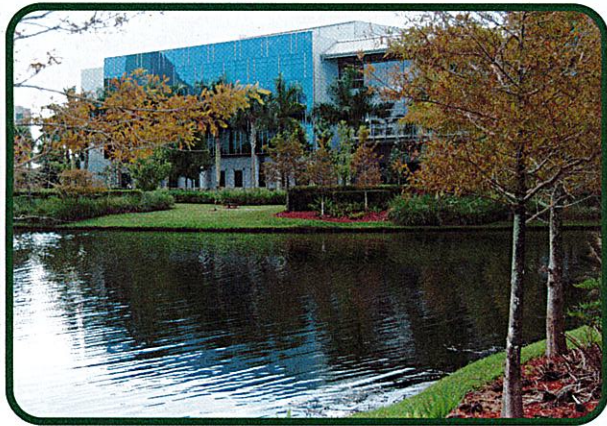


Where Can I Buy Native Canopy Plants?

Most nurseries sell some plants that are native to Florida. Check with local nurseries, or visit a nearby native nursery for a greater selection of hard-to-find species.

You can find a list of native nurseries at:

Florida Association
of Native Nurseries
www.fann.org



Want to Learn More?

UF/IFAS Native Plants
www.gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/native-plants.html

Institute for Regional Conservation
www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/default.asp

Florida Native Plant Society
www.fnps.org/plants

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
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Palm Beach County
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document may be requested in a different format.*

Palm Beach County



Native Canopy: Our Disappearing Treasure

How to
Protect & Preserve
Your
Native Florida

Why Native Canopy Matters

Palm Beach County's native canopy — the upper layer of branches and leaves on a tree — is becoming increasingly rare due to expanding development and the spread of invasive exotic plants. As we lose our native trees, shrubs and understory, we lose even more than the plants themselves. We lose the vital natural resources that help purify our waters, cleanse our air and renew our sense of wonder. We lose our sense of of "the real Florida" ... the rich diversity of native plants, animals and other wildlife that calls the county home.

Six Things You Can Do

- **Preserve** existing native tree canopy and other native plants on your property.
- **Protect** as much native vegetation as you can during construction. Talk to your architect, builder and contractors about the proper way to safeguard this important natural resource.
- **Restore** natural habitat by adding groups of native plants in layers. Make sure you plant trees, shrubs and groundcovers.
- **Remove** all prohibited plants and invasive exotic species.
- **Encourage** your neighbors and community to retain or plant native vegetation on their properties or common areas. Link the areas together for greater impact.
- **Avoid** collecting seeds and plants from the wild unless you are involved in a preservation project.

How Preserving Native Canopy Benefits You

Preserving native canopy can:

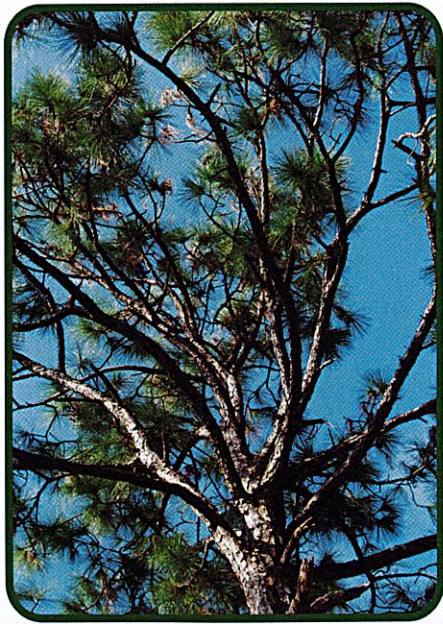
- **Increase property values** by adding an instant, settled look to your landscape. Homes with mature landscapes tend to sell quicker and for more money.
- **Conserve energy** and lower utility costs. Properly-sited mature native trees can shade and cool your home.
- **Save you time and money.** Lawns require mowing, fertilization and other expensive maintenance on a frequent basis.
- **Mitigate hurricane force winds.** Neighborhoods with more tree cover tend to suffer less tree damage in storms. Native trees generally fare better in high winds than shallow-rooted exotics, especially if they are preserved in groups. Mature natives can act as a windbreak, helping to deflect wind away from your house.
- **Improve air quality and mitigate climate change.** Groups of large, intact native trees sequester more carbon and produce more oxygen than recently planted saplings and grass. Lawn maintenance consumes energy, which leads to an increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Many believe that an increase in these gases is a major factor in climate change.
- **Benefit health.** Time spent in contact with nature leads to greater psychological well-being, better brain functioning, fewer physical ailments, and speedier recovery from illnesses.
- **Create opportunities** for wildlife viewing.
- **Teach the younger generation** to appreciate nature as it was meant to be.

