

Table 1. Useful information for selecting and growing glowering perennials in Florida

Name	Zones	Growth habit	Common height	Flower color/ Season	Light conditions	Soil type	Salt-spray tolerant	Cold hardy*	Method of propagation
African Iris (<i>Diets</i> spp.)	N, C, S	Clumping	3'	White, yellow/Year-round	Sun, light shade	Wide range, drought tolerant	No	Hardy	Division
Use/Comments: Background, bedding.									
Beach Sunflower (<i>Helianthus debilis</i>)	N, C, S	Groundcover	6-10"	Yellow/ Year-round	Sun	Well drained, wide range, very drought tolerant	Yes	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Groundcover, wildflower garden, attracts butterflies. Florida native.									
Begonia, Hardy Begonia (<i>Begonia</i> spp.)	N, C, S	Upright, rounded, or groundcover	Varies	White, pinks, reds/ Winter, spring, some year-round	Light to full shade	Moist, organic	No	Tender	Stem or leaf cuttings, division
Use/Comments: Hosta replacement in the shade garden, best in Central to South Florida. Best performers are 'Cane', 'Angel Wing', and rhizomatous types (other than 'Rex'). Wax begonias (<i>B. semperflorens</i>) are normally treated as annuals, although they can be long-lived in Central and South FL.									
Blackberry Lily (<i>Iris domestica</i>) (syn. <i>Belamcanda chinensis</i>)	N, C, S	Upright	3'	Orange-red/ June-October	Sun	Wide range, drought tolerant	No	Hardy	Division, seed
Use/Comments: Background, massing. Iris-like foliage.									
Blue Daze (<i>Evolvulus glomerata</i> 'Blue Daze')	N, C, S	Spreading	1-2'	Blue/ Year-round	Sun	Wide range	Yes	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Mass plantings, groundcover. Often suffers from a leaf fungal disease in summer. May not survive a hard freeze in North FL.									
Blue Sage (<i>Eranthemum pulchellum</i>)	C, S	Upright	3-5'	Deep blue/ Winter	Light to full shade	Well-drained	Yes	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Background, massing. Prune back after flowering.									
Bulbine (<i>Bulbine frutescens</i>)	C, S	Clumping	1-2'	Orange, yellow/ Spring, summer	Sun to light shade	Well drained, drought tolerant	Yes	Hardy	Division, seed
Use/Comments: Groundcover, container. 'Hallmark' is a sterile cultivar.									
Bush Daisy, African Bush Daisy (<i>Euryops pectinatus</i>)	C, S	Erect, bushy	2-3'	Yellow/Spring, summer, fall	Sun to light shade	Well drained, wide range, somewhat drought tolerant	Yes	Semihardy	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Massing, midborder, attracts butterflies.									
Cat's Whiskers (<i>Orthosiphon aristatus</i>)	C, S	Upright	2-3'	White, pale lavender/ Year-round	Sun to light shade	Moist, fertile, organic	No	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Midborder, accent plant, attracts butterflies/hummingbirds.									

