The Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden Native Plant Garden is designed to educate and interest visitors in some of the many wonderful plant species native to southeast Georgia. There are many reasons to treasure native plants and consider them as an important part of home gardens:

- Native plants are inherently well adapted to local soil, temperature and climate conditions.
- They tend to be relatively easy to grow and require fewer inputs, which reduces work and costs to the gardener.
- Fewer inputs lowers the possibility of harmful environmental impacts.
- Using native plants avoids the use of foreign species that may be invasive and/or harbor diseases for which native plants have no resistance.
- Introducing and expanding native plants promotes biodiversity.
- Birds, bees, butterflies and other animals that depend on native plants are more likely to flourish.
- Native plants greatly widen the choices available to gardeners, including beautiful ornamentals, trees, shrubs, ferns, herbs, grasses, ground covers and fruits. There are literally hundreds of native plants suitable for gardens in the Georgia coastal plain region.

This guide will help you identify the plants you see in the Native Plant Garden, as well as providing basic facts about each plant. The Garden continues to evolve, so you may not find all the plants in this guide in the Garden. We have also provided a list of other native plants not currently present in the Native Plant Garden that are well suited to the local environment.

We hope you will enjoy your time in the Native Garden and perhaps be inspired to include native plants in your own garden.
American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)
Duration: Perennial  Zone: 6 to 10  
Habit: Deciduous shrub  
Height: 3.0 to 6.0 feet  
Spread: 3.0 to 6.0 feet  
Bloom: June-August  
Bloom color: Lavender, pink  
Fruit color: Purple  
Light need: Sun to part shade  
Water use: Medium  
Uses: Shrub border  
Flower: Insignificant  
Attracts: Birds  
Problems: No serious problems  
Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
Photo: John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
American holly (*Ilex opaca*)
Duration: Perennial  Zone: 5 to 9
Habit: Broadleaf evergreen tree
Height: 15 to 30 feet
Spread: 10 to 20 feet
Bloom: May
Bloom color: Creamy white
Fruit color: Red
Light need: Sun to part shade
Water use: Medium
Uses: Ornamental; specimen plant
Flower: Insignificant
Attracts: Birds; small mammals; butterflies
Problems: Insect problems include holly leaf miner, spider mites, whitefly and scale. Diseases include leaf spot, leaf rot, tar spot and powdery mildew
Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
Photo: John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Bottlebrush buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*)
Duration: Perennial  Zone: 4 to 8
Habit: Deciduous shrub
Height: 6 to 12 feet
Spread: 8 to 15 feet
Bloom: June-July
Bloom color: White
Fruit color: N/A
Light need: Part shade
Water use: Medium
Uses: Borders; specimen plant
Flower: Showy
Attracts: Hummingbirds; butterflies
Problems: Susceptible to leaf scorch
Sources: University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; Missouri Botanical Garden
Photo: Richard Webb, bugwood.org
Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
Duration: Perennial Zone: 2 to 9
Habit: Needled evergreen
Height: 30 to 65 feet
Spread: 8 to 25 feet
Bloom: Non-flowering
Bloom color: N/A
Fruit color: N/A
Light need: Full sun
Water use: Dry to medium
Uses: Borders; specimen plant
Flower: N/A
Attracts: Birds
Problems: No serious disease or insect problems. Potential issues are cedar apple rust, twig blight, scale, bagworms, mites
Sources: University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; Missouri Botanical Garden
Photo: Michasia Dowdy, University of Georgia, bugwwod.org

Flatwood plum (*Prunus umbellata*)
Duration: Perennial Zone: 8a to 9b
Habit: Deciduous tree
Height: 12 to 20 feet
Spread: 12 to 20 feet
Bloom: March to April
Bloom color: White, cream/tan
Fruit color: Black
Light need: Shade to part shade
Water use: Low
Uses: Accent, flowering tree, edible fruit
Flower: Showy
Attracts: Butterflies, bees, songbirds, pollinators, small mammals
Problems: No serious disease or insect problems. Potential issues are cedar apple rust, twig blight, scale, bagworms, mites
Sources: University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; North Carolina State Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox; Florida Native Plant Society
Photo: John Ruter Dowdy, University of Georgia, bugwwod.org
Loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*)
Duration: Perennial  Zone: 7b to 9a
Habit: Evergreen tree
Height: 30 to 60 feet
Spread: 10 feet to 15 feet
Bloom: May-November
Bloom color: White
Fruit color: Brown/copper
Light need: Sun
Water use: High
Uses: Slender, showy evergreen; privacy
Flower: Conspicuous, very fragrant
Attracts: Deer; hummingbirds, butterflies
Problems: Not drought tolerant; needs dry, sandy soil
Sources: University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; North Carolina State Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox
Photo: John Ruter, University of Georgia, bugwood.org

