

LANDSCAPING WITH
NATIVE PLANTS IN THE

GEORGIA
COASTAL PLAIN

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COASTAL PLAIN ECOREGION

- This ecoregion encompasses more land than any other ecoregion in the state.
- It is characterized by mostly sandy loamy soils.
- It is relatively flat with subtle changes in elevation making a difference between upland and lowland areas.
- The driest months tend to be April and October.
- Plant communities are defined primarily by soil moisture and fire frequency.

WHAT ARE NATIVE PLANTS?

- **Native plants** are species that grow naturally in this region and are adapted to local physical and biological conditions, and to frequent fires. They have co-evolved over time with other organisms of the region.
- **Cultivars of native plants** have been selectively bred. Because they have diminished genetic diversity, they are more susceptible to disease and less capable of supporting wildlife.

WHAT ARE INVASIVE PLANTS?

- **Invasive plants** are not native to a given ecosystem and are likely to cause environmental harm.
- They tend to out-compete native species because they have no natural predators, diseases, or competitors.
- They have much less value to native pollinators, birds, and other wildlife than native plants.

BENEFITS OF NATIVE PLANTS

- Native plants promote biodiversity and foster appreciation for our natural communities.
- They provide habitat for all types of wildlife, satisfying their needs for food, shelter, health, and reproduction.
- After establishment, they require less landscape and garden maintenance.

USING NATIVE PLANTS

- Coastal Plain planting zones are 7-9, with suggested planting between October and February.
- Visit natural areas near where you live and observe which plants are growing together. Create similar plant communities in your garden.
- Match plants with the right soil, moisture, and light conditions.
- Plant only nursery-propagated plant material.
- Provide initial care the first year, as for any newly planted landscape plants.

PROTECTING NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES

- Learn about and protect native plants and their natural communities.
- **Do not** remove plants from the wild unless participating in a legitimate and authorized “plant rescue” program.
- Remove invasive plants where possible as soon as possible.
- **Do not** plant invasive species, no matter how pretty they are.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

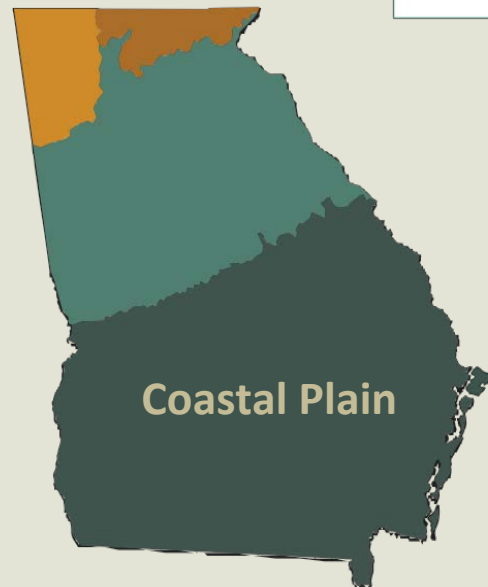
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GEORGIA
REGIONS

- Ridge and Valley
- Blue Ridge Mountains
- Piedmont
- Coastal Plain



Asclepias tuberosa
Butterfly weed

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NATIVE PLANTS

FOR THE

GEORGIA COASTAL PLAIN

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Light
F = full sunlight
P = partial shade
S = shade

Soil Moisture
H = hydric; wet, plants periodically or often inundated
M = mesic; moist, adequate soil moisture retention year round
S = sub-xeric to sub-mesic; dry to moist, periodically droughty
X = xeric; dry & frequently droughty, excessively well-drained

Benefits
(B)-Birds, **(P)**-Pollinators, **(W)** – Other Wildlife **(H)** – Host Plant
E = Evergreen
D = Deciduous

