GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

Maintaining a Native Plant Landscape

Eamonn Leonard – 2019 Fall Native Plant Sale

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!

What are Pollinators

- More than 1,000 of all pollinators are vertebrates such as **birds, bats**, and **small mammals**. Most (more than 200,000 species) are beneficial insects such as **flies**, **beetles**, **wasps**, **ants**, **butterflies**, **moths** and **bees**.
- In the U.S., pollination produces nearly $20 billion worth of products annually.
- **Monarch butterflies** have declined by 90% in the last 20 years.
- 25% of **bumble bees** species are thought to be in serious decline. **Pollinator Partnership**

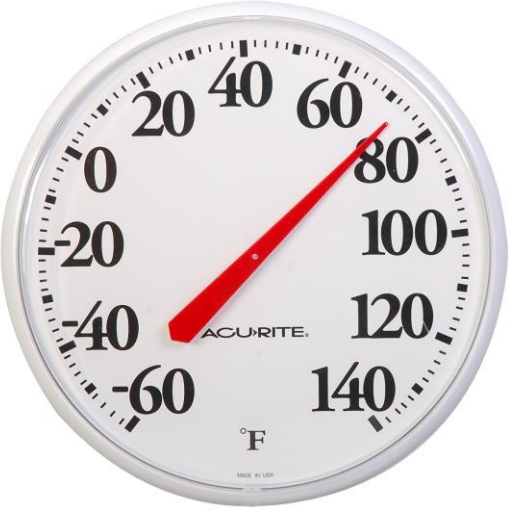
Native plant selection

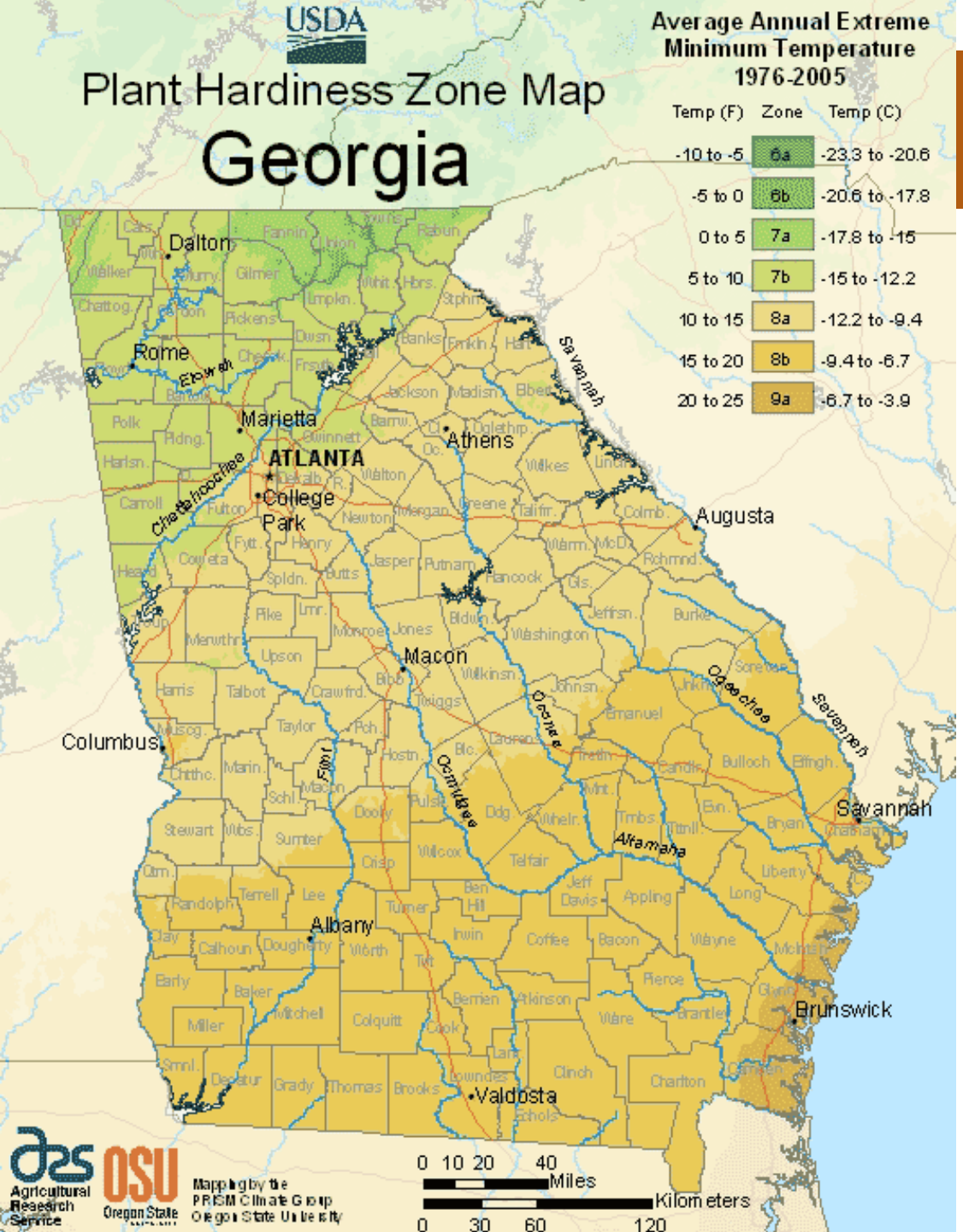
Right Plant, Right Spot

- **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)

