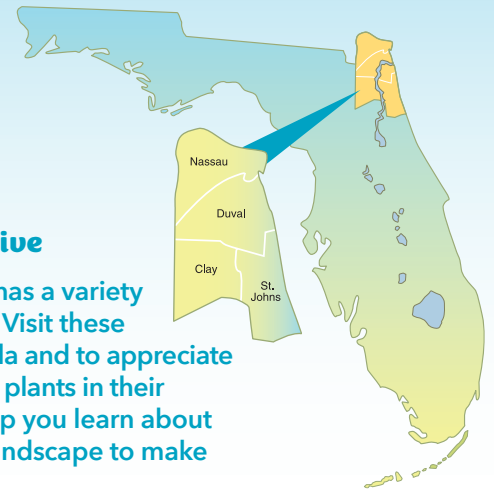




Good Citizen Guide to Natural Florida

Northeast Region



Learn about where you live

Florida's Northeast Region has a variety of natural areas to discover. Visit these areas to see the "real" Florida and to appreciate their diversity. Seeing native plants in their natural communities can help you learn about what to plant in your own landscape to make your yard more sustainable.

Discover some of the Region's native plant communities



Sandhill

Sandhill occurs on rolling hills and ridges. Frequent fire is important to maintain plant diversity. Common plant species are longleaf pine and wiregrass. Sandhill is an important habitat for the gopher tortoise.

Where to visit Sandhill

- Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area (Clay County)
- Jennings State Forest (Clay County)
- Julington-Durbin Creek Preserve (Duval County)
- Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park (Clay County) *
- Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park (Duval County)



Mesic Flatwoods

Mesic flatwoods are flat, sandy habitats and are the most widespread natural community in the state. A variety of pine trees, shrubs, grasses and herbaceous plants are found in this habitat.

Where to visit Mesic Flatwoods

- Bayard Conservation Area (Clay County)

- Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area (Clay County)
- Cary State Forest (Nassau County)
- Jennings State Forest (Clay County) *
- Julington-Durbin Creek Preserve (Duval County)
- Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park (Duval County)
- University of North Florida Sawmill Slough Preserve (Duval County)



Maritime Hammock

Maritime hammocks are hardwood forests growing on stable coastal dunes. Live oaks, cabbage palms and Southern magnolia form a dense canopy with an understory of hollies, red cedar and wax myrtle.

Where to visit Maritime Hammock

- Amelia Island State Park (Nassau County)
- Anastasia State Park (St. Johns County) *
- Bogey Creek Preserve (Duval County)
- Fort Clinch State Park (Nassau County)
- Fort George Island Cultural State Park (Duval County)
- Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (St. Johns County)
- Little Talbot Island State Park (Duval County)



Estuarine Tidal Marsh

Estuarine tidal marshes, or salt marshes, are found along coastal areas that are flooded and drained by tidal movement but protected from large waves. Cordgrass and rushes are common in the marsh, while salt-tolerant shrubs such as groundsel tree and Christmasberry mark transition areas.

Where to visit Estuarine Tidal Marsh

- Anastasia State Park (St. Johns County) *
- Bogey Creek Preserve (Duval County)
- Fort George Island Cultural State Park (Duval County)
- Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (St. Johns County)
- Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve (Duval County)



Shell Mound

Shell mounds are small hills of shells deposited by Native Americans. The rich calcium soil has allowed a wide variety of hardwoods and other woody species to develop.

Where to visit Shell Mound

- Fort George Island Cultural State Park (Duval County)
- Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (St. Johns County)
- Little Talbot Island State Park (Duval County)



Floodplain Swamp

Floodplain swamps are found along rivers and streams with lots of organic matter and are usually inundated with water. The closed canopy is often dominated by cypress and tupelo trees, along with a rich variety of trees, shrubs, ferns and herbaceous plants that can tolerate frequent flooding.

Where to visit Floodplain Swamp

- Bayard Conservation Area (Clay County)
- Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area (Clay County)
- Bogey Creek Preserve (Duval County)
- Julington-Durbin Creek Preserve (Duval County)
- University of North Florida Sawmill Slough Preserve (Duval County)



Beach Dune

Beach dunes are open sandy areas along the Atlantic coast and much of the Gulf coast. Salt tolerant grasses such as seashore paspalum, and herbaceous plants such as sea rocket and beach morning glory dominate the habitat.

Where to visit Beach Dune

- Anastasia State Park (St. Johns County) *
- Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (St. Johns County)
- Little Talbot Island State Park (Duval County)

* Listed as an Exemplary Site in the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) *Guide to the Natural Communities of Florida*: 2010 edition

Easy to grow native plants for home landscapes in the Northeast Region



Bring the beauty of native plants home

Natural communities in Northeast Florida range from upland habitats like sandhill and flatwoods to coastal habitats such as maritime hammock and tidal marsh. In addition to visiting them, you can bring a bit of natural Florida to your landscape by planting natives. Fortunately there are many options to choose from and many plants are adaptable to a wide range of conditions. Plant selection and planting advice is available from Florida Native Plant Society chapters as well as local extension agents and nurseries. Here are just a few suggestions for plants to consider for home gardens and landscapes.

Flatwoods garden



- (1) *Pinus palustris* (longleaf pine)
- (2) *Morella cerifera* (wax myrtle)
- (3) *Vaccinium myrsinites* (shiny blueberry)
- (4) *Aristida stricta* (wiregrass)
- (5) *Berlandiera pumila* (soft greeneyes)
- (6) *Pityopsis graminifolia* (narrowleaf silk grass)

Maritime hammock garden

- (1) *Zamia integrifolia* (coontie)
- (2) *Ageratina jucunda* (hammock snakeroot)
- (3) *Hypericum hypericoides* (St. Andrew's cross)
- (4) *Psychotria nervosa* (wild coffee)
- (5) *Ilex vomitoria* (yaupon)
- (6) *Cartrema americanum* (wild olive)



Pollinator garden

- (1) *Monarda punctata* (spotted beebalm)
- (2) *Rudbeckia hirta* (black-eyed Susan)
- (3) *Tradescantia ohiensis* (Ohio spiderwort)
- (4) *Passiflora suberosa* (corkystem passionflower)
- (5) *Vernonia gigantea* (giant ironweed)
- (6) *Sisyrinchium angustifolium* (narrow leaf blue-eyed grass)



The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is to preserve, conserve and restore the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Florida Native Plant Society

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