TREES

Scientific Name	Common Name	Light				Moisture				E	D	BENEFITS
		F	P	S	H	M	S	X				
<i>Acer barbatum</i>	Southern sugar maple		X	X			X	X	X			BPWH
<i>Benthamidia florida</i>	Flowering dogwood	X	X		X	X	X				X	BPWH
<i>Cartrema americana</i>	Wild olive, devilwood	X	X	X			X	X			X	BPW
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	BPWH
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringetree	X	X				X	X			X	BPWH
<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>	Black titi	X	X		X						X	BPW
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon	X	X		X	X	X				X	BPWH
<i>Halesia species</i>	Native to CP only	X	X		X	X					X	BPH
<i>Ilex cassine</i>	Dahoon holly	X	X		X	X					X	BPW
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American holly	X	X	X		X						BPWH
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Southern red cedar	X	X					X		X		BPWH
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum		X				X				X	PB
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Yellow poplar	X	X	X		X					X	BPW
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	Southern magnolia		X	X	X	X					X	BPW
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay magnolia	X	X		X	X				X	X	BPWH
<i>Nyssa species</i>	Native to CP only	X	X	X	X						X	BPW
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black cherry	X	X	X		X	X				X	BPWH
<i>Quercus laevis</i>	Turkey oak	X	X			X	X	X			X	BPWH
<i>Quercus minima</i>	Dwarf live oak	X	X				X	X		X		BPW
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Live oak	X	X	X			X	X			X	BPW
<i>Salix species</i>	Native to CP only	V	A	R	I	E	S					BPWH
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras	X	X					X			X	BPH
<i>Styrax americanus</i>	American snowbell		X	X	X	X					X	BPWH
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald cypress	X	X		X	X					X	BPWH

SHRUBS

Scientific Name	Common Name	Light				Moisture				E	D	BENEFITS
		F	P	S	H	M	S	X				
<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	Bottlebrush buckeye	X	X	X	X	X						BPWH
<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	Red buckeye		X	X	X	X						BPWH
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red chokeberry	X	X		X					X		BPW
<i>Asimina species</i>	Native to CP only	V	A	R	I	E	S				X	BPW
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	American beautyberry	X	X					X			X	BPW
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush		X	X	X	X					X	BPWH
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet pepperbush	X	X		X						X	BP
<i>Crataegus species</i>	Native to CP only	V	A	R	I	E	S				X	BPWH
<i>Euonymus americanus</i>	Hearts-a-bursting	X	X		X	X	X				X	BPWH
<i>Hydrangea species</i>	Native to CP only	V	A	R	I	E	S				X	PWH
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Possumhaw		X	X	X	X					X	BPWH
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry	X	X		X	X					X	BPWH
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Yaupon holly	X	X	X	X	X				X		BPWH
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia sweetspire		X		X	X					X	BPW
<i>Lyonia species</i>	Native to CP only	V	A	R	I	E	S					PW
<i>Morella cerifera</i>	Wax myrtle	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	BPWH
<i>Prunus species</i>	Native plums	X	X			X	X				X	BPWH
<i>Rhododendron species</i>	Native azaleas	V	A	R	I	E	S					BPH
<i>Rhus species</i>	Native sumacs	X	X			X	X				X	BPWH
<i>Sabal minor</i>	Dwarf palmetto	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	BPWH
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Elderberry		X	X	X	X	X				X	BPW
<i>Serenoa repens</i>	Saw palmetto	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			BPWH
<i>Vaccinium species</i>	Native to CP only	V	A	R	I	E	S					BPWH
<i>Viburnum species</i>	Native to CP only	V	A	R	I	E	S					BPWH
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	Adam's needle	X				X	X	X	X			BPWH
<i>Zamia pumila</i>	Coontie	X	X				X	X	X			BPWH

VINES

Scientific Name	Common Name	Light				Moisture				E	D	BENEFITS
		F	P	S	H	M	S	X				
<i>Apios americana</i>	Groundnut			X	X	X						BPWH
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Cross vine	X	X			X	X			X		BPWH
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	Trumpet vine	X	X		X	X	X			X		BPWH
<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	Yellow jessamine	X	X		X	X				X		BPW
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Coral honeysuckle	X	X			X	X			X		BPWH
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Passionflower	X	X			X	X			X		BPH
<i>Wisteria frutescens</i>	American wisteria	X	X		X	X				X		BPH