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)
Duration: Perennial  Zone: 4 to 9
Habit: Deciduous tree
Height: 15 to 25 feet
Spread: 15 to 25 feet
Bloom: March-April
Bloom color: White
Fruit color: Red to purple
Light need: Sun to part shade
Water use: Medium
Uses: Flowering tree
Flower: Showy, fragrant
Attracts: Birds
Problems: No serious problems; fire blight, powdery mildew, sawfly, leaf miner, borers and scale are occasional problems
Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
Photo: John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Small-Leaf Arrowwood (*Viburnum obovatum*)
Duration: Perennial     Zone: 4 to 9
Habit: Evergreen shrub
Height: 10.0 to 12.0 feet
Spread:  10.0 to 12.0 feet
Bloom: March-April
Bloom color: White
Fruit color: Blue-black
Light need: Sun to part shade
Water use: Medium to wet
Uses: Hedges
Flower: Showy
Attracts: Butterflies
Problems: No serious disease or insect problems
Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden
Photo: Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*)
Duration: Perennial     Zone: 7a to 9b
Habit: Deciduous tree
Height: 12 to 36 feet
Spread: 4 to 10 feet
Bloom: March to June
Bloom color: White
Fruit color: Blue
Light need: Part shade
Water use: Medium
Uses: Ornamental fruits; aromatic
Flower: Conspicuous
Attracts: Fruit eating birds and mammals; butterflies; bees
Sources: University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: gardenia.net
Photo: Karen A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Stoke’s aster (*Stokesia laevis*)
Duration: Herbaceous perennial  
Zone: 5 to 9  
Habit: Shrub  
Height: 1.0 to 2.0 feet  
Spread: 1 to 1.50 feet  
Bloom: May-July  
Bloom color: Blue  
Fruit color: N/A  
Light need: Sun  
Water use: Medium  
Uses: Border fronts or cottage gardens  
Flower: Showy  
Attracts: Bees; butterflies; pollinators  
Problems: No serious insect or disease problems; watch for caterpillars  
Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; North Carolina State Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox  
Photo: Karen A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Dwarf Palmetto Palm (Sabal minor)
Duration: Perennial   Zone: 7 to 10
Habit: Palm (cycad)
Height: 4.0 to 6.0 feet
Spread: 4.0 to 6.0 feet
Bloom: June-July
Bloom color: Yellowish-white
Fruit color: Blue
Light need: Sun to part shade
Water use: Medium
Uses: Ornamental; specimen plant
Flower: Showy
Attracts: Fruit eating birds and mammals; nectar eating insects
Problems: No serious problems
Sources: University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; Missouri Botanical Garden
Photo: Charles T. Bryson, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

Saw Palmetto (Serenoa repens)
Duration: Perennial   Zone: 8 to 11
Habit: Palm (cycad)
Height: Up to 15 feet
Spread: Up to 10 feet
Bloom: May-July
Bloom color: White
Fruit color: Blue-black
Light need: Sun to part shade
Water use: Medium
Uses: Specimen plant; mass plantings
Flower: Small, fragrant
Attracts: Provides cover, nesting and forage for more than 100 species
Problems: No serious disease or insect problems
Sources: University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; Saw Palmetto, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Guide; Florida Association of Native Nurseries (fann.org)
Photo: Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Anisescented goldenrod (*Solidago odora*)
- **Duration:** Perennial  
- **Zone:** 4 to 9  
- **Habit:** Herb  
- **Height:** 2.0 to 4.0 feet  
- **Spread:** 1.0 to 2.0 feet  
- **Bloom:** August to September  
- **Bloom color:** Yellow  
- **Fruit color:** N/A  
- **Light need:** Full sun to part shade  
- **Water use:** Dry to medium  
- **Uses:** Herb; naturalize  
- **Flower:** Showy  
- **Attracts:** Butterflies  
- **Problems:** No serious disease or insect problems; rust, powdery mildew and leaf spot may occur  
- **Sources:** Missouri Botanical Garden  
- **Photo:** Juan Campa, MGAP, Bugwood.org

Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
- **Duration:** Annual  
- **Zone:** 4 to 9  
- **Habit:** Ornamental grass  
- **Height:** 4.0 to 6.0 feet  
- **Spread:** 2.0 to 3.0 feet  
- **Bloom:** September to February  
- **Bloom color:** Purplish-red  
- **Fruit color:** N/A  
- **Light need:** Full sun  
- **Water use:** Dry to medium  
- **Uses:** Ground cover; naturalize  
- **Flower:** Insignificant  
- **Attracts:** Butterflies; birds  
- **Problems:** No serious disease or insect problems  
- **Sources:** Missouri Botanical Garden; University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
- **Photo:** Pat Sauer, Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership, Bugwood.org
**Blanket flower (Gaillardia pulchella)**
Duration: Annual  Zone: 2 to 11  
Habit: Herb  
Height: 1.0 to 1.5 feet  
Spread: 0.5 to 1.0 feet  
Bloom: June to frost  
Bloom color: Bicolor with red on yellow  
Fruit color: N/A  
Light need: Full sun  
Water use: Dry to medium  
Uses: Annual for beds and borders; self-seeding  
Flower: Showy  
Attracts: Butterflies; birds  
Problems: No serious disease or insect problems  
Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
Photo: Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

**Dune sunflower (Heliopsis helianthoides)**
Duration: Perennial  Zone: 3 to 9  
Habit: Herb  
Height: 3.0 to 6.0 feet  
Spread: 2.0 to 4.0 feet  
Bloom: June to August  
Bloom color: Orange-yellow rays with dark centers  
Fruit color: N/A  
Light need: Full sun  
Water use: Dry to medium  
Uses: Annual for beds and borders  
Flower: Showy, good cut  
Attracts: Hummingbirds  
Problems: No serious disease or insect problems  
Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
Photo: Dow Garden, Dow Garden, Bugwood.org
**Eastern gamagrass** (*Tripsacum actyloides*)
- **Duration**: Perennial
- **Zone**: 4 to 9
- **Habit**: Grass
- **Height**: 4.0 to 8.0 feet
- **Spread**: 4.0 to 6.0 feet
- **Bloom**: May to September
- **Bloom color**: Purple (female) and orange (male)
- **Fruit color**: N/A
- **Light need**: Full sun to part shade
- **Water use**: Medium
- **Uses**: Ground cover
- **Flower**: Showy
- **Attracts**: Butterflies; deer and birds eat seeds
- **Problems**: No serious disease or insect problems
- **Sources**: Missouri Botanical Garden; University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
- **Photo**: Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

**Florida Mountain Mint** (*Pycnanthemum floridanum*)
- **Duration**: Perennial
- **Zone**: 3 to 9
- **Habit**: Herb
- **Height**: 1.0 to 3.0 feet
- **Spread**: 1.0 to 3.0 feet
- **Bloom**: June-November
- **Bloom color**: White, pink, purple
- **Fruit color**: N/A
- **Light need**: Sun to part shade
- **Water use**: Medium
- **Uses**: Ornamental; tea
- **Flower**: Showy
- **Attracts**: Bees, butterflies, moths
- **Problems**: No serious problems
- **Sources**: University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; Florida Association of Native Nurseries (fann.org); Missouri Botanical Garden
- **Photo**: Katy Chayka, minnesotawildflowers.info, Bugwood.org
Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*)
Duration: Perennial       Zone: 4 to 8
Habit: Herb
Height: 4.0 to 7.0 feet
Spread: 2.0 to 4.0 feet
Bloom: July-September
Bloom color: Dusky rose
Fruit color: N/A
Light need: Sun to part shade
Water use: Medium to wet
Uses: Ornamental; rain garden
Attracts: Butterflies, birds
Problems: No serious problems
Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
Photo: John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Little Buestem (*Andropogon ternarius*)
Duration: Perennial       Zone: 5a to 10a
Habit: Grass
Height: 2.0 to 3.0 feet
Spread: 1.0 to 2.0 feet
Bloom: August to November
Bloom color: Gray/silver; white
Fruit color: Gray/silver
Light need: Full sun to part shade
Water use: Low
Uses: Accent, barrier, border, specimen
Flower: Showy
Attracts: Butterflies; songbirds; small mammals; pollinators
Problems: No serious insect or disease problems
Sources: North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox; University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
Photo: James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, bugwood.org
Lopsided Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*)