Coastal Conditions - Challenges

High Temperatures

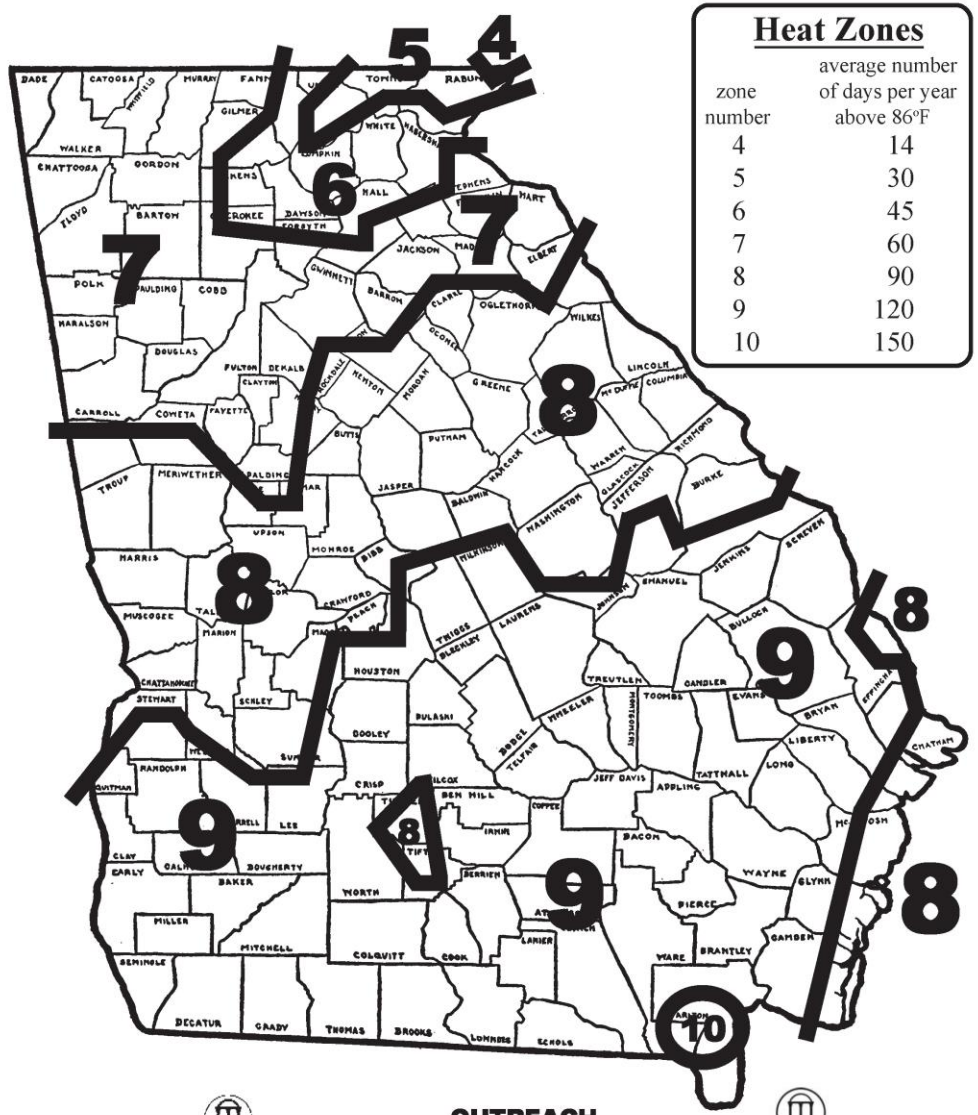




HEAT ZONE MAP OF GEORGIA

by Dr. Kim D. Coder, Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources Feb. 2010

(derived from the *Plant Heat-Zone Map of the United States* produced by the American Horticultural Society, Alexandria, VA. 1997)



Heat Zones

zone number	average number of days per year above 86°F
4	14
5	30
6	45
7	60
8	90
9	120
10	150

The University of Georgia
OUTREACH PUBLICATION WSFNR10-7
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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
  - March 30th and Sept. 21st – 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**
    debshep@darientel.net
  - **Southern Native Plantings**
    1549 Pryor Rd, Newington, GA 30446
    912-857-4571 912-857-4571
    www.southernnativeplantings.com
  - **Lazy K Nursery**
    info@lazyknursery.com

- Mail Order
  - **Ernst Seeds**
    1-800-873-3321
    www.ernstseed.com
  - **RoundStone Native See**
    1-888-531-2353
    http://roundstoneseed.cc
  - **Florida Wildflower Grov Cooperative**
    http://floridawildflowers.
  - **Mail Order Natives**
    www.mailordernatives.con
- Georgia Native Plant
  - http://botgarden.uga native-plant-initiative
- How local do you nee
  - How native is it? Che 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**

General Maintenance Guidelines

- **Litter – leave as much as possible**