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Chrysanthemum, Garden Mum (<i>Chrysanthemum grandiflora</i>)	N, C	Spreading	1-2'	Many colors/Fall-spring	Sun	Fertile, well drained	No	Hardy	Cuttings, division
Use/Comments: Bedding. Pinch once or twice until August 15 to induce branching.									
Cigar Flower (<i>Cuphea micropetala</i>)	N, C	Upright	3-4'	Yellow, orange/Fall	Sun	Drought tolerant	No	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Bedding, attracts hummingbirds.									
Daylily (<i>Hemerocallis</i> spp.)	N, C, S	Clumping	1-3'	Many colors/ March-June	Sun, shifting shade	Wide range, drought tolerant	Yes	Semihardy	Division, seed
Use/Comments: Background, border plantings, massing.									
'Diamond Frost™', 'Hip Hop™' & others (<i>Euphorbia graminea</i>)	N, C, S	Spreading	1-3'	White/Nearly year-round	Sun	Wide range, drought tolerant	No	Semihardy	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Produces clouds of airy white flowers nearly year-round. A low-maintenance and heat-tolerant plant. Short-lived (3 years) in North Florida.									
Firebush (<i>Hamelia patens</i>)	N, C, S	Rounded	4-6'	Red-orange/ Warm months	Sun to light shade	Wide range, very drought tolerant	Yes	Tender	Air layers, cuttings, seed
Use/Comments: Back of border, accent plant, attracts butterflies/hummingbirds. Florida native.									
Firecracker Plant, Coral Plant (<i>Russelia equisetiformis</i>)	C, S	Rounded/weeping	3'	Red, pale yellow, coral/Year-round	Sun to light shade	Well drained, somewhat drought tolerant	Yes	Tender	Division, tip cuttings
Use/Comments: Massing, accent plant, container, attracts butterflies/hummingbirds. <i>R. sarmentosa</i> is another nice garden perennial with red flowers.									
Firespike (<i>Odontonema cuspidate</i>)	N, C, S	Upright	6'	Red/ Summer-fall	Sun to light shade	Fertile, well-drained	No	Tender	Cuttings, division
Use/Comments: Background. Attracts hummingbirds/butterflies. <i>O. callistachyum</i> bears purple flowers January-March.									
Flax Lily (<i>Dianella tasmanica</i> 'Variegata')	N, C, S	Clumping	1-2'	Small blue/ Winter, spring	Sun or shade	Moist, well drained	Unknown	Hardy	Division
Use/Comments: Grown for its attractive, variegated, iris-like foliage. Groundcover, specimen, or container. May reseed. Tends to develop scale insect problems in shade.									
Fleabane, Mexican Daisy (<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>)	N, C, S	Spreading	6"	White/ Year-round	Sun	Well drained, drought tolerant	No	Hardy	Cuttings, seed
Use/Comments: Groundcover, edging. May reseed.									
Gaura (<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>)	N, C	Clumping	2-4'	White or pink/ Year-round	Sun	Well drained, drought tolerant	No	Tender	Cuttings, seed
Use/Comments: Massing.									
Gerbera Daisy (<i>Gerbera jamesonii</i>)	N, C, S	Clumping	12-18"	Many colors/ Year-round	Sun to light shade	Fertile, well drained	Yes	Tender	Division, seed

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Use/Comments: Bedding, cut flower. Keep crowns above ground. Marginal in South FL.									
Golden Dewdrop (<i>Duranta erecta</i>)	C, S	Upright	4-6'	Blue, white, purple/ Summer, fall	Sun to light shade	Well drained, drought tolerant	Yes	Tender	Cuttings, seed
Use/Comments: Accent plant, attracts butterflies/hummingbirds. Attractive cultivars include 'Sapphire Showers' and 'Cuban Gold'.									
Golden Shrimp Plant (<i>Pachystachys lutea</i>)	C, S	Upright	3-4'	Yellow/ Warm months	Light to deep shade	Wide range	No	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Background.									
Heliotrope, Scorpion Tail, or Butterfly Heliotrope (<i>Heliotropium angiospermum</i>)	C, S	Rounded	3'	White/ Year-round	Sun to light shade	Drought and flood tolerant	No	Tender	Cuttings, seed
Use/Comments: Midborder, transition plant, wildflower garden, attracts butterflies. Florida native.									
Jacobinia (<i>Justicia carnea</i>)	C, S	Erect, bushy	2-4'	Rose, white/Warm months	Light to full shade	Fertile, moist	No	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Background, massing. Frequently remove old blooms.									
Jewels of Opar (<i>Talinum paniculatum</i> 'Variegata')	C, S	Rounded to upright	3'	Pink/ Summer	Light to deep shade	Rich, moist	Unknown	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Midborder, massing. Green form of this plant reseeds and becomes very weedy.									
Lantana (<i>Lantana</i> spp.)	N, C, S	Groundcover, rounded, upright	Varies	Red, pink, orange, yellow, white/ Warm months	Sun	Well drained, wide range, very drought tolerant	Yes	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Massing, groundcover (depending on type); attracts butterflies/hummingbirds. Native species exist. Non-sterile cultivars of <i>Lantana camara</i> are considered invasive in South and Central Florida and are not recommended; use with caution in North FL. Purple and white weeping lantana (<i>L. montevidensis</i>) are not considered invasive in Florida.									
Leopard Plant (<i>Farfugium japonicum</i>)	N, C, S	Groundcover	2'	Yellow/ Fall, winter	Light shade	Rich, moist	Unknown	Hardy	Division
Use/Comments: Groundcover, container. Most cultivars have cream or yellow leaf markings.									
Lily of the Nile (<i>Agapanthus</i> spp.)	N, C	Clumping	2-3'	Blue, lavender, white/ Summer, early fall	Sun to light shade	Fertile, well drained	Yes	Semihardy	Division, seed
Use/Comments: Massing, midborder, cut flowers.									
Lion's Ear (<i>Leonotis leonurus</i>)	N,C,S	Upright	4-5'	Orange/ fall-spring	Sun	Well drained	Yes	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Background. Prune to keep plant bushy.									
Marble Leaf (<i>Peristrophe hyssopifolia</i>)	C, S	Groundcover	1'	Lavender/ winter	Sun to light shade	Well drained	Unknown	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Groundcover.									
Mexican Heather (<i>Cuphea hyssopifolia</i>)	N, C, S	Rounded	18"	Purple, white/ Year-round	Sun to light shade	Well drained	No	Tender	Cuttings
Use/comments: Massing, edging, groundcover. Prune frequently.									