How Preserving Native Canopy Benefits Nature

Preserving native canopy can:

- **Provide food, shelter and habitat** for native birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Natural vegetation supplies what they need to support themselves and their young.
- **Support pollinators.** Native pollinators are decreasing at a rapid rate. Conserving and planting natives can help stem the tide.
- **Create stopover habitat** for seasonal visitors. Migrating birds and butterflies rely on native vegetation for refueling and resting during long flights.
- **Connect remaining fragments** of natural areas. This provides a safer passage for wildlife species as they search for food, water, shelter and mates. It also helps them migrate in case of changes in sea level and climate.
- **Reduce flooding and erosion.** Preserved native trees absorb rainfall and help keep water on site. This tends to minimize the effects of flooding and erosion.
- **Conserve water.** Florida's growing population means greater demands on the water supply. Preserved patches of natural vegetation typically require less supplemental irrigation.
- **Protect water resources** from potential contamination by sediment and excess fertilizers and pesticides.
- **Lessen the demand** on other ecosystem resources.
- **Increase the biodiversity** and natural character of your site.

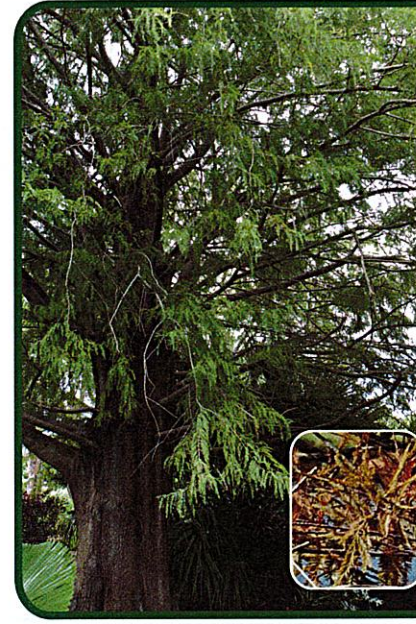
Native Canopy Plants to Enhance Your Landscape



South Florida Slash Pine
Pinus elliottii var. *densa*



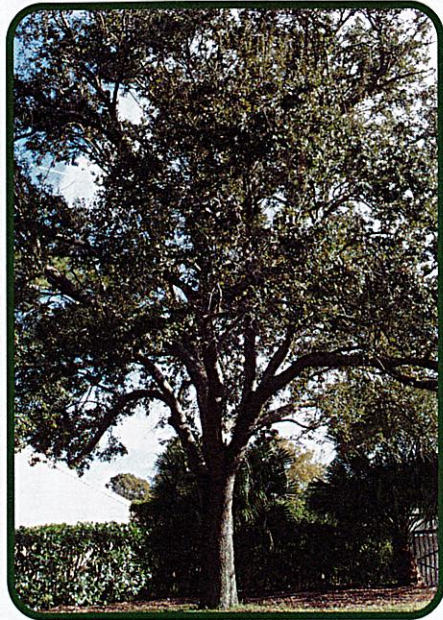
As the dominant tree in one of the county's major ecosystems, this majestic pine supports many bird and animal species that depend on it for food, cover and nesting. Older bark peels off into thick plates of black, silver and gray, revealing orange inner bark. If you are building, preserve existing pines on your lot. Use proper tree barriers and exercise caution to protect the sensitive roots from construction impacts. Pines can die many years later from soil compaction. The species prefers acidic soils. Avoid over-fertilization and over-irrigation, especially with alkaline (high pH) water. Mature size: 40+ ' tall. **Did you know?** Numbers in the wild have declined because of land clearing and previous logging for the production of poles, railroad ties and turpentine.



Southern Live Oak
Quercus virginiana



Southern live oak graces many Florida yards, providing a shady retreat from the heat of the Florida sun. The stately, spreading tree supports many species of birds and mammals, including ones that nest in its canopy and rely on its acorns for food. The oak also provides energy for the larvae of the Horace's duskywing and certain hairstreak butterflies. Allow ample rooting