Duration: Perennial Zone: 8a to 10b  
Habit: Grass  
Height: 1.0 to 6.0 feet  
Spread: 1.0 foot  
Bloom: Late summer to fall  
Bloom color: Yellow  
Fruit color: Yellow  
Light need: Full sun  
Water use: Needs moist to dry, well drained soil  
Uses: Background for wildflower garden  
Flower: Showy, good cut  
Attracts: Larval host for grass skippers  
Problems: No serious insect or disease problems  
Sources: *Florida Association of Native Nurseries, Florida Wildflower Foundation*  
Photo: James R. Holland, bugwood.org

Mountain azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*)

Duration: Perennial Zone: 5 to 9  
Habit: Shrub  
Height: 6.0 to 15.0 feet  
Spread: 6.0 to 12.0 feet  
Bloom: April  
Bloom color: Pink  
Fruit color:  
Light need: Part shade  
Water use: Medium  
Uses: Hedge, border  
Flower: Showy, fragrant  
Attracts: Butterflies, Hummingbirds, butterflies  
Problems: Susceptible to many insect or disease problems  
Sources: *Missouri Botanical Gardens*  
Photo: Chris Evans, University of Illinois, bugwood.org
Narrow leaf blue eyed grass (*Syrrinchium angustifolium*)

Duration: Perennial          Zone: 4 to 9  
Habit: Ground cover, grass  
Height: 1.5 to 2 feet   
Spread: 0.5 to 1.0 feet  
Bloom: May to June  
Bloom color: Blue  
Fruit color: Small black seed pods  
Light need: Full sun to part shade  
Water use: Medium  
Uses: Ground cover  
Flower: Showy, good cut  
Attracts: Seed eating birds; bees  
Problems: No serious insect or disease problems

*Source: Missouri Botanical Garden; Florida Wildlife Foundation*

*Photo: Vern Wilkins, Indiana University, bugwood.org*

Pink muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)

Duration: Perennial          Zone: 5 to 9  
Habit: Grass  
Height: 2.0 to 3.0 feet  
Spread: 2.0 to 3.0 feet  
Bloom: September to November  
Bloom color: Pink  
Fruit color: N/A  
Light need: Full sun to part shade  
Water use: Dry to medium  
Uses: Ground cover, specimen  
Flower: Showy  
Attracts: Provides seeds for songbirds and small mammals  
Problems: No serious insect or disease problems

*Source: Missouri Botanical Garden; North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox*

*Photo: John Ruter, University of Georgia, bugwood.org*
**Purpletop tridens (Tridens flavus)**

Duration: Perennial  
Zone: 4a to 9a  
Habit: Grass  
Height: 2.5 to 7 feet  
Spread: 1.0 to 3.0 feet  
Bloom: August to November  
Bloom color: Purple  
Fruit color: Brown  
Light need: Part shade  
Water use: Low  
Uses: Ground cover  
Flower: Showy, good cut  
Attracts: Butterflies; pollinators; songbirds  
Problems: No serious insect or disease problems  
Source: University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox; Encyclopedia of Life (eol.org)  
Photo: James H. Mill and Ted Bodner, Southern Weed Science Society, bugwood.org

**Rattlesnake master (Eryngium yuccifolium)**

Duration: Perennial  
Zone: 3 to 8  
Habit: Herb  
Height: 4.0 to 5.0 feet  
Spread: 1.0 to 3.0 feet  
Bloom: June to September  
Bloom color: Greenish-white  
Fruit color: N/A  
Light need: Full sun  
Water use: Dry to medium  
Uses: Rock gardens, borders  
Flower: Showy  
Attracts: Bees  
Problems: No serious insect or disease problems  
Source: University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; Missouri Botanical Garden  
Photo: John Ruter, University of Georgia, bugwood.org
River oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*)

