

Pictures

Ilex opaca

American Holly



Callicarpa americana

Beautyberry



Prunus serotina

Black Cherry



Pteridium aquilinum

Bracken Fern



Descriptions

Callicarpa americana

The American beautyberry is a shrub, 6-9 ft in height. Shoot growth occurs throughout much of the season. It is characterized by its attractive foliage and clusters of flowers or fruit around the leaf nodes.

Leaves

Simple, opposite or subopposite, and deciduous. 3-5" long and 1-3" wide, oval shaped, with an acute apex. Leaf bases are tapered, margins are serrate. Surfaces are green and usually glabrous above, paler and pubescent below. Petioles are short and slender.

Flowers

Perfect, in sessile clusters around the leaf nodes

Fruit

A 4-pitted lavender-pink, magenta, or violet drupe, about 1/4 inch in diameter. Lasts long into winter and is eaten by a variety of birds.

Trunk

Older stems have a thin protective, light-brown bark.

Ilex opaca

This tree grows to be 35 to 50 ft tall and 15 to 25 ft wide. It has a dense, pyramid-shaped crown.

Leaves

Alternate, simple and lanceolate or elliptic in shape, 2-4 inches long and 1-1.5 inches wide. Medium to dark, green in color, and shiny or flat. Leaf margins are usually spiny and will be flat or wavy.

Flowers

Small, green or white in color, fragrant and found in clusters in the leaf axils.

Bark

The bark is light gray and may be covered by wart-like growths. Because the bark is very thin, it is easily damaged.

Interesting Facts

The preserved berries of this tree were used by American Indians as decorative buttons. Historically, the wood was used to make canes. When stained black, it was substituted for ebony in inlay work.

Pteridium aquilinum

Bracken fern is a perennial fern that is deciduous in all but tropical climates.

Description

In springtime, bracken fern sends up robust fronds on arching stems arising from long, branching, hairy rhizomes that creep below the ground surface. Unlike many other ferns that grow in clusters, bracken fronds arise singly from along the rhizome. The fronds are 1-3 ft long (sometimes considerably larger), more or less triangular in outline, and divided two, three or even four times, with the ultimate segments each about a 1/2 inch long. Bracken does not produce specialized reproductive fronds. Instead, the spores are contained in linear patches along the margins of the ultimate segments.

Interesting Facts

Bracken fern, like some other ferns, has a cosmopolitan distribution because the spores are so tiny they are readily carried on the wind. Bracken is one of the most widespread ferns in the world. Warning: The foliage of bracken fern is poisonous to livestock. Although it is still eaten by people in several cultures around the world, the fiddleheads and rhizomes are now considered to be carcinogenic when consumed.

Prunus serotina

Medium-sized tree, can grow to be 60-90 ft tall. Has an irregularly-shaped oval silhouette of dark, shiny deciduous leaves. Bark is thin and becomes reddish-brown with age. Older stems develop an irregular but distinct bark pattern. This plant is important for pollinators.

Leaves

Alternate, simple, oblong to ovate, 3-6 inches long. Finely saw-toothed margins have one or more glands on the petiole near the base of the leaf. Top of the leaf is dark, shiny green and paler on the bottom. Depending on the individual tree and season, leaves may turn yellow-orange to orange-red.

Flowers

White, seen in groups of terminal clusters up to 3 inches long. Appears in early spring as the leaves unfold and has a fragrant aroma.

Fruit

Dark, rounded drupe about 1/4 inch in diameter. Matures in later summer.

Interesting Facts

The twigs and leaves of this tree contain hydrocyanic acid; can poison animals if consumed in large amounts. Inner bark used to produce wild cherry cough syrup.

Pictures

Quercus chapmanii

Chapman's Oak



Chrysopsis scabrella

Coastal Plain/Rough-
Leaf Goldenaster



Lyonia fruticosa

Staggerbush/Coastalplain Staggerbush



Galactia regularis

Downy/Eastern Milkpea



Descriptions

Chrysopsis scabrella

Endemic coastal plain goldenaster is a relatively common understory element of scrub, but is also found in open sandy grounds, white sand hills, fields, and roadsides.

Description

Medium herbaceous wildflower, typically 12-18 inches in height. Taller than broad, but stems often falling over and forming open mats.

Leaves

Rough leaves, densely woolly, often matted.

Flowers

Yellow showy flowers, Aug-Nov (rarely spring).

Fruit

Inconspicuous achene.

Quercus chapmanii

Chapman Oak is a perennial, briefly deciduous dicot, with a highly variable height, growing in shrubs or small trees from 6-45 ft tall.

Leaves

Attractive new spring foliage; semi-evergreen. Leaves have a small smooth petiole 1/8-inch long. Leaves are obovate in shape, 1.3-3.5 inches long and 3/4-1.5 inches wide. Margins are minutely wavy and have shallow irregular lobes toward the tip of leaf, apex round, base cuneate. Upper surface is glossy dark green, and light gray or yellow pubescence underneath.

Flowers

Green bloom during March-May.

Fruit

Small annual acorns borne in autumn, produced heavily every 2-3 years and sought as a food source for wildlife. 1-2 acorns per peduncle up to 1/2-inch in length. Cup has a gray tomentum on scales, covering 1/3-1/2 of the nut. Light brown nut is oval with a round apex and may have pubescence.

Bark/Trunk/Twigs

Grayish brown with irregular scales. Twigs are grayish-tan to yellowish-tan with patches of fine tomentum. Terminal buds are reddish-brown with smooth distal scales.

Galactia regularis

Perennial, dicot forb/herb/vine about 2-3 inches in height.

Leaves

Pinnately compound; 3 ovate to oblong or elliptic leaflets to 2 inches long, mostly alternate.

Flowers

Pink, bilaterally symmetrical, 4-lobed calyx, 5-parted papilionaceous corolla, superior ovary. Blooms summer/fall.

Fruit

Small brown pod; legume produced summer/fall.

Stem

Vine; mostly creeping along the ground and forming open mats. Sometimes weakly twines up other vegetation.

Interesting Facts

It is a larval host plant for cassius blue (*Leptotes cassius*), ceraunus blue (*Hemiargus ceraunus*), gray hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*), long-tailed skipper (*Urbanus proteus*), northern cloudywing (*Thorybes pylades*), silver spotted skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*), and zarucco dusky wing (*Erynnis zarucco*) butterflies.

Lyonia fruticosa

This perennial shrub is 6-12 ft in height.

Leaves

Evergreen and alternate. Simple, entire elliptic or obovate. Oval-shaped and roundish to somewhat pointed.

Flowers

White/near white to cream bloom, which appears May-August. Small and tubular shaped, may attract some pollinators. 5-lobed calyx, 5-lobed urceolate corolla, 10 stamens, superior ovary.

Fruit

Capsule produced summer/fall.

Bark/Stems

Underground stems form colonies of this erect shrub.

Pictures

Aureolaria pedicularia var. *pectinata*

Fernleaf Yellow False Foxglove



Licania michauxii

Gopher-Apple



Quercus laurifolia

Laurel/Diamond Oak



Chrysopsis subulata

Leafy/Scrubland Goldenaster



Descriptions

Licania michauxii

Gopher Apple reaches 1 ft tall and has a high tolerance for salt, drought, wind, and poor soil. It forms ground cover and feeds a variety of wildlife, including gopher tortoises.

Leaves

Glossy, evergreen, 2-4 inch leaves are alternate, long and narrow with rounded tips and prominent veining.

Flowers

Tiny clusters of yellow-green flowers, blooming at the branch tips in early summer.

Fruit

Oval fruits, 1 inch long, white with a purplish tinge when ripe.

Trunk

Low, shrubby plant with dark brown underground stems.

Aureolaria pedicularia* var. *pectinata

Annual, dicot forb.

Leaves

Simple, basal rosette and opposite or subopposite cauline. Pinnately incised, fernlike foliage with sticky glandular hairs.

Flowers

Yellow, weakly bilaterally symmetrical, 5-parted calyx, 5-lobed campanulate corolla, 4 included stamens (2 long, 2 short), superior ovary. Funnel-shaped flowers to 1.6 inches long, corolla lobes shorter than the tube. Calyx lobes are usually foliose, longer than tube. Blooms summer/fall.

Fruit

Capsular fruit produced in fall.

Bark

Much-branched, glandular-hairy to 36 inches tall.

Chrysopsis subulata

Chrysopsis subulata is a perennial herb endemic to peninsular Florida. Found in sandy open grounds, pine and oak scrub.

Description

6 inches to 3 ft; taprooted (frequently perennating by rosettes produced at bases of old stems and at ends of short lateral rhizomes and roots). Stems are 1-5+, erect (sometimes purple-tinged), often much branched.