FERNS

Scientific Name	Common Name	Light				Moisture				E	D	BENEFITS
		F	P	S	H	M	S	X				
<i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i>	Cinnamon fern	X	X	X	X	X					X	B
<i>Osmunda spectabilis</i>	Royal fern	X	X	X	X	X					X	BW
<i>Pleopeltis polypodioides</i>	Resurrection fern		X	X		X	X	X	X			BW
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas fern		X	X		X					X	BW
<i>Thelypteris kunthii</i>	Southern shield fern		X	X		X					X	

FORBS

Scientific Name	Common Name	Light				Moisture				E	D	BENEFITS
		F	P	S	H	M	S	X				
<i>Amsonia species</i>	Native to CP only	V	A	R	I	E	S					BPW
<i>Asclepias species</i>	Native to CP only	V	A	R	I	E	S					BPH
<i>Baptisia species</i>	Native to CP only	X	X			X	X					BPWH
<i>Centrosema virginianum</i>	Spurred butterfly pea	X	X	X		X	X					BPH
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Blue mistflower	X	X			X						BP
<i>Coreopsis species</i>	Native coreopsis	V	A	R	I	E	S					BPWH
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake-master	X			X	X						BPH
<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	Swamp sunflower	X			X	X						BPWH
<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	Woodland sunflower	X	X				X	X				BPWH
<i>Helioopsis helianthoides</i>	Smooth oxeye	X	X			X	X					BPW
<i>Hibiscus aculeatus</i>	Comfortroot	X	X		X	X						BPWH
<i>H. coccineus</i>	Scarlet rosemallow	X	X		X	X						BPWH
<i>H. grandiflorus</i>	Swamp m	X	X		X	X						BP
<i>H. moscheutos</i>	Crimsoneyed m	X			X							BPWH
<i>Iris verna</i>	Dwarf crested iris		X	X			X					P
<i>Liatris species</i>	Native to CP only	X	X			X	X					BP
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal flower	X	X		X	X						BPWH
<i>Manfreda virginica</i>	False aloe	X				X	X					PW
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Spotted beebalm	X	X			X						BPWH
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Blue phlox		X			X						BPW
<i>Rudbeckia species</i>	Native to CP only	V	A	R	I	E	S					BPWH
<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	Scarlet sage	X	X	X	X	X	X					BP
<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	Lyre-leaf sage	X	X	X		X	X					BP
<i>Saururus cernuus</i>	Lizard's tail	X	X		X							PWH
<i>Silphium species</i>	Native to CP only	X	X	X		X	X					BPW
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	Blue-eyed grass	X			X	X						P
<i>Solidago species</i>	Native to CP only	X	X			X	X					BPWH
<i>Symphoricarum species</i>	Native to CP only	V	A	R	I	E	S					BPWH
<i>Tephrosia virginiana</i>	Goat's rue	X	X	X		X	X	X				BPWH
<i>Vernonia species</i>	Native to CP only	V	A	R	I	E	S					BPWH
<i>Zephyranthes atamasca</i>	Atamasco lily	X	X		X							PW
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden alexanders	X	X	X		X						BPWH

GRASSES

Scientific Name	Common Name	Light				Moisture				E	D	BENEFITS
		F	P	S	H	M	S	X				
<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>	Bushy bluestem	X			X	X						BW
<i>Andropogon ternarius</i>	Splitbeard bluestem	X	X				X	X				BW
<i>Aristida beyrichiana</i>	Southern wiregrass	X	X				X	X				B
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	River oats	X	X	X		X	X					BPWH
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia rye grass	X			X	X						PWH
<i>Eragrostis elliottii</i>	Field lovegrass	X			X	X						BPH
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	Purple lovegrass	X			X	X	X					BPWH
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Common rush	X			X	X						B
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	Muhly grass (sweet grass)	X			X	X						BPWH
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	X				X						BPWH
<i>Saccharum giganteum</i>	Sugarcane plume grass	X			X	X						BPH
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem	X	X			X	X					BPH
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Yellow indiagrass	X			X	X						BPWH
<i>Tridens flavus</i>	Purpletop		X			X	X					BPWH