  - **Improves soil composition, water holding and infiltration, provides cover for insects.**

- **Pruning**
  - **Shrubs**
    - **Maximize inherent character**
      - **Unless you are using as a formal hedging**
    - **Don't prune at the wrong time of year**
      - **Removing flowers or preventing fruit/berry set.**
  - **Herbaceous**
    - **Leave seeds and standing dead material**
    - **Don't disturb Bees and other overwintering wildlife.**
    - **Wait till February to cut back**
    - **Dead head to encourage repeat blooms**
    - **Remove seeds of more aggressive species**
    - **Prune to enhance shape (mainly Aster and Mint family)**
      - **Timing important in order to still get flowers.**

Herbaceous – year round, mostly

Dune Sunflower
Helianthus debilis

- Salt spray tolerant
- Blooms until hard frost.
- Mounding spreading habit.
- Deer will eat this plant
- Grows in dry sandy soils
- Short lived perennial but re-seeds
- Can be trimmed back to keep in bounds and freshen appearance

Native to coastal areas from NC to FL & Texas this tough annual / weak perennial will often have flowers year round. Will re-seed freely if parent plant is hit by a frost. Can be cut back if becomes too woody or to allow seedlings to regenerate. Grows in a mounding habit and will spread several feet in all directions while only growing 2 feet tall. Can be cut back during growing season to keep in bounds.