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Ornamental Sweet Potato (<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>)	N, C, S	Groundcover	6-12"	Flowers not showy	Sun	Well drained, wide range	Unknown	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Groundcover (seasonal), container. Vigorous plants grown for their attractive foliage. Chartreuse, purple-black, variegated, and copper-colored cultivars exist. Give ornamental sweet potato plants plenty of growing space.									
Peacock Ginger (<i>Kaempferia</i> spp.)	N, C, S	Groundcover	6-36"	Lavender, white/ Spring, summer	Light to full shade	Wide range, prefers enriched soil	No	Hardy	Division, seed
Use/Comments: Groundcover, hosta replacement. Dormant in winter (except in South FL).									
Pentas (<i>Pentas lanceolata</i>)	N, C, S	Rounded to sprawling shrub	4'	Red, pink, white, lilac/ Year-round	Sun to light shade	Well drained, drought tolerant	No	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Background plantings, cut flower. Attracts butterflies.									
Persian Shield (<i>Strobilanthes dyerianus</i>)	C, S	Rounded	4'	Pale blue/ Winter	Light to full shade	Wide range	Yes	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Midborder, massing, accent plant. Winter blooms are unattractive; prune back plants at this time.									
Pinks (<i>Dianthus</i> spp.)	N, C	Rounded	6-18"	Reds, pinks, white/ Fall-spring	Light shade	Well drained, drought tolerant	No	Hardy	Seed
Use/Comments: Massing, edging. Short-lived; unsightly in summer.									
Philippine Violet (<i>Barleria cristata</i>)	N, C, S	Upright	4'	Lavender, white/ October-April	Sun to light shade	Wide range	No	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Background. Reseeds and may become weedy in the garden. <i>B. oenotheroides</i> (syn. <i>B. micans</i>) is a 3-foot, upright perennial with yellow flowers fall through early winter.									
Plectranthus (<i>Plectranthus</i> spp.)	C, S	Rounded, upright, or groundcover	Varies	White, purple, pink/ Summer, fall, or intermittent	Sun to light shade	Rich, organic, moist	No	Semihardy	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Front or midborder, groundcover, container. Many are grown solely for their attractive variegated or silver foliage.									
Plumbago (<i>Plumbago auriculata</i>)	N, C, S	Sprawling shrub	3-6'	Blue, white/ Year-round	Sun to light shade	Wide range	Yes	Tender	Cuttings, division
Use/Comments: Background, massing.									
Porterweed (<i>Stachytarpheta</i> spp.)	C, S	Upright	Varies	Blues, coral, red, purple/ Warm months	Sun to light shade	Well drained, drought tolerant	Yes	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Massing or accent plant, attracts butterflies/hummingbirds. May reseed. <i>S. urticifolia</i> may escape cultivation. <i>S. jamaicensis</i> is a FL native.									
Ruellia (<i>Ruellia</i> spp.)	N, C, S	Varies, clumping to upright	2-3'	Blue, violet, red, pink/ May-November	Sun to light shade	Well drained, drought tolerant	Yes	Semihardy	Cuttings, seed
Use/Comments: Background, bedding. 'Purple Showers' Mexican petunia is a sterile cultivar of <i>R. tweediana</i> that does not reseed and is not considered invasive. Otherwise, <i>R. tweediana</i> is considered invasive in North and Central Florida and is not recommended; use with caution in South FL.									