Leaves

Basal blades linear-oblongate, faces densely woolly; cauline blades linear-lanceolate to linear, reduced distally, margins entire, apices acute, often twisted.

Flowers

Peduncles thin, glabrous, campanulate involucres, ray florets 10-28, disc florets 30-45. Flowers May-Sept. Early blooming plants may have a second blooming flush in October to December with flowering heads on otherwise brown and dried stems or from short new shoots developing from lower nodes.

Quercus laurifolia

Description

A rapidly growing tree that lives to be 30-50 years old. Can grow to be 50-60 ft tall and 2-4 ft in diameter.

Leaves

Alternate, simple, elliptical, and 2-5.5 inches long and 1/2-2 inches wide. Leaf base is wedge-shaped and the margin entire. Shiny green on top and paler below, each leaf has a yellow midrib and petiole.

Flowers

Small and unisexual. Males are found as 3 inch catkins. Females are found on short stalks in the leaf axils.

Fruit

An acorn, found sessile, in ones or twos and commonly 1/2 inch long. A thin, saucer-shaped cup covers 1/4 of the nut.

Bark

Approximately 1/2 inch thick, dark red-brown, and mottled by deep fissures that are separated by flat ridges.

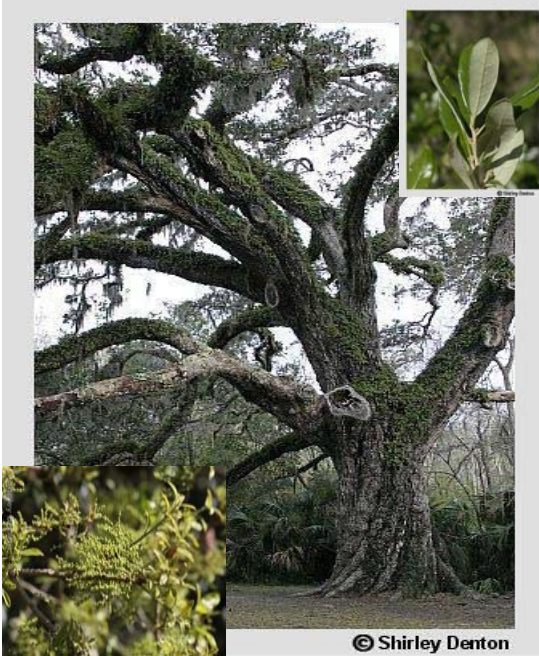
Interesting Facts

Fruit and insects harvested from trees are used by wildlife as food. The tree is used for nesting and cover by wildlife. In addition, laurel oaks are used locally as fuel.

Pictures

Quercus virginiana

Live Oak



Pinus palustris

Longleaf Pine



Sorghastrum secundum

Lopsided Indiangrass



Chrysopsis mariana

Maryland Goldenaster



Descriptions

Pinus palustris

Longleaf pine is typically found in dry, sandy sites with acid soils that experience fires. The young tree resembles a large tuft of grass while it develops a large root system. After maturing, the tree develops a trunk. 60-80 ft in height.

Leaves

Long, glossy, drooping needles, 9-18 inches in length, in groups of three

Flowers

Purple flowers clustered at the ends of branches in the spring.

Fruit

Large, brown cones, 6-10 inches long.

Trunk

A tall, straight, brown trunk with branches and foliage at the top; the bark is very thick, protecting it from the periodic fires of its dry habitat.

Quercus virginiana

The live oak is one of Florida's most widespread oaks. Historically, its wood was used for ship's ribs and knees.

Description

A monoecious evergreen tree with wide-spread limbs that branch close to the ground. Has a short, stout trunk and a dense, round-shaped crown. Grows to a height of 40-50 ft and has a trunk 3-4 ft in diameter. Branches may spread to be 100 ft or more wide.

Leaves

Simple, alternate, leathery, oblong, smooth on top and pale and silvery white on the bottom. Leaf edges are slightly rolled under and are 1/2-4 inches in length and 3/8-2.5 inches in breadth.

Flowers

Small and unisexual. Male flowers are catkins.

Fruit

An acorn usually 3/4-1 inch long with a top-shaped cup that encloses 1/3 of the nut. The nut is dark brown and lustrous, oblong in shape.

Bark

Dark red-brown to gray-brown and may be close to 1 inch thick. As the tree ages, fissures in the bark will deepen.

Chrysopsis mariana

Erect perennial, dicot forb/herb to 80 cm in height. Drought tolerant and found in well-drained, sandy soils.

Leaves

Simple, basal and alternate cauline. Upper stem leaves are either arachnoid (cobwebby) to glabrate or woolly. Woolly-haired, especially when young, and smoother with age.

Flowers

Yellow pistillate rays (12-25 in number and 1-2 cm in length) and yellow bisexual discs, inferior ovary. Blooms summer/fall. Attractive to pollinators.

Fruit

Reddish/brown achene fruit produced summer/fall.

Stem

Sturdy, hairy stem encircled by the gray-green lance-shaped leaves decreasing in size as they ascend the stem.

Sorghastrum secundum

Lopsided Indiangrass is a warm-seasoned, perennial bunch grass.

Description

Medium to large herbaceous grass. Typically 2-3 ft in height; to 6 ft when in flower. As broad as tall except when in flower.

Leaves

The leaf blade is flat; 1/4-1/2 inch wide and 12-24 inches long. The leaf sheath is rounded and the ligule has a membrane 1/4 -1/2 inches long and pointed.

Flowers

Showy, brownish inflorescence, summer through fall.

Fruit

Inconspicuous caryopsis. The seedhead as a narrow golden, brown one-sided panicle giving it the name Lopsided Indiangrass.

Interesting Facts

Larval host plant for Delaware skipper (*Anatrytone logan*), dusted skipper (*Atrytonopsis hianna*), and swarthy skipper (*Nastra lherminier*).

Pictures

Quercus myrtifolia

Myrtle Oak



Chrysopsis linearifolia subsp. *dressii*

Narrowleaf/Dress Goldenaster



Cassia fasciculata/*Chamaecrista nictitans*

Partridge Pea/Wild Sensitive Plant



Cladonia perforata

Perforate Reindeer Lichen



Descriptions

Chrysopsis linearifolia subsp. dressii

Biennial/perennial, dicot forb/herb; vulnerable species.

Leaves

Simple, alternate, lanceolate and entire, strongly twisted. Not very numerous, only about 100 on tall plants.

Flowers

4-30 open corymbiform arrays of yellow many-stellate flowers. Blooms September to November.

Fruit

Perennial form produces achenes.

Stems

Green to dark purple, 30-80 cm in height.

Quercus myrtifolia

25-30 ft in height. Found in association with sand pine and turkey oak in very dry, sandy soils. It is a small tree or shrub that can form dense colonies, providing shelter and acorns for food for wildlife.

Leaves

Oval, 1-2 inches long, with rounded ends and entire margins. Evergreen and somewhat leathery, shiny and dark green above and paler below.

Flowers

Typical yellow-green oak catkins.

Fruit

Tiny, 1/3-inch acorns with the cup covering a third of the nut.

Trunk

Shrubby and often multistemmed, with dark brown, rather smooth bark.

Cladonia perforata

Endemic, endangered terrestrial lichen that forms large, dense clusters, 2-6 cm tall and 4-6 cm long branches.

Leaves/Branch

Conspicuous holes at the base of each wide, smooth, yellowish grey-green, forked branch. Complex branching pattern with rough equal projections near the tips of branches, but unequal branches below.

Apothecia, reddish spore-producing structures, are at the tip of each branch.

Reproduces with vegetative fragmentation, which occurs when a fragment is broken off due to disturbance and continues to grow until maturity.

Fruit

Arises from the spore-producing apothecia structures, unlike most lichens that produce fruit from vegetative growth.

Cassia fasciculata

4 ft in height. Prefers well-drained, sandy soils. Partridge pea is an annual and the leaves and flowers function as a larval plant for several kinds of butterflies. The peas, in 2-3 inch pods, also attract birds. This is an important pollinator plant.

Leaves

Compound, alternate, feather-like, with about 12 pairs of tiny light green, sensitive leaflets that fold up when they are touched; stems may be reddish.

Flowers

Bright yellow, five-petaled flowers, touched with red at the base are about 2 inches across and bloom from spring to early winter.

Fruit

Peas carried in 2-3 inch pods.

Pictures

Diospyros virginiana

Persimmon



Lyonia mariana

Piedmont Staggerbush



Carya glabra

Pignut Hickory



Sporobolus junceus

Pineywoods Dropseed



Descriptions

Lyonia mariana

Low perennial, dicot shrub of 0.5-6.5 ft in height.

