Grows 3-6 tall and up to 8' wide
- Evergreen



Dwarf Palm (*Sabal minor*)

- Forested wetlands and shell midden woodlands
- Grows 5-10' tall and wide
- Evergreen (Grey-green)



Herbaceous – Native Ferns

Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)

- Shade (grows 2-3ft tall and wide)
- Wetlands to moist soils
- Forested Wetlands
- Attractive foliage
- Showy in big masses
- Perennial



Herbaceous – Native Ferns

Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)

- Shade (grows 2-3ft tall and wide)
- Wetlands to moist soils
- Forested Wetlands
- Attractive foliage
- Showy in big masses
- Perennial



Herbaceous – Native Ferns

Wood Fern (*Thelypteris kunthii*)

- Shade (grows 1-3 ft tall and wide)
- Wet to moist rich soils
- Forested Wetlands
- Attractive foliage
- Spreads by rhizomes to form colonies but not aggressive.
- Perennial



Herbaceous – Native Ferns

Virginia chainfern (*Woodwardia virginica*)

- Shade (grows 2-3 ft tall and wide)
- Black stems
- Wet to moist rich soils
- Forested Wetlands
- Attractive foliage
- Perennial (can be aggressive)



Herbaceous – Native Ferns

Netted chainfren (*Woodwardia areolata*) & Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)

- Shade (grows 1-2ft tall)
- Wet to moist rich soils
- Forested Wetlands
- Attractive foliage
- Spreads by rhizomes to form colonies but not aggressive.
- Perennial



Herbaceous – Spring

- Part to full shade
- Unusual Plant with showy berries
- Related to Jack in the Pulpit.
- Moist soils (grows to 20 in)
- Grows in Woodland type habitat
- Birds and mammals eat berries
- All parts are toxic to humans



Green Dragon
Arisaema dracontium



A perennial herb, this plant only produces a single leaf, the likes of which is divided into several leaflets. A singly flower stalk is produced, a spathe, which resembles the long, flickering tongue of a lizard. The spadix holds a multitude of tiny flowers. These give rise to orange-red berries. Plants start to go dormant mid-summer as berries finish ripening. TOXIC

- Perennial - Grows 1-3 feet - Prefers moist woodlands



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Flowering Time

Native Grasses –

Purpletop (*Tridens flavus*)

- Native upland dry Maritime Forests
- Redish – Purple spikes in Fall
- 2-7' tall (plant in masses)
- Part shade



Woodoats (*Chasmanthium laxum*, *C. sessiliflorum*)

- Native upland dry Maritime Forests
- Grows 3' tall (plant in masses)
- Shade to Part shade



Native Vine - (Carolina jessamine – *Gelsemium sempervirens*)

- Part shade
- Grows in a variety up upland woodlands on sandy well drained soils.
- Evergreen
- Early Spring flowering
- Deer tolerant



Native Vine - (Coral Honeysuckle – *Lonicera sempervirens*)

- Can grow in Part Shade
- Semi-Evergreen
- Late spring Flowers attract hummingbirds
- Grows in a variety of upland woodland forests on sandy well drained soil.
- Deer tolerant



Shrubby – Summer

- Drought tolerance with deep tap root, good for soil stabilization
- Summer flowers & Great pollinator and host plant
- Not deer resistant
- Naturally, mounding habit, suckers
- Used as a caffeine-free tea substitute, all parts of the plant make different dye from green to cinnamon to red. Flowers have saponin and when crushed when wet can make suds.
- Variety of medical uses.



New Jersey Tea
Ceanothus americanus



A member of the buckthorn family, this unique deciduous shrub has clusters of white flowers in the spring. Pubescent leaves give the entire plant a grayish cast. Small white flowers occur in 2 in., branch-tip clusters. The dried leaves of this nitrogen-fixing shrub make an excellent tea that was very popular during the Revolutionary War period. A great small shrub for any landscape. Deep root system imparts drought resistance. Nectar and larval butterfly host and attractive to hummingbirds.

- Deciduous shrub - Grows 3 feet - Found in dry sandy woods and woodland edges



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Flowering Time

Shrub – Fall interest

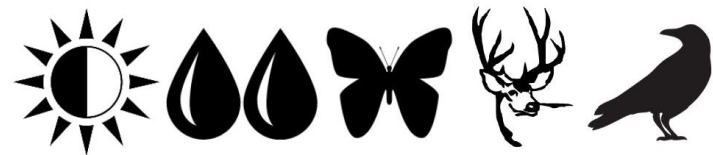


American beautyberry *Callicarpa americana*



Noted for its berries, this plant has the capacity to reach 6 to 9 feet tall if soil is correct and moisture adequate. Flowers are small and pink and soon give way to fruit that is rose or lavender pink in color. Fruit appears in clusters and stays on the plant well after leaves have fallen. These berries are an important food for birds, especially the Northern Bobwhite. Deer love the foliage.

- Perennial
- Grows 3-5 feet
- Found in woodlands, swamp edges, plains



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Flowering Time

- Moderate Salt spray resistance
- Native to Maritime and Inland Forests
- Small clusters of pink flowers (Pollinators)
- Purple fruit fall to winter (Birds)
- Wide adaptability. (drops leaves if prolonged drought)
- Foliage is favorite of white tailed deer.
- Variety of medicinal uses.

Shrub – Winter interest (Witch Hazel – *Hamamelis virginiana*)

- Part Shade –
- Multi-stem deciduous shrub
- Native to dry upland sites mainly inland
- Clusters of yellow tassel like flowers.
- Blooms late fall to Winter
- Grows to 10-15 tall
- Extract of leaves, twigs, and bark is used in mildly astringent lotions



Shrub – Spring Flowers

Walter's viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*)

- Part Shade
- 10-20' tall (various cultivars, dwarf, hedging, specimen)
- Found on edges of forested wetlands
- Semi – deciduous
- Provides cover and fruit for birds and other wildlife



Shrub – Spring Flowers

Pinkster Azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*)

- Part Shade
- 8' tall – Deciduous
- Found on edges of forested wetlands
- Fragrant flowers attractive to hummingbirds



Native blueberry –

Shiny Blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*)

- Native Pine Flatwoods (moist), to dry acidic sandy soils.
- Evergreen
- 1-2' tall Part shade



Downy Blueberry (*Vaccinium darrowii*)

- Native Pine Flatwoods (moist), to dry acidic sandy soils.
- Evergreen (Blueish green)
- 1-2' tall Part shade



Trees – Spring Flowers

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

- Part Shade
- Early Spring Flowers
- Attracts birds and bees
- Grows in understory of dry upland forests
- 15-30'
- Deciduous



Trees – Spring Flowers

Two wing silverbell (*Halesia diptera*)

- Part shade
- Good substitute for flowering dogwood
- Found on moist forested slopes near Altamaha River
- 15-20'
- Deciduous



Questions?

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