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Salvias, Sages (<i>Salvia</i> spp.)	N, C, S	Upright, bushy	2-5'	Blues, red, pink, yellow, white/ Species dependent	Sun	Well drained, drought tolerant	Generally no	Variable by species	Division, cuttings
Use/Comments: Background, massing. Many species exist.									
Sanchezia (<i>Sanchezia nobilis</i>)	C, S	Upright	3-8'	Yellow/ Summer	Sun, shade	Rich, well drained	Yes	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Back of border, massing, accent plant, container.									
Shrimp Plant (<i>Justicia brandegeana</i>)	N, C, S	Sprawling	4-6'	Reddish-brown and other colors/ Spring, summer	Sun to light shade	Wide range	No	Tender	Cuttings, division
Use/Comments: Mass plantings, background. Attracts hummingbirds. 'Flava' (yellow), 'Jambalaya' (red), and 'Fruit Cocktail' (chartreuse and pink) are popular cultivars.									
St. Bernard's Lily (<i>Anthericum liliago</i>)	N, C, S	Upright, clumping	2'	White/ Year-round	Sun, shade	Moist, well drained	Unknown	Hardy	Division, seed
Use/Comments: Mixed or mass plantings, container, specimen.									
Trailing Wishbone Flower (<i>Torenia</i> hybrids)	C, S	Groundcover	3-6"	Deep blue, purple, pink, white/ Warm months	Light to full shade	Fertile, moist, well drained	No	Tender	Cuttings, seed
Use/Comments: Back of border, accent plant, attracts hummingbirds. Very tolerant of heat and humidity.									
Tropical Jasmines (<i>Cestrum</i> spp.)	N, C, S	Rounded to upright	Up to 15'	Varies by species/ Fall, winter, spring	Sun to light shade	Wide range	Depends on type	Hardy	Cuttings, seed
Use/Comments: Back of border, accent plant. Prune to maintain a smaller size. Caution: <i>C. diurnum</i> may escape cultivation.									
Verbena (<i>Verbena</i> spp. and hybrids)	N, C, S	Sprawling	6-8"	Red, pink, white, lavender/ March-October	Sun	Fertile, drought tolerant	No	Semihardy	Cuttings, seed
Use/Comments: Massing, groundcover. 'Sissinghurst', a rose-pink cultivar, appears to be reliable in South FL.									
Yellow Alder (<i>Turnera ulmifolia</i>)	C, S	Upright	2'	Yellow or cream/ Year-round	Sun	Wide range	No	Tender	Cuttings
Use/Comments: Attracts butterflies.									
Walking Iris (<i>Neomarica</i> spp.)	C, S	Upright	2-3'	White, blue, or yellow/ Spring, summer, fall	Light to full shade	Wide range	No	Tender	Division
Use/Comments: <i>Neomarica caerulea</i> is white and purple. The cultivar 'Regina' has handsome 4' tall leaves and blue-purple flowers; <i>N. longifolia</i> has yellow petals with brown markings.									

*Hardy—Frost and freeze hardy.

Semihardy—Some plant damage from frost or freeze.

Tender—Plant is killed to the ground by frost or freeze, but recovers quickly.