Leaves

Deciduous or semi-evergreen, simple, alternate. Broadly elliptic leaves at an ascending 45 degree angle. Foliage does occur in autumn.

Flowers

Nodding urn- or bell-shaped corolla flowers, white to pale pink in color, blooming from May to June. About 1/2 inch in length. 5-lobed calyx, 5-lobed urceolate corolla, 10 stamens, superior ovary.

Flowers are subtended by conspicuous purplish-red 1/4-3/8 inch sepals.

Fruit

Brown, woody capsular fruit produced September to February

Bark

Slender plant with ascending branches, often bare below. Twigs, branches, and lower leaf surface are black dotted.

Diospyros virginiana

50 ft in height. Persimmon can adapt to adverse conditions and is usually found in sandy soils. The fruits attract many mammals.

Leaves

Oval, pointed, alternate, glossy leaves are dark green above and pale green below. Usually they turn yellow-green in autumn, although some trees may color to an attractive reddish-purple.

Flowers

Fragrant, greenish-white flowers are dioecious (male and female flowers on separate trees). They are about 1/3-inch long in clusters on male trees, and about 1/2-inch long and solitary on female trees.

Fruit

Round, yellow-orange, edible fruits to 1.5 inches in diameter, needing frost to ripen.

Trunk

Bark is dark brownish-gray to black, forming a block-like pattern on the trunk.

Sporobolus junceus

Clump-forming perennial bunchgrass of 1-3 ft in height. Hemispherical clumps are about as wide or a little wider. Accumulates when better grasses are consumed in pastures and indicates declining quality.

Leaves

Foliage all year round. Leaves are up to 30 cm long and are flat or rolled. Blue-green in color.

Flowers

Panicle is pyramidal in shape with spreading branches. They are lined with purplish to reddish spikelets. Blooms from spring through autumn.

Bark

Thin, wiry blades of blue-green to silvery green in color.

Carya glabra

This tree is deciduous and 50-100 ft in height with a 30-100 ft spread. It matures at about 200 years, and specimens to 400 years are known. Grows best in fertile, well-drained, slightly acid soil.

Leaves

Compound, usually 5 or 7 leaflets, dark green above, paler below. Turning golden to burnt orange in autumn.

Flowers

Tiny, borne in relatively inconspicuous, drooping catkins.

Fruit

A nut borne in a large, globose, 1-2 inch long husk that splits along several seams at maturity. September and October. Provides food for wildlife, especially squirrels.

Bark/Trunk

Straight-trunked with a broad, spreading crown of stout limbs. Grayish bark; shallowly fissured with diamond-patterned ridges.

Pictures

Opuntia stricta

Erect Prickly-Pear Cactus



Stillingia sylvatica

Queen's Delight



Persea borbonia

Red Bay



Lyonia ferruginea

Rusty Lyonia



Descriptions

Stillingia sylvatica

Perennial, monoecious forb with a slightly milky sap.

Leaves

Simple, alternately spiraling and cauline. Hairless with a light green midvein. Elliptic, finely crenate, with teeth of pointed callous spicules.

Flowers

Yellow calyx/red stigmas. Unisexual, 2-3 part calyx, petals absent, 2 stamens. Male flowers located in a terminal spike and female flowers are few and at the base. Blooms spring/summer.

Fruit

Woody capsule produced summer/fall. Male-flower portion of the spike is deciduous.

Bark/Stem

Stout, hairless stem. Round in cross-section, light green with a reddish tinge.

Opuntia stricta

Leaves

Generally spiny, rounded or oval pads, 3-5 inches across.

Flowers

Flat to cupped and showy, appears in spring & summer. Blooms are 1-3 inches across and predominately yellow, often with reddish centers.

Fruit

Fig-like, up to 3 inches and either smooth or spiny. Usually red when ripe.

Trunk

Older stems have a protective, thin, light brown bark.

Interesting Facts

Used by the Indians as a fruit and vegetable. The sweet juicy fruits of the prickly-pear, called tunas, are said to taste a bit like watermelon and are very popular everywhere except the United States. In fact, annual world-wide commercial production of prickly-pear tunas is more than twice that of strawberries, avocados, or apricots! The pads, called nopales, are a popular vegetable in Mexico and Central America.

Warning: Large and small spines may be found on pads and fruit.

Lyonia ferruginea

10-15 ft in height. Rusty Lyonia can be found in both damp and dry, sandy soils, but is not salt-tolerant.

Leaves

Elliptic, shiny green leaves, 1-2 inches long, fuzzy and rusty-red on the underside, with a leathery texture.

Flowers

Fragrant, white to pink, bell-shaped 1/2-inch flowers, appearing in spring and carried in racemes in the leaf axils.

Fruit

Rounded, brown, 1/3-inch capsule.

Trunk

Multistemmed reddish-brown trunk.

Persea borbonia

Red bays grow throughout Florida and are normally found in hammocks, bluff, coastal dunes, and scrub habitats.

Description

Large shrub to medium-sized aromatic evergreen tree, can grow to 70 ft in height and 3 ft in diameter.

Leaves

Bright green with narrow orange-colored mid rib, grows to 4 inches in length and 1.5 inches in width. The leathery leaves are oblong and smooth on the margin. Crushed leaves tend to be very aromatic. Routine occurrences of leaf galls can be useful for identification.

Flowers

Small, pale yellow flowers bloom in the spring. Form in small clusters along hairy stalks.

Fruit

Dark bluish-black drupes, mature late summer to fall and are approximately 1/2 inches long and 1.2 cm in diameter, containing a large, rounded seed.

Bark

Twigs are green to reddish. As tree ages and matures, the bark becomes brownish-gray. Bark very rough with vertical, interlacing fissures between ridges.

Pictures

Rhynchospora megalocarpa

Sand Beakrush



Quercus geminata

Sand Live Oak



Pinus clausa

Sand Pine



Serenoa repens

Saw Palmetto



Descriptions

Quercus geminata

50-60 ft in height. Sand live oak is considered a variety of live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) slow-growing but long-lived. The acorns provide food for birds and squirrels.

Leaves

Leathery leaves that are narrow and oval and can reach 4-5 inches long on vigorous new shoots. They are dark green above, pale green underneath.

Flowers

Pendulous, yellowish catkins to 3 inches long.

Fruits

3/4-inch edible acorn, a major food source for wildlife.

Trunk

Very thick, dividing into many wide-flung branches low on the trunk.

Rhynchospora megalocarpa

Perennial, monocot graminoid to 130 cm tall.

Leaves

Overtopped by culms, linear blades, proximally flat, 3-7 mm wide. Basal and alternate cauline, mostly 3-ranked.

Flowers

Inflorescences spikelet clusters of 2-6. Sparse and widely spaced, turbinate. Light redbrown in color and ovoid to ellipsoid.

6-8 perianth bristles, mostly reaching from fruit midbody to tubercle base. Bisexual, superior ovary. Bloom in summer.

Fruit

1-2 per spikelet. 4-5 mm nutlet body of dark brown to mahogany or nearly black, broadly obovoid, tumid, nearly smooth. Produced in summer.

Bark

Ascending branches.

Serenoa repens

Description

This evergreen shrub is almost always found creeping along the ground. Generally, its height is 3-8 ft but it can reach 25 ft. Its trunk can be 9-10 inches in diameter.

Leaves

Palmate, up to 3.5 ft wide, divided into many stiff, tapering segments. The petiole can be 3-4 ft long and has three sides with small, sharp teeth on its margins.

Flowers

Small, whitish flowers, found on branched stalks that can reach up to 3.5 ft long.

Fruit

Yellow, darkens to black as it reaches maturity by summer.

Bark

Comprised of the old bases of past leaves and brown-colored fiber.

Interesting Facts

The saw palmetto is a food source for the Florida Black Bear. The endangered grasshopper sparrow nests in association with the saw palmetto and the Florida Panther enjoys palmetto as daytime rest sites.

Pinus clausa

30-40 ft in height. Sand pine is a major component of the sand-scrub habitat and is important for the gopher tortoise and other endangered species. The root system is sensitive to any traffic, so it does best when left alone.

Leaves

Dark green needles, 2-3.5 inches long, flexible and soft, and carried in bundles of two.

Flowers

Inconspicuous, brownish male flowers appear at the branch tips; female flowers, which are brownish and globe-shaped, appear lower on the branch, below the male blooms.

Fruit

Brown, 2-3.5 inches long, flexible and soft, and carried in bundles of two.