Annual / Perennial - Grows 2 tall up to 6 ft. wide - Found in beaches, and disturbed sandy coastal areas.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Flowering Time

Herbaceous – year round, mostly

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

Coastal WildScapes

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.

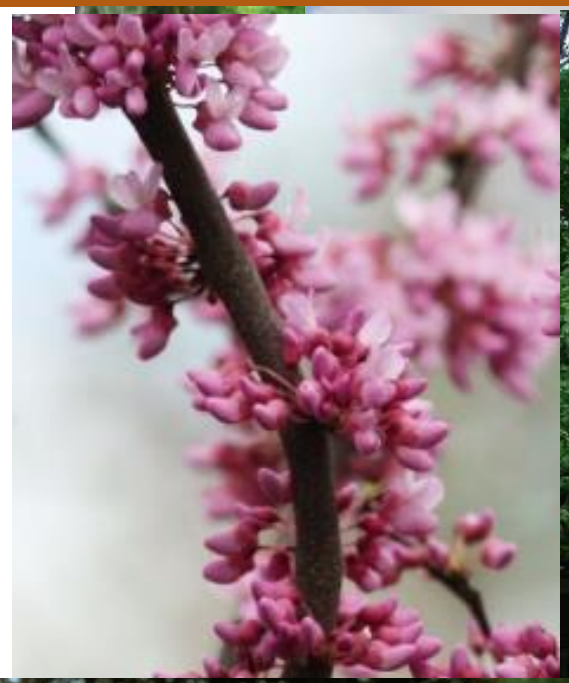
- **Perennial** - **Grows 2 feet** - **Found in open woods, forest edges**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Flowering Time

Trees – Spring Flowers

- Red buckeye *(Aesculus pavia)*
  - *12-15' tall*
  - *Deciduous*
  - *Attracts hummingbirds*
- Hercules club *(Zanthoxylum clava-herculis)*
  - *15-30'*
  - *Deciduous*
  - *Attracts bees and butterflies*
- Eastern Redbud *(Cercis canadensis) early*
  - *15-30'*
  - *Deciduous*
  - *Attracts birds and bees*
- Two wing silverbell (*Halesia diptera)*
  - *15-20'*
  - *Deciduous*



Shrub – Spring Flowers

- Walter's viburnum *(Viburnum obovatum)*
  - *10-20' tall (various cultivars, dwarf, hedging, specimen)*
  - *Semi – deciduous, Sun to part shade*
  - *Provides cover and fruit for birds and other wildlife*
- Georgia Basil *(Calamintha georgiana)*
  - *1-2 ft tall and wide*
  - *Evergreen, full sun*
  - *Mint Family (deer resistant), sandy soils*
  - *Attracts many pollinators*
- Swamp Dogwood *(Cornus foemina)*
  - *Up to 20'*
  - *Deciduous, part shade*
  - *Attracts butterflies (larval host to Summer Azure)*
  - *Wet moist soils, adaptable to drier sites*

Herbaceous – Spring

- Drought tolerant
- Showy flower spikes up to 4ft tall
- Blue-gray foliage
- Larval host (wild indigo duskywing and Zarucco duskywing butterflies)
- Grows in dry sandy soils
- Long-lived Perennial

White Wild Indigo

Baptisia alba

So called because the species in this genus are used to produce a blue dye. This plant has velvet-like leaves contrasting with bluish-grey stems that become black in the fall. White flowers are held in clusters on erect stems. Black seedpods form and often stay on the plant through winter. This plant is also a host plant to some butterfly and moth species.

- **Perennial** - **Grows 2-4 feet** - **Found in prairies, open woods**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

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**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Flowering Time

Herbaceous – Summer

- 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

Coral Bean

Erythrina herbacea

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**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Flowering Time

Herbaceous – Summer

- Some salt spray tolerance
- Blooms until hard frost
- Dead heading help re-blooming
- Moderate deer resistance
- Grows in dry sandy soils
- Short- live Perennial but re-seeds

Indian Blanket

Gaillardia pulchella

A popular choice, Indian blanket is a splash of red and yellow. It likes it dry, but can take moist soil. This plant can be a perennial in warm, coastal areas. Blooming can also go on past the summer if given adequate water. It reseeds readily, with fall seedlings able to grow taproots before frost hits.

