

University of Georgia Extension

Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens

Native Plant Garden

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.



Trees and Shrubs

Adam's needle (*Yucca filamentosa*)

Duration: Perennial Zone: 5 to 10
Habit: Shrub
Height: 4.0 to 8.0 feet
Spread: 2.0 to 3.0 feet
Bloom: June-July
Bloom color: Creamy white
Fruit color: Green, brown
Light need: Full sun
Water use: Dry to medium
Uses: Ground cover
Flower: Showy
Attracts: Butterflies; hummingbirds
Problems: Leaf spot or blight where drainage is poor
Sources: *Missouri Botanical Garden; North Carolina State*
Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox
Photo: *Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia,*
Bugwood.org



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

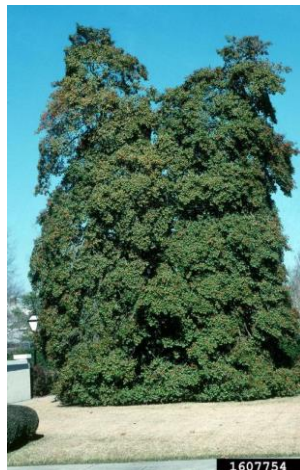
Flower: Insignificant

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

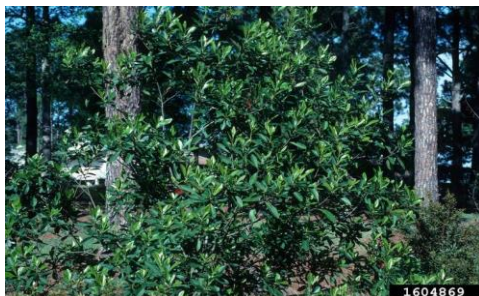
Problems: Not drought tolerant; needs dry, sandy soil

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*



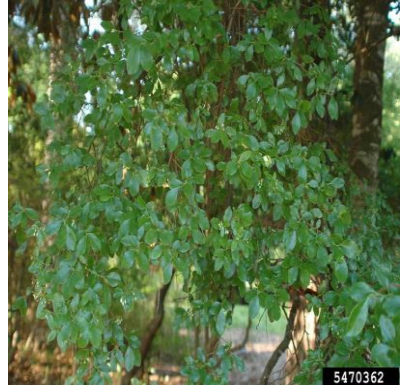
Small-Leaf Arrowwood (*Viburnum obovatum*)

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*



Palms

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



Ornamentals, Herbs and Grasses

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



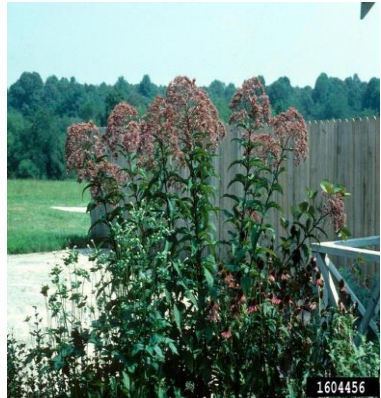
Florida Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum floridanum*)

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
Flower: Showy; good cut and dried
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 (*Sysyrrinchium 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



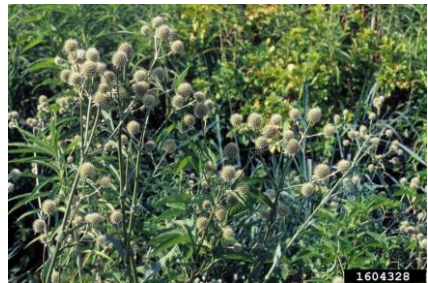
Purpletop tridens (*Tridens flavus*)

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



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



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



Other Native Plants

Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
Bluestar (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*)
Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
Flatwoods Palm (*Prunus umbellata*)
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.