Trunk

Straight, single trunk has dark brown, plated bark; young branches may be gray or reddish. The trees have a tendency to lean after wind storms.

Pictures

Carya floridana

Scrub Hickory



Sabal etonia

Scrub Palmetto



Vaccinium myrsinites

Shiny Blueberry



Sorghastrum elliottii

Slender/Elliott's Indiangrass



Descriptions

Sabal etonia

Endemic shrub of the well-drained soils of Florida scrub, 4-6 ft in height and 4-6 ft in spread. Heat, drought, and sun tolerant. Very similar to and nearly indistinguishable from young cabbage palms (*Sabal palmetto*).

Leaves

Evergreen, fan shaped, blades to about 3 ft wide, with stems to about 3 ft long. Distinguished from saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) by lacking sawlike teeth along the leaf stalk.

Flowers

Borne along a many-flowered stalk that can be up to 3 ft long. Blooms in spring and summer.

Fruit

Small, shiny, bluish black berries. Mostly summer to fall.

Bark

Subterranean trunk.

Carya floridana

Endemic perennial, monoecious, dicot tree. Can grow to 25 meters, but is often seen as a shrub at 3-5 m tall with a small trunk.

Leaves

20-30 cm long leaves. Deciduous, alternate, compound: odd-pinnate 3-7 leaflets, each 4-10 cm long. Amber-colored resinous glands on the underside.

Flowers

Staminate calyx 2-3 lobed, inferior ovary, staminate flowers in elongate catkins, unisexual. Blooms in spring.

Fruit

3-4 cm long nut, usually not angled, with fruit husks of 2-3 mm thick. Thick, hard shell and sweet, edible seed. Fruit produced in fall.

Bark

Single trunk that grows in girth with age and branches, also growing in circumference with age.

Sorghastrum elliottii

Perennial grass/sedge/rush.

Leaves

Simple, mostly alternate cauline, 2-ranked.

Flowers

Spikelets of chestnut-brown and inflorescence of a panicle. Spikelets are 6-7 mm long, the awns 25-35 mm long. Panicle is loose, nodding at apex, the filiform branchlets flexuous. Bloom summer/fall.

Fruit

Reddish grain produced summer/fall.

Bark

Culms more slender than *S. nuntans* without rhizomes, blades narrower.

Vaccinium myrsinites

Blueberries, typical members of the heath family, like a sand, acidic soil. Consequently, they actually do better in poor sandy soil than in humus-rich fertile soil. This plant is pollinator attractive.

Description

Shiny blueberry is a neat, compact and dense little evergreen shrub. Has many branches and a rounded habit, can get up to 3 ft tall.

Leaves

Little, green, glossy leaves all year long.

Flowers

Pinkish, white urn-shaped flowers in spring.

Fruit

Shiny, edible, blue-black berries ripen in summer.

Interesting Facts

The closely related glaucous blueberry (*V. darrowii*) is very similar, and can be found growing in the same places, but its leaves, berries, and flower stalks are usually covered with a powdery bloom that can be wiped off with the finger. The condition is called "glaucous," and it imparts a beautiful bluish cast to new leaves and stems, unlike the glossy green leaves of the shiny blueberry.

Pictures

Galactia mollis
Soft Milkpea



Magnolia grandiflora
Southern Magnolia



Vaccinium arboreum
Sparkleberry/Farkleberry



Quercus laevis
Turkey Oak



Descriptions

Magnolia grandiflora

Perennial tree of 30-100 ft in height and 20-50 ft in spread. Prefers rich, moist, acid soil, salt tolerant. Lives for 75 years or more. This plant is pollinator attractive.

Leaves

Evergreen, simple, alternate. Showy, large 6-10 inches long, leathery, dark shiny green above, and rusty orange to brownish below.

Flowers

Large, fragrant, to about 12 inches wide on stout hairy stalks, with creamy white petals surrounding a conelike mass of numerous stamens and pistils. Bisexual, radially symmetrical, 3 sepals, 6-12 petals. Buds have brown hairs. Bloom spring and summer.

Fruit

A conspicuous, fuzzy, conelike structure, 2-6 inches long, bearing numerous bright red seeds that dangle from thin red threadlike structures prior to falling. Produced in fall.

Bark

Smooth, grayish, somewhat like that of a beech tree.

Galactia mollis

Herbaceous perennial, dicot vine. Functions as groundcover.

Leaves

Pinnately compound: 3 leaflets, mostly alternate, petiolate.

Flowers

Red/pink, bilaterally symmetrical, 4-lobed calyx, 5-parted papilionaceous corolla, superior ovary. Blooms spring/summer.

Fruit

Legume produced summer/fall. Elongate, straight, beaked, hairy, 3-10 seeded. Seeds are smooth and olive, brown or black.

Stem

A vine that creeps on the ground and doesn't prefer to climb. Stem is prostrate, trailing, or mat forming. Less than 1 m tall, solid, sparsely to densely hairy.

Quercus laevis

Perennial, monoecious tree reaching 30-50 ft in height and 10-15 ft in spread. Inhabits well-drained, infertile, sandy, acid soils.

Leaves

Alternate, simple, deciduous, 4-14 inches long, deeply 3- to 7-lobed, dark, shiny green above, often oriented so that the edge of the blade is held perpendicular to the ground. 1-3 bristle-tipped teeth, deep sinuses, raised veins. Turning bright red and showy in fall.

Flowers

Borne in 3- to 5- inch long, dangling, yellowish catkins. Staminate calyx 2-8 lobed, pistillate calyx 6-lobed, petals absent, 3-12 stamens in staminate flowers, unisexual. Bloom in spring.

Fruit

A brown acorn, about 1 inch long, borne in a relatively shallow cup that covers about 1/3 of the kernel, produced summer/fall

Bark

Thick, deeply furrowed; dark gray to nearly black on older trees.

Vaccinium arboreum

Sparkleberry is a small bushy tree, characterized by a short, crooked bole, contorted branches, and a dense, round crown. This plant is pollinator attractive.

Leaves

Simple, alternate, and deciduous or persistent for a year. 1-3 inches long, about 1 inch wide, oval in shape, with an acute or rounded apex. The leaf base is wedged-shaped, margins are entire or have very small teeth. Leaf surfaces are dark green and glabrous above, paler below, sometimes with 5 scattered hairs along the midrib and principal veins. Leaf petioles very short or nearly sessile.

Flowers

Perfect with small, leaf-like bracts.

Fruit

A 1/4 inch diameter, shiny, blue/black, many-seeded berry; is edible and resembles a blueberry in taste. The seeds are tiny and kidney-shaped

Twigs

Slender, brown to reddish-brown, and sometimes angled. The pith is white and homogeneous.

Bark

Dark brown, sometimes with a purplish tinge, divided into long, thin, elongated, shreddy, interlacing ridges.

Pictures

Galactia volubilis/pinctorum

Twining/Eastern Milkpea



Galactia elliottii

White Milkpea/Elliott's Milkpea



Baptisia lecontei

Wild Indigo



Osmanthus americanus/Cartrema americanus

Wild Olive/Devilwood



Descriptions

Galactia elliotii

Herbaceous perennial, dicot vine to 1 ft in height.

Leaves

Pinnately compound: 5-9 leaflets, mostly alternate, petiolate.

Flowers

White, bilaterally symmetrical, 4-lobed calyx, 5-parted papilionaceous corolla, superior ovary. Blooms during summer/fall.

Fruit

Legume produced during summer/fall. Elongate, straight, beaked, hairy, 3-10 seeded. Seeds are reniform, smooth surfaced, and olive, black or brown.

Stem

Sprawling vine that functions as groundcover or climbs low fences/trees. Solid stems sparsely to densely hair.

Galactia volubilis

Endemic herbaceous perennial, dicot vine, forb.

Leaves

Pinnately compound: 3 leaflets, mostly alternate. Less than 5 times as long as wide.

Flowers

Pink, bilaterally symmetrical, 4-lobed calyx, 5-parted papilionaceous corolla, superior ovary. Flowers usually in clusters, and the distance between the clusters usually longer than the length of the flower and pedicel. Blooms in summer.

Fruit

Legume produced during summer/fall.

Stem

Twining habit with hairy-like stipules and hairy stems.

Osmanthus americanus/Cartrema americanus

Endemic perennial, dicot, dioecious shrub/tree to 30 ft in height (usually closer to 10-20 ft) with an equal spread.

Leaves

Glossy evergreen, leathery, simple, opposite or subopposite, oblanceolate to obovate. Entire on the margin, 10-14 cm long.

