

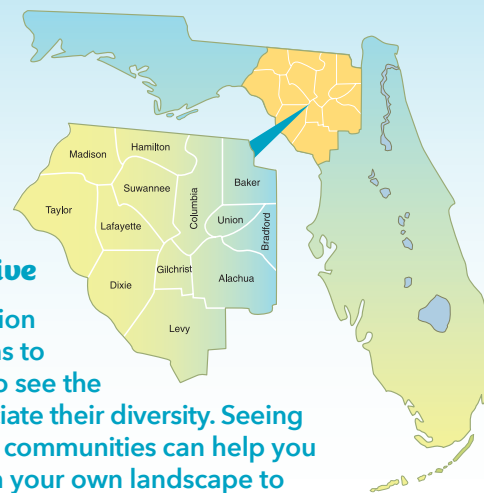


Good Citizen Guide to Natural Florida

North Central Region

Learn about where you live

Florida's North Central 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



Marsh Lake/Wet Prairie

Wet prairies or upland marshes occur in peninsular Florida in shallow peat valleys, old lake beds and along existing lakes or rivers. Wet prairies can remain submerged for long periods of time or nearly dry up.

seasonally. Prairies are important habitat for migrating and overwintering birds.

Where to visit Marsh Lake/Wet Prairie

- Barr Hammock Preserve (Alachua County)
- Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park (Alachua County)



Mesic Flatwoods

Longleaf and slash pines form an open canopy over flattened lowlands where many low-growing shrubs, grasses and flowering plants thrive. Plants are adapted to poor sandy moist soils (sometimes dry or wet) where frequent fire controls undergrowth.

Where to visit Mesic Flatwoods

- Econfinia River State Park (Taylor County)
- Goethe State Forest (Levy County)
- Lafayette Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area (WEA) and Ruth Springs (Lafayette County)
- Osceola National Forest (Baker County)
- Twin Rivers State Forest (Hamilton, Madison, and Suwannee Counties)



Mesic Hammock

Northern peninsular Florida hardwood hammocks, a type of mesic hammock, are well-developed evergreen and deciduous broad-leaved hardwood and/or palm forests. Fire is rare and they are of considerable importance to wildlife, particularly migrating birds.

Where to visit Mesic Hammock

- Manatee Springs State Park (Levy County)
- San Felasco Hammock State Park (Alachua County)



Sandhill

The rolling hills of north central Florida's xeric uplands are comprised of turkey oaks scattered under widely spaced longleaf pines. Wiregrass and diverse herbaceous species cover deep infertile sand. This fast draining sand is important for aquifer recharge.

Where to visit Sandhill

- Bell Ridge Longleaf Mitigation Park WEA (Gilchrist County)
- Longleaf Flatwoods Reserve (Alachua County)
- Phifer Flatwoods Preserve (Alachua County)



Scrub

Scrubs, one of the rarest natural communities in Florida, occur on relict dunes with deep excessively drained "sugar sand". Featuring a dense and diverse shrub layer intermingled with open patches of white sand, scrubs are often subcategorized based on their dominant species.

Where to visit Scrub

- Cedar Key Scrub State Park (Levy County)
- Etoniah Creek State Park (Putnam County)
- Ocala National Forest (Marion County)



Upland Mixed Woodland

Characterized by rich loamy soils, a partly open canopy of oak, hickory and pine over smaller trees and shrubs and a thick layer of grasses and herbs. Some species are fire resistant, allowing the community to exist between hardwood forests and frequently burned pinelands.

Where to visit Upland Mixed Woodland

- Bell Ridge WEA (Gilchrist County)



Upland Pine

Found on rolling hills, widely spaced longleaf pine provides a canopy above an understory of small trees and large shrubs. The ground cover consists of vines, wildflowers, grasses and legumes. Fire is needed to control woody species. Clay under the sandy loam maintains moisture for greater diversity in the understory.

- Fort White WEA (Gilchrist County)
- Holton Creek (Hamilton County)
- Ichetucknee Springs State Park (Columbia and Suwannee Counties)
- O'Leno State Park (Columbia County)
- Steinhatchee Springs Wildlife Management Area (WMA) (Lafayette, Dixie, and Taylor Counties)
- Suwannee River State Park (Suwannee County)
- Wacassa Bay Preserve State Park (Gilchrist and Levy Counties)

Where to visit Upland Pine

- Little River WMA (Suwannee County)
- Suwannee Ridge WEA (Hamilton County)
- Twin Rivers State Forest (Madison County)
- Twin Rivers WMA (Hamilton County)
- Wes Skiles Peacock Springs State Park (Suwannee County)

Easy to grow native plants for home landscapes in the North Central Region



Bring the beauty of native plants home

Natural communities in North Central Florida range from wet prairies to scrub to one of the finest remaining mature hardwood forests in Florida. This may challenge the native gardener to select the right plants for the right place. 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.

Shady average soils



Canopy:

- (1) *Magnolia grandiflora* (Southern magnolia)
- (2) *Quercus michauxii* (swamp chestnut oak)

Understory:

- (3) *Euonymus americanus* (American strawberry-bush)
- (4) *Rhododendron canadense* (pinxter azalea)

Low growing plants:

- (5) *Silphium asteriscus* (starry rosinweed)
- (6) *Spigelia marilandica* (Indian pink)

Sunny wet soils

Canopy:

- (1) *Acer rubrum* (red maple)
- (2) *Quercus austrina* (bluff oak)

Understory:

- (3) *Chionanthus virginicus* (white fringe tree)
- (4) *Amorpha fruticosa* (false indigo)

Low growing plants:

- (5) *Canna flaccida* (Bandana-of-the-Everglades)
- (6) *Iris virginica* (blue flag iris)



Sunny dry soils

Canopy:

- (1) *Quercus shumardii* (Shumard's oak)
- (2) *Ilex x attenuata* (East Palatka holly)

Understory:

- (3) *Serenoa repens* (saw palmetto)
- (4) *Conradina canadensis* (false rosemary)

Low growing plants:

- (5) *Rudbeckia hirta* (black-eyed Susan)
- (6) *Baptisia alba* (white wild indigo)



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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