- **Annual/Perennial** - **Grows 2 feet** - **Found in dry plains, prairies, meadows**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Flowering Time

Herbaceous – Summer

- Drought tolerance & some salt tolerance
- Unique flower (sculptural)
- Great pollinator plant
- Moderate deer resistance
- Grows in dry sandy soils and moist soils
- Long-lived Perennial

Rattlesnake Master

Eryngium yuccifolium

This plant, a member of the carrot family, has thick, blue-green leaves. These same leaves are also spiny, which discourages herbivores. Flower stems bear 1-inch thistle-like, green-white flowers in clusters. This plant got its name because it was once thought to be a treatment for rattlesnake bites.

- **Perennial** - **Grows 2-5 feet** - **Found in prairies, glades, savannahs**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Flowering Time

Herbaceous – Summer

- 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

Spotted Beebalm

Monarda punctata

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**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

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

Big Blue Sage

Salvia azurea

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**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Flowering Time

Herbaceous – Fall flowers

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

Coastal WildScapes

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**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Flowering Time

Herbaceous – Fall flowers

- Salt spray resistant
- Nectar - food source for migrating monarch butterflies, native and honey bees, and other pollinators
- Insect galls a food source for winter birds
- Pruning a couple times will help give a bushier habit (May – July)
- Remove seed heads before set seed to control spread
- Wide adaptability.
- Not favored by deer

Coastal WildScapes

Seaside Goldenrod

Solidago sempervirens

This plant is resistant to salt, and unlike other goldenrod, does not spread by rhizomes. Flowers are golden yellow on slender, arching stalks, and are a primary food source for migrating monarchs. Leaves are evergreen, sticking around through winter. Contrary to the common misconception, it is ragweed not goldenrods that cause allergies. An early summer pruning will cause the stems to branch and give a bushier habit.

- **Perennial** - **Grows 3-6 feet** - **Found in roadsides, marshes, beach dunes**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Flowering Time

Shrub – Fall interest

- 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.

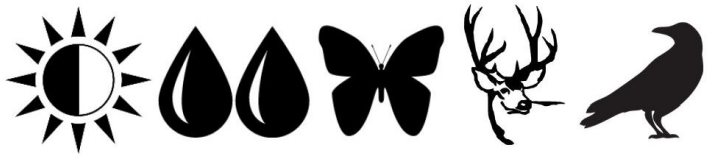
Coastal WildScapes

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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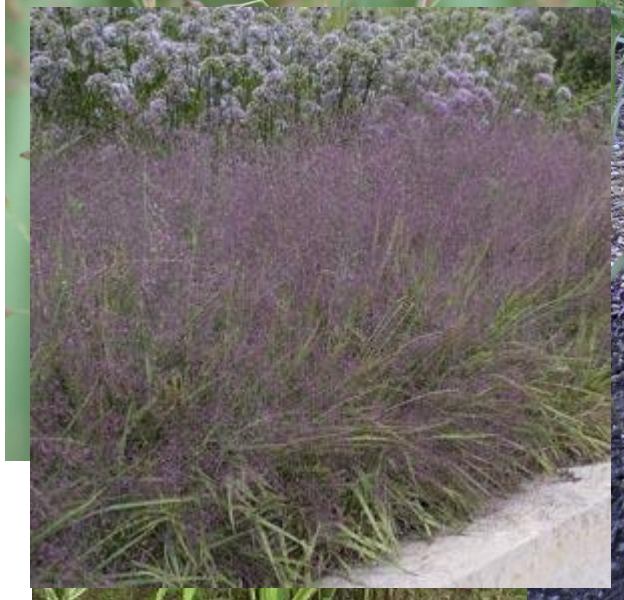
Flowering Time