Flowers

Creamy-white, fragrant, mostly unisexual, radially symmetrical. 4-merous: 4-lobed calyx, 4-lobed campanulate corolla, superior ovary. Inflorescence a few-flowered short axillary panicle, short-pedicellate. Blooms in spring.

Fruit

Dark blue globose drupe, like small olives, produced in summer/fall. 6-15 mm in diameter and contain a single seed.

Bark/Trunk

Fine-textured, "devilishly hard" wood usually with a single short trunk, branching near the ground.

Baptisia lecontei

Perennial, dicot forb/herb.

Leaves

Alternate, petiolate, green stipules, triangulate to lanceolate or foliaceous. Compound: 3 leaflets. Glabrous or nearly so.

Flowers

Zygomorphic, 5-lobed hairy calyx, separate petals, papilionaceous corolla. Orange or yellow clawed petals.

Fruit

Elongate, straight legume and becomes woody. Beaked, hairy, 11-many seeded. Smooth olive, brown, or black seeds with resinous dots.

Bark

Stems woody below or form woody crown or caudex. Erect or ascending, less than 1 m tall, solid, glabrous or sparsely glabrate. Sparsely to densely hairy.

Pictures

Rhus copallina

Winged Sumac



Aristida stricta var. *beyrichiana*

Wiregrass



Ilex vomitoria

Yaupon Holly



Symphotrichum adnatum

Scale-leaf Aster



Descriptions

Aristida stricta* var. *beyrichiana

Perennial bunchgrass/sedge/rush 2-4 ft in height and 2-3 ft in spread. Occurs in poor, acid, sandy soils with little to no organic matter. Tolerates both moist and dry sites. Essential groundcover component to sandhill and flatwoods communities.

Leaves

Simple, mostly basal, semievergreen. Very narrow and in-rolled so as to appear wiry; typically green when fresh, turning brown with age. Leaves erect when young but tend to become relaxed and arched with age.

Flowers

Brownish panicle borne on an elongated stem above the leaves. May be produced any time of year, especially summer/fall.

Fruit

A tiny yellow grain. Produced only after fire, in summer/fall.

Rhus copallinum

Winged sumac often forms thickets, and a mass in bloom or in fruit makes a memorable sight.

Description

A fast growing and short lived deciduous shrub or small tree getting up to about 20 ft tall with an irregular crown spreading to 10 ft or so.

Leaves/Stem

Alternate, pinnately compound, about 1 ft long with 9-23 leaflets. The rachis (leaf stem) is winged between the leaflets. Stems and twigs are densely pubescent (covered with short soft hairs). The leaves turn brilliant orange red in fall before they drop.

Flowers

Greenish, yellow flowers appear in spring, summer and fall. Are tiny, but packed in showy terminal clusters 6-10 inches long.

Fruit

Small red pubescent drupes hung in big clusters; appears in fall and persists through much of the winter even after the leaves have fallen.

Interesting Facts

Native Americans used the roots of winged sumac to treat dysentery and made a dye from the berries.

Symphotrichum adnatum

Perennial, dicot forb/herb important for pollinators.

Leaves

Evergreen foliage yellowish green in color. Lower leaves are 1.5-2 inches long and upper leaves are tiny, scale-like and cling tightly to stem. Blades are 3-nerved and oblanceolate to obovate, cuneate bases, scabrous margins, acute to obtuse apices. Faces are finely scabrous and shiny.

Flowers

10-20 ray florets with light to dark lavender corollas. 12-25 disc florets with yellow corollas, 3.7-7 mm long. Whole flower is nearly an inch across. Blooms year round.

Fruit

Tan to brown cypselae, obovoid, not compressed, 2-2.5 mm long, 6-10 faintly nerved, faces sparsely strigose, tan pappi.

Stems

Five or more stems that are erect or scadent-sprawling, trailing on the ground or rest on adjacent vegetation. Brown and branched from the middle, moderately to densely finely hairy.

Ilex vomitoria

Yaupon Holly is an extremely tough evergreen shrub or small tree.

Leaves

Dark green with alternate arrangement and an ovate shape.

Flowers

White and creamy in color, not showy.

Fruit

The berries, common to the Holly family, are 1/2 inch round and distinctively red.

Bark

Smooth and gray, often mottled with yellow-green patches.

Interesting Facts

Native Americans used the Yaupon Holly tree to produce an intoxicant used for ceremonial and medicinal purposes. An infusion from the leaves, called *black drink* by some tribes, contains caffeine and other compounds.

Warning: Berries are poisonous!

Pictures

Symphotrichum dumosum

Bush/Rice-Button Aster



Conradina canescens

False/Florida Rosemary



Penstemon multiflorus

Manyflower Beardtongue



Monarda punctata

Spotted Horsemint/Beebalm/Monarda



Descriptions

Coradina canescens

Perennial evergreen shrub growing 3-6 ft in height and important for pollinators.

Leaves

Opposite, simple, linear, canescent silver-green leaves with a herbal scent.

Flowers

Axillary inflorescence of white, blue, or violet with dark spots on the lower lip of the flower. Bisexual, bilaterally symmetrical, 2-lipped 5-lobed corolla, 4 stamens, superior ovary. Blooms February- April.

Fruit

Tiny, light-brown nutlet

Stem

Much-branched and sprawling, often with a spread larger than the height.

Symphotrichum dumosum

Perennial dicot forb/herb 1-3 ft in height and important for pollinators. Usually found in open sites with sandy soil.

Leaves

Simple, basal and alternate cauline, withered by flowering except on inflorescence branch. Linear to narrowly elliptic, smooth to scabrous above, glabrous underneath.

Flowers

14-20 white to pale purple/blue ray flowers irregularly spaced around a yellow to brownish-red disc. Flowerheads are 1/2 – 3/4 inches across. Disc flowers are bisexual and fertile; ray flowers are pistillate and fertile. Inferior ovary. Flower heads are in spreading loose panicles with numerous bracteal leaves. Bloom August to October.

Fruit

Achene produced summer/fall. Dry seed, pink to gray/brown, tipped with bristles.

Stem

Stiff, leafy branches bearing numerous terminal flower heads.

Monarda punctata

Aromatic perennial dicot subshrub or forb/herb ranging from 6 inches – 3 ft tall, pollinator attractive, especially butterflies.

Leaves

Light green leaves with serrate to nearly entire margins that can smell like fine Greek oregano. Opposite/subopposite, simple, lanceolate to ovate, pinnate, deciduous, 4-8 inches in length.

Flowers

Rosettes of yellowish (sometimes white or green), purple to maroon-spotted tubular flowers occur in whorls, forming a dense, elongate spike at the end of the stem or from leaf axils. Each whorl is subtended by large, conspicuous, whitish, purple, pink, or yellow leaf-like bracts. Bloom summer/fall.

Fruit

Black/brown dry fruit that doesn't split open when ripe.

Stem

Erect green, thin stem, semi-woody and multi-branched.

Interesting Facts

Historically, fresh leaves were crushed or steeped in cold water and used to ease backache, fever, inflammation, and chills and many other treatments. The plant is a rich source of the essential oil thymol. Warning: Large amounts of thymol can be fatal.

Penstemon multiflorus

Deciduous, dicot perennial forb/herb that can reach up to 4 ft tall by flowering. This is the only white beardtongue native to Florida and is important to pollinators, especially bees and butterflies but also hummingbirds.

Leaves

Large, elliptical, grayish green with a red mid-vein, 4-6 inches long and produced shortly after basal leaves are lost during early winter. Leaves are simple, basal rosette, and opposite cauline.

Flowers

Numerous white, tubular flowers with a slightly rosy overcast. Borne from the upper leaf axils of 1-2 ft upright stalks. Bisexual, bilaterally symmetrical, 5 sepals, 2-lipped 5-lobed tubular corolla, 4 fertile stamen and 1 bearded staminode, superior ovary. Blooms are about an inch long and appear in late spring to early summer.

Fruit

Capsule produced in summer/fall.

Stem

Smooth or hairy stalk emerges in late spring from the thick set of basal leaves.

Pictures

Gaillardia pulchella

Indian Blanket-Flower/Gaillardia/Firewheel



Liatris chapmanii

Chapman's Blazing-Star/ Gayfeather



Liatris gracilis

Graceful/Slender Blazing-Star/Gayfeather



Liatris spicata

Spiked/Dense Blazing-Star/Gayfeather



Descriptions

Liatris chapmanii

Deciduous, perennial, dicot forb/herb reaching 3, sometime 4 ft in height. This is a pollinator attractive plant.

Leaves

Slightly curved, thin, and about 2-3 inches long. Basal and cauline leaves have one nerve and are spatulate-oblong to narrowly oblanceolate in shape. Dotted with glands and hairless or have short, stiff hairs.

Flowers

Flowers produced below the top of the flower stalk into the area where "normal-sized" leaves occur. Flower buds are densely clustered on the flower stalk and held tightly. Individual flowers are bright lavender in color and each bud has about half a dozen flowers. Usually blooms September – October.

Fruit

Cypselae fruits 4-6 mm long with feathery, bristle-like pappi that have minute barbs.

Stem

Stems are 35-75 cm in height, sometimes up to 150 cm. Flower stalks a bit shorter and stouter than others in this genus. Stems often have short, ridged hairs.

Gaillardia pulchella

Perennial (in warm coastal areas), dicot herb growing 1-3 ft in height and important for pollinators, especially butterflies and birds.

Leaves

Green, alternate, mostly basal, 4-8 cm long, with edges smooth to coarsely toothed or lobed.

Flowers

Showy flowerheads 1-2 inches across, with rays red at base, tipped with yellow, with 3 teeth at the broad end. Occasionally the three-cleft rays are solid orange or yellow. Disk flowers in the center are brownish red. Bloom May – August.

Fruit

Each floret produces a single, inconspicuous achene with a single seed.

Stem

Hairy, much-branched upright stem, leafy near the base, that becomes woody at the base late in the season.

Interesting Facts

Historically, the root was used in tea for stomach ailments or chewed for skin disorders. It was also used by nursing mothers for sore nipples, as well as sore eyes.

Liatris spicata

Perennial, dicot forb/herb of 2-4 ft in height and 0.75-1.5 ft in spread. Pollinator attractive, especially birds and butterflies.

Leaves

Linear, grass-like leaves clumped toward the base of the plant, but extend up the stem to the flower cluster.

Flowers

Reddish purple flower. Terminal spikes, 6-12 inches long, of sessile, rounded, fluffy, deep purple flower heads, 3/4 inch across. Blooms July-August

Fruit

Capsule covered with a tuft or plume; at least part of the plume is made up of fine bristles.

Stem

Upright, rigid, leafy flower stalks that are clump-forming. Stems gradually decrease in size toward the top.

Liatris gracilis

Perennial, dicot forb/herb 1-3 ft in height and pollinator attractive.

Leaves

Numerous, alternate and noticeably covered in hairs. Upper leaves are linear and sessile; lower leaves are spatulate and stalked with ciliated bases.

Flowers

Spikelike racemes of purple florets. Small, purple flowers with numerous flower buds. Buds are held away from the main flower stalk by distinct, hairy pedicels. Blooms later summer to fall

Fruit

Cypselae of 3-3.5 mm, pappi with lengths approximately equaling corollas, barbellate bristles.

Stem

Upper half to third of singular stem is surrounded by flowers; lower stem has many linear leaves. Stalks taller than most in this genus and often reach 4-5 ft in height. This species is most prone to falling over, and when this occurs, flower stalk twists and meanders through the understory before turning upright again.

Pictures

Liatris tenuifolia

Short-Leaf/Scrub Blazing-Star/Gayfeather



Carphephorus corymbosus

Gray Coastal-Plain Chaffhead/
Florida Paintbrush



Verbesina virginica

Frostweed/White Crownbeard



Vernonia angustifolia

Narrow-Leaf Ironweed



Descriptions

Carphephorus corymbosus

Deciduous perennial, dicot forb/herb 30-120 cm in height. Pollinator attractive plant, especially butterflies.

Leaves

For much of spring, it remains a flat rosettes of succulent basal leaves. In mid-summer, it begins growing the flower stalk. Basal and alternate cauline (reduced upward), simple, linear-oblongate-spatulate, glandular pubescence, dentate-entire margins.

Flowers

Well developed corymbiform, flat-topped flowerheads can be 5-6 inches across and contain hundreds of strikingly bright lavender to pink flowers. Bisexual, inferior ovary. Blooms August-October.

Fruit

Blackish achene produced in the summer/fall. Eglandular cypsela, pappus bristles.

Stem

Villoso-hirsute to hirsute, eglandular.

Liatrix tenuifolia

Perennial, deciduous dicot forb/herb 3-6 ft in height. Pollinator attractive plant.

Leaves

In spring, extremely narrow leaves resembling pine needles are sent out and it remains a basal rosette of filiform leaves, usually less than 2 mm wide, for spring and early summer. Leaves grow as the flower stalk extends, but upper leaves much reduced, the plant appearing subscapose. Simple, alternate cauline and basal, 1-nerved, linear, glabrous, and gland-dotted.

Flowers

Long spikes of tufted, lavender-blue flower heads in a raceme, which bloom from top down and may occupy up to 20 inches of the flower stalk. Usually 5 flowers per head. Blooms from August-October. Flower buds held close to stalk. Bisexual with an inferior ovary.

Fruit

Blackish achene produced in the fall. 2.5-7 mm cypsela, pappi of lengths equaling corollas, bristles barbellate.

Stem

Very narrow flower stalk. Glabrous or sparsely pilose stems.

Vernonia angustifolia

Perennial, dicot herb/herb 2-3 ft in height. Attractive to pollinators

Leaves

Simple, alternate cauline. It emerges in early spring, producing a basal rosette of elliptical leaves with serrated edges. As the flower stalk grows, the leaves along it become very narrow, as per the plant's epithet.

Flowers

Purplish-blue discoid flower absent of rays, bisexual, inferior ovaries. Involucres are 5-7 mm long, 4-6 mm broad. Blooms summer/fall.

Fruit

Achene produced summer/fall.

Stem

Linear flower stalk becomes evident by late spring and mature by summer.

Verbesina virginica

Perennial, dicot forb/herb important for pollinators.

Leaves

Dark green, simple, alternate cauline. Margins are coarsely serrate, petioles winged.

Flowers

3-5 white, sterile rays per each grayish-white, bisexual and fertile disc. 20-100+ flowerheads in compact, flat-topped corymb inflorescences. Inferior ovaries. Blooms summer/fall.

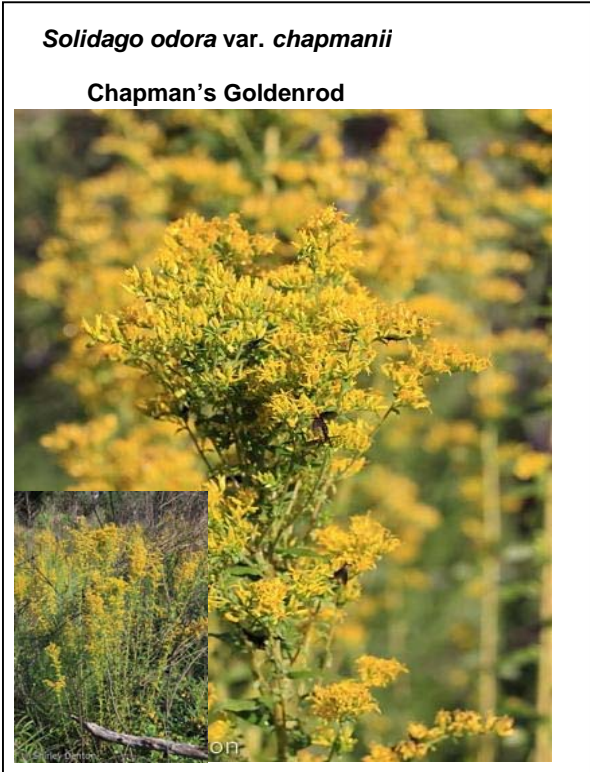
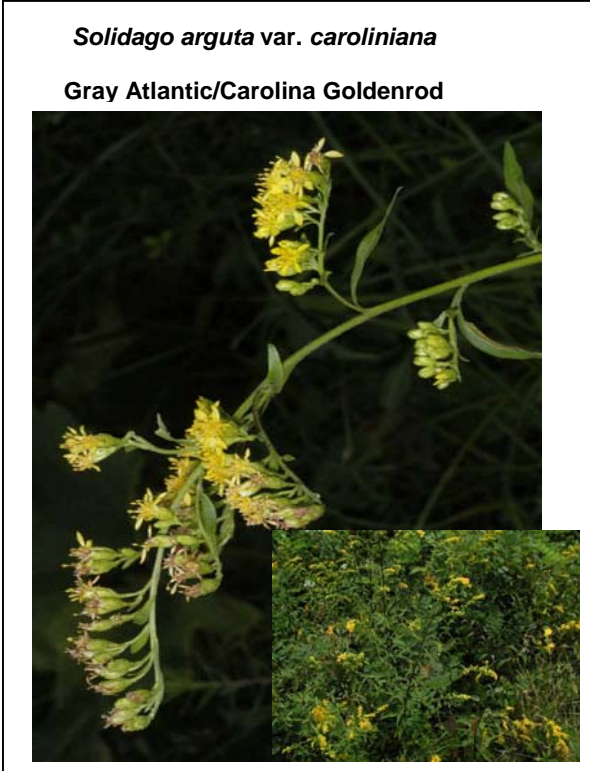
Fruit

Dark brown achene produced in summer/fall.