Duration: Perennial  
Zone: 3 to 8  
Habit: Ornamental grass  
Height: 2.0 to 5.0 feet  
Spread: 1.0 to 2.5 feet  
Bloom: August-September  
Bloom color: Green  
Fruit color: N/A  
Light need: Sun to part shade  
Water use: Medium to wet  
Uses: Naturalize  
Flower: Showy; good cut and dried  
Attracts: Birds  
Problems: No serious problems  
Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
Photo: John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Scarlet Sage (*Salvia coccinea*)

Duration: Annual or perennial  
Zone: Annual 4 to 10; perennial 9 to 10  
Habit: Herb  
Height: 1.0 to 3.0 feet  
Spread: 1.0 to 2.0 feet  
Bloom: February-October  
Bloom color: White, red, pink  
Fruit color: Flat, brown, drooping seed heads in terminal clusters  
Light need: Sun to shade  
Water use: Medium  
Uses: Ornamental  
Flower: Showy  
Attracts: Hummingbirds, butterflies  
Problems: No serious disease or insect problems  
Sources: University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; gardenia.net; North Carolina State Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox  
Photo: Forest and Kim Starr, Starr Environmental, Bugwood.org
Southern wood fern (*Dryopteris ludoviciana*)
Duration: Perennial    Zone: 6 to 10
Habit: Fern
Height: 3.0 to 4.0 feet
Spread: 2.0 to 3.0 feet
Bloom: N/A
Bloom color: N/A
Fruit color: N/A
Light need: Part shade to shade
Water use: Medium to high
Uses: Ground cover, beds, borders
Flower: Showy
Attracts:  
Problems: No serious disease or insect problems
Sources: University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; gardenia.net; North Carolina State Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox
Photo: John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Spotted bee balm (*Monarda punctata*)
Duration: Perennial    Zone: 3a to 8a
Habit: Herb
Height: 1.0 to 2.0 feet
Spread: 1.0 foot
Bloom: April to August
Bloom color: Yellow; may be white or green
Fruit color: Brown nuts
Light need: Sun
Water use: Low
Uses: Ground cover, beds, borders
Flower: Showy, fragrant
Attracts: Butterflies, bees, hummingbirds
Problems: Powdery mildew and rust after flowering
Sources: University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; gardenia.net; North Carolina State Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox
Photo: Karan A, Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
**White wild indigo (Baptisia alba)**

Duration: Perennial  
Zone: 5 to 8  
Habit: Herb  
Height: 2.0 to 3.0 feet  
Spread: 2.0 to 2.5 feet  
Bloom: April-July  
Bloom color: White  
Fruit color: Green turning to black  
Light need: Sun  
Water use: Medium  
Uses: Ornamental (not edible)  
Flower: Showy, good dried  
Attracts: Bumblebees, butterflies  
Problems: No serious problems  
Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
Photo: John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

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**Tall Ironweed (Vernonia angustifolia)**

Duration: Perennial  
Zone: 7b to 9a  
Habit: Herb  
Height: 2.0 to 4.0 feet  
Spread: 1.0 to 2.0 feet  
Bloom: June-August  
Bloom color: Purple  
Fruit color: N/A  
Light need: Sun to light shade  
Water use: Low  
Uses: Beds and borders  
Flower: Showy  
Attracts: Butterflies; hummingbirds  
Problems: No serious disease or insect problems  
Sources: University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; gardenia.net; North Carolina State Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox  
Photo: Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Other Native Plants
Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
Bluestar (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*)
Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
Flatwoods Palm (*Prunis umbellate*)
Georgia savory (*Clinopodium georgianum*)
Laural Oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*)
Oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)
Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*)
Pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*)
Purple passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*)
Scarlet rosemallow (*Hibiscus coccineus*)
Sour gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*)
Swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*)
Sweet bay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)
Trailing phlox (*Phlox nivalis*)
Wrinkleleaf goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*)
Yellow anise tree (*Illicium parviflorum*)

A note on sources

All information about the plants was taken directly from the cited sources. Readers are encouraged to visit these valuable sources for further information about the planting and care of the plants included in this brochure. 17 of the above "Other Native Plants" were identified as suitable for southeast Georgia by Alana Edwards, Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, Chatham County, in her poster, *Native Plants for Coastal Georgia Landscapes*

This publication was prepared by Maurice Middleberg, MGEV, under the supervision of Shane Sexton, CGBG Grounds Foreman.