Fall / Winter - Grasses

- Little Bluestem *(Schizachyrium scoparium)*
  - *Tall clump forming / Blue gray foliage*
  - *Deer tolerant*
- River Oats *(Chasmanthium latifolium)*
  - *Evergreen*
  - *Showy Oat-like seed (can remove to prevent re-seeding) – late May through Fall*
- Pink Muhly *(Muhlenbergia capillaris)*
  - *Tough native grass*
  - *Flowers in Fall*
- Switch Grass *(Panicum virgatum)*
  - *Tall clump forming*
  - *Fall flowering*
- Purple lovegrass *(Eragrostis spectabilis)*
  - *Fall flowering*
  - *Good nesting material for birds / cover*



Native Flowering Vines

- Coral Honeysuckle *(Lonicera sempervirens)*
  - *Evergreen*
  - *Flowers attract hummingbirds*
  - *Deer tolerant*
- *Carolina jessamine (Gelsemium sempervirens)*
  - *Evergreen*
  - *Early flowering*
  - *Deer tolerant*
- Butterfly pea *(Centrosema virginianum)*
  - *Tough native vine*
  - *Flowers attract butterflies late summer*
- Climbing aster *(Ampelaster carolinianus)*
  - *Fall flowering*
  - *Attracts butterflies*

Native Flowering Vines

- American wisteria *(Wisteria frutescens)*
  - *Less aggressive 20-30'*
  - *Attractive to butterflies*
  - *Deer tolerant*
- Virgin's bower *(Clematis virginiana)*
  - *Less aggressive 15-20'*
  - *White flowers in Summer*
- Passion vine *(Passiflora incarnata)*
  - *Can be locally aggressive up to 25' – root suckers*
  - *Great pollinator plant & Butterfly host plant*
  - *Fruit Birds*

Native Hibiscus

- Various sizes and flower color.
- Spring, mostly summer flowers.
- Attract Hummingbirds
- Native to moist soils but adaptable
- Some are salt water and salt spray tolerant
- Deer will eat them unfortunately

Coastal WildScapes

Seashore Mallow

Kosteletzkya virginica

This hairy perennial grows like a branched shrub and produces light pink flowers 2 inches wide with yellow stamens. Flowers will close at night. Leaves are triangular with triangular lobes at the base. This plant reaches its mature height at 5 years of age, but this also signals the end of its life.

- Perennial - Grows 3-5 ft. - Found in brackish marshes, swamps, coastal plains

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Flowering Time

Native Shrub for hedging

- Devilwood *(Osmanthus americanus)*
  - *15-30'*
  - *Evergreen*
- Yaupon *(Ilex vomitoria)*
  - *12-45' tall depending on cultivar*
  - *Evergreen*
  - *Attracts mammals, birds and bees*
- Horse sugar *(Symplocos tinctoria)*
  - *Up to 18' tall*
  - *Evergreen*
  - *Interesting flowers (pollinators and birds)*
- Yellow anise *(Illicium parviflorum)*
  - *15-20' tall and wide*
  - *Evergreen*
  - *Rugged easy to hedge*

Trees – Fall Color

- Red maple *(Acer rubrum)*
  - *40-60' tall – various cultivars*
  - *Deciduous*
  - *Attracts hummingbirds*
- Black tupelo *(Nyssa sylvatica)*
  - *30-60' tall*
  - *Deciduous*
  - *Honey Tree*
- Florida Sugar maple*(Acer barbatum)*
  - *20-25' tall*
  - *Deciduous*
  - *Yellow fall color*
- Persimon *(Diospyros virginiana)*
  - *12-15' old fields – up to 100' moist soils.*
  - *Deciduous*
  - *Fruit attractive to wildlife*

Questions? eamonn.leonard@dnr.ga.gov