Stem

Stems have soft, fleshy green flanges running longitudinally down its length. This plant grows in colonies with its spreading rhizomes.

Pictures



Descriptions

Solidago odora

Perennial, dicot forb/herb 2-5 ft in height and 1-2 ft in spread; important for pollinators, especially bees and butterflies. Clump-forming and is not aggressively spreading, as with other goldenrod and hybrid species.

Leaves

Fragrant (smells of anise when bruised), dark evergreen leaves to 4 inches long that are lance-shaped, sessile, parallel-veined, untoothed and marked with translucent dots.

Flowers

Crowded, cylindrical (plume-like) clusters of showy, yellow flower heads along one side of slightly arching branches. Flowers appear in rows on the upper sides (one-sided) of the plume branching. Blooms August – September.

Fruit

Cypselae, which are narrowly obconic to cylindrical in shape, somewhat compressed. 8-10 ribs and are hairless or moderately covered with stiff slender bristles.

Stem

Smooth or downy stems clad with dark green leaves. Hairs on stem are in distinct vertical lines.

Interesting Facts

Foliage of this plant has been used historically to treat wounds, ulcers, urinary disorders, flatulence, and more. It also has stimulant properties. Leaves and seeds are

Solidago arguta var. caroliniana

Perennial, dicot forb/herb important for pollinators.

Leaves

Glabrous, simple, basal and alternate cauline, reduced upwards.

Flowers

Flower heads are in elongate, secund inflorescences. Panicles are about as broad as long. Yellow, pistillate and fertile ray flowers surrounding yellow bisexual and fertile discs. Inferior ovary. Blooms summer/fall.

Fruit

Sparsely to densely hairy, at least on the distal portion, achene produced summer/fall.

Stem

Stems mostly glabrous or occasionally pubescent-pilose.

Eupatorium capillifolium

Perennial, dicot forb/herb growing to 3 ft in height. Important pollinator plant. Clump-forming and aggressively spreading.

Leaves

Bright green, fragrant, simple leaves that are multi-divided into numerous delicate needle-like segments. Alternate above, opposite below.

Flowers

Hermaphroditic flowers with cream-white/purplish discs and no rays; inferior ovaries and no receptacular bracts. Forms elongated, much-branching conical panicle, 30-80 cm long and 20-50 cm wide. Blooms summer/fall.

Fruit

Lustrous black achene produced summer/fall.

Stem

Several stems that fork from a substantial base, which are covered in leaves.

Interesting Facts

The entire plant can be applied externally to remedy bites of reptiles and insects. It can also be used as a strewing herb and to repel insects. This plant seems to be immune to rabbit predation. It can also be an excellent indicator of soil disturbance.

Solidago odora var. chapmanii

Perennial, dicot forb/herb to 3 ft in height and tends to occur as scattered, individual stems. Attractive to pollinators.

Leaves

Evergreen and aromatic. A small, glabrous strip below the leaf base helps to distinguish this variety from *Solidago odora var. odora*.

Flowers

Flowering at the tip of each stem, with bright yellow flowers arrange in open, loose panicles. Blooms usually during summer months.

Between fires that occur in its habitat, this goldenrod persists as suppressed ramets, a persistent bud bank.

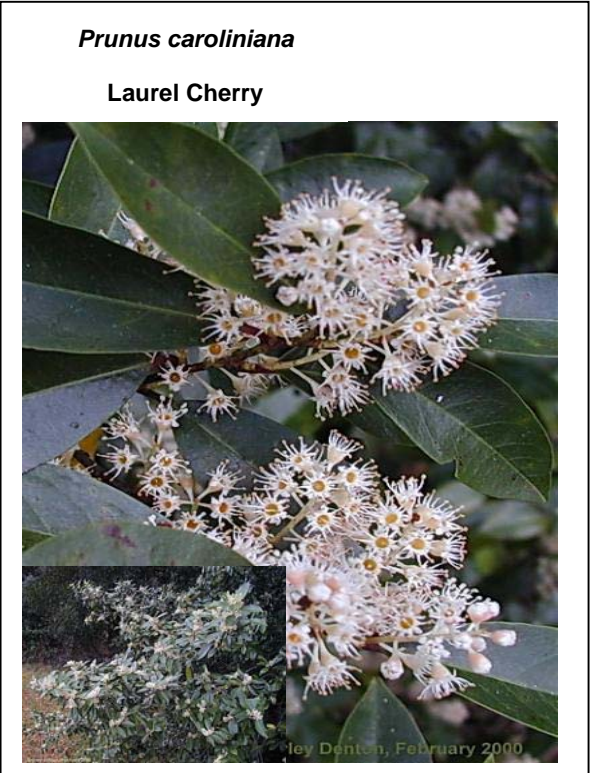
Fruit

Cypselae of fuzzy, pale gray seedheads containing tiny nutlets.

Stem

Brittle wood and shrub-like; rhizomatous. Hair pattern on stem is fairly evenly distributed, another distinguishing characteristic from *var. odora*. The hairs are sparser in a strip below the leaf base.

Pictures



Descriptions

Eupatorium rotundifolium

Perennial, dicot forb/herb important for pollinators.

Leaves

Opposite cauline, sessile or nearly so, simple leaves that are twice as long as wide. They are palmately veined, softly hairy, and glandular.

Flowers

Inflorescence composed of numerous white flowerheads with disc florets and no rays in flat-topped corymbs with opposite hairy branches; inferior ovary. Involcres are 5-flowered, bracts obtuse to acute, apices and margins white. Blooms July-September.

Fruit

Lustrous black achene produced summer/fall.

Stem

Pubescent stem growing to 40-100+ cm in height and produced from short rhizomes.

Interesting Facts

This herb contains sesquiterpene lactones, including euparotin acetate and eupachlorin acetate, which has been isolated from the plant and used to inhibit tumor growth *in vitro*.

Eupatorium compositifolium

Perennial, dicot forb/herb growing to 0.5-2 m in height. Important pollinator plant.

Leaves

Grayish-green and pubescent. Simple, dissected; alternate above, opposite below. Basal leaf segments are 2-5 mm wide and upper leaf segments are 1-2.5 mm wide.

Flowers

Hermaphroditic inflorescence panicles containing a large number of white flowers with creamy-white/purplish disc florets and no rays; inferior ovary. Blooms summer/fall.

Fruit

Lustrous black achene, 1.3-1.8 mm long, produced summer/fall.

Stem

Forms loose tufts from rhizomes. Pubescent stems that grow to 2+ m in height.

Interesting Facts

This plant can be used to remedy reptile and insect bites, as well as to ward off insects.

Prunus caroliniana

Evergreen tree growing 8-13 m in height and 6-9 m in spread and important for pollinators.

Leaves

Dark green, alternate, glossy, coriaceous, elliptic to oblanceolate, 5-12 cm in length, entire margin but occasionally serrulate, and cuneate based. Emit a fragrance of maraschino cherry or almond extract when crushed.

Flowers

White to cream 5-parted flowers produced in racemes, 5-8 cm in length. Bloom late winter to early spring.

Fruit

Tiny black, fleshy cherries about 1 cm in diameter with large, black pits. Produced through winter.

Stem

Red to grayish-brown, slender, and glabrous.

Interesting Facts

Warning: Leaves, branches, and seeds contain high amounts of cyanide, creating a toxic hazard for livestock and children and thus highly deer-resistant. Symptoms include gasping, weakness, excitement, pupil dilation, convulsions, coma, respiratory failure, and even death.

Myrcianthes fragrans

Perennial, dicot tree/shrub growing 10-20 ft in height, but can reach about 51 ft in more southern areas, and 15 ft in spread. Important for pollinators and is listed as a threatened species.

Leaves

Somewhat shiny above, about 1-2.5 inches long, covered with many glandular dots, and aromatic when crushed. Fragrance is similar to nutmeg. Opposite/subopposite, simple, entire margin, elliptic, and pinnate venation.

Flowers

White, fragrant, fluffy flowers in semi-showy clusters. Bloom year round but peak in spring/summer.

Fruit

Orange to red globose, fleshy berry, which is edible and has a citrus flavor.

Stem/Branches

Narrow crown from small, erect branches. Bark is smooth, gray to light reddish-brown, flaking off in irregular patches.

Pictures

Asclepias curassavica

Scarlet Milkweed



Asclepias humistrata

Sandhill/Pinewoods Milkweed



Shirley Denton, April 2001

Asclepias tomentosa

Tuba/Velvet-Leaf Milkweed



Asclepias tuberosa

Butterflyweed/Orange Milkweed



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Descriptions

Asclepias humistrata

Perennial, dicot forb/herb, growing 1-3 ft in height and important for pollinators and butterflies.

Leaves

5-10 pairs of broad, clasping, distinctly pinnately purple-veined leaves. Evergreen, simple, opposite cauline, sessile.

Flowers

Tan-colored buds and pink to white, bisexual flowers, sometimes with a lavender tinge. Flowers are approximately 5 mm wide and 1 cm long and 5-merous. Inflorescence form an umbel shape of about 30 flowers; superior ovary. Blooms March-June.

Fruit

Erect follicle of 3-5 inches long on drooping pedicels, a prominent feature of this plant. Seed color is brown. Produced in summer.

Stem

Smooth, stout, unbranched, purplish stems that usually form spreading clusters, ascending 1-1.5 ft in height.

Asclepias curassavica

Perennial sub-shrub growing 2-3 ft in height and 1.5-2 ft in spread; important for pollinators and butterflies.

Leaves

Medium green leaves, sometimes with white midribs. Opposite, lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate shaped, ending in acuminate or acute tips. Sap is milky.

Flowers

Cymes with 10-20 flowers, each with five sepals and five lobes. Purple or red corollas, red or orange corona lobes. Blooms almost year-round.

Fruit

Pod-like follicles, 5-10 cm long, fusiform shaped, containing tan-brown flat, ovate seeds that are 6-7 mm long. Seeds are covered in silky hair that allows them to float on air currents when the follicles dehisce.

Stem

Pale gray

Interesting Facts

The milky sap, exuded when stems or leaves are broken, is poisonous to livestock, deer resistant, and can cause eye damage. This plant is named for Asklepios, the Greek god of healing. It is known as a larval and nectar plant for Monarch butterflies.

Asclepias tuberosa

Perennial growing to 1.5-2 ft in height and important for butterflies and pollinators.

Leaves

Alternate, 1.5-2.25 inches long, lanceolate, smooth on the edge, and spirally arranged. The leaves create a dark green backdrop, bringing further attention to the bright flowers.

Flowers

Numerous bright-orange flowers arranged in flat-topped clusters about 2-5 inches across on the top of the stem. Blooms June-August.

Fruit

Seed pods, 3-6 inches long, which split open when ripe and release numerous silk-tailed seeds for wind dispersal.

Stem

Pubescent stems and a deep, tuberous taproot.

Interesting Facts

Roots were chewed by Native Americans as a cure for pleurisy and other pulmonary diseases. It is also larval food for Queen and Monarch butterflies.

Note: This species does not have milky sap.

Asclepias tomentosa

Perennial, dicot forb/herb and reaches 60-90 cm in height. Important for pollinators and butterflies.

Leaves

Evergreen, simple, opposite, rounded and fuzzy leaves all the way up the stalk; entire margins and petiolate.

Flowers

Umbel shaped inflorescence of greenish white, five-stellate flowers. Blooms May-June.

Fruit

Elongated follicle.

Stem

Individual stalks are stiff.

Pictures



Descriptions

Pycnanthemum floridanum

This species is listed as threatened. Perennial, dicot forb/herb growing up to 4 ft in height and important for butterflies and pollinators

Leaves

About 2 inches long and very aromatic when bruised, with diverse scents from spearmint to camphor. Mature leaves are covered in whitish blooms that makes them appear ashy gray.

Flowers

Lavender flowers arranged in dense terminal clusters about 1 inch in diameter. Blooms throughout summer.

Fruit

Stem

Erect, loosely-branched, square stems; subshrub-like.

Asclepias verticillata

Perennial, dicot herb growing 1-3 ft in height and important for butterflies and pollinators.

Leaves

Narrow, linear leaves whorled along the stem in sets of 4-8; simple, acute apex, glabrous, and has a prominent longitudinal vein. Leaves often curve downwards from the stem and then curl up at the tips.

Flowers

Small, greenish-white flowers, about 2 mm wide, in flat-topped umbels of about 20 flowers on the upper part of the stem. 5 strongly reflexed petals and 5 white hoods are arranged around the center. Little to no floral scent. Blooms May-September.

Fruit

Follicles, 3-4 inches long and 2/3 inches across, with a fairly smooth surface. Seeds are dispersed by wind using large tufts of white hairs.

Stem

Single-stemmed, ridged, hairless, and unbranched; roots are fibrous and rhizomatous.

Interesting Facts

This is one of the more poisonous milkweeds and is very toxic in large quantities. Symptoms include vomiting, stupor, weakness, and spasms. Milkweed toxicity comes from the cardiac glycosides and resinoids they contain.

Chamaecrista nictitans var. aspera

Perennial, dicot herb/forb growing to 50 cm in height and important for pollinators.

Leaves

Alternate, pinnately compound with 10-25 opposite pairs of leaflets. Leaflets are narrow, with pinnate venation, oblong with small spines on the tip. Leaves are sensitive and fold up when touched. Petiole gland is positioned below the last pair of leaflets.

Flowers

Yellow solitary flowers, complete, irregular in shape, and up to 1.4 cm wide. They arise from leaf axils and have 5 petals, with the largest and most spreading.

Fruit

Dehiscent legume with smooth black or brown seeds.

Stem

Covered with dense trichomes, although glabrous variants do occur.

Interesting Facts

Historically, this plant was used as a remedy for stomach ache and fever.

Chamaecrista nictitans

Herbaceous, annual legume growing up to 1 ft in height and important for pollinators.

Leaves

Pinnately compound, pubescent leaves made up of yellow-green leaflets that fold together when touched. Alternate, petiolate, with extrafloral nectar glands on petiole. Stipules are green; entire leaf margin.

Flowers

2-6 small, yellow or orange actinomorphic flowers, 1/4 inch across, hang from short, axillary pedicels. 5-lobed pubescent calyx, separate clawed petals, 9-10 heteromorphic stamens. Blooms July-September.

Fruit

Freely dehiscent, elongated, oblong or ellipsoidal, glabrous or glabrate legume exerted from calyx. 3-10 smooth, olive, brown, or black seeds per pod.

Stem

Slender erect or ascending stems and taproots present.

Interesting Facts

Like other members of the pea family, this plant requires microorganisms that inhabit nodules on the root system and produce nitrogen necessary for survival.

Pictures

Helianthus debilis

East Coast Beach Sunflower



Eryngium yuccifolium

Button Snakeroot



**Common Upland
and Pollinator
Plants of Volusia
County, Florida
Identification
Cards**

© Shirley Denton

Sources

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Descriptions

Eryngium yuccifolium

Perennial, dicot forb/herb growing 4-5 ft in height and 2-3 ft in spread and important for pollinators.

Leaves

Basal rosettes of parallel-veined, bristly-edged, sword-shaped medium blue-green leaves to 3 inches long, resembling yucca leaves.

Flowers

Tiny, stemless, greenish-white flowers tightly packed into globular, 1" diameter head, similar to thistles. Flower heads occur in branched clusters at the top of stems and subtended by whitish, pointed, bracts. Flower heads have a honey-like odor. Blooms June-September.

Fruit

Dry and splits open when ripe. Appearance is essentially the same as the flowers, but it darkens to a dull brown and remains on the stalk. The seedheads contain ¼ inch long seeds (mericarps).

Stem

Smooth, stiff stems rising to 3-4 inches in height from the center of basal rosettes.

Interesting Facts

Historically, dried seedheads were used as rattles by Native Americans. It is rumored that pioneers also used the roots as an effective antidote for a rattlesnake bite, hence the common name, but this is a false account.

Helianthus debilis

Spreading perennial, dicot forb/herb growing 2-4 ft in height and spread, and important for pollinators and butterflies.

Leaves

Small, dark-green deltoid leaves irregularly lobed and toothed. Glossy and roughly pubescent and reach 4 inches in length. Alternate, simple, dentate margin, pinnate venation, and semi-evergreen.

Flowers

Showy flowers that have 10-20 pale, yellow rays encircling a purplish-brown disk that is ½-1 inch wide. Small, sunflower-like heads borne throughout the year.

Fruit

Cypselae, 2-3 mm long, dark and hard covering the seeds.

Stem

Typically hairy, decumbent, multi-trunked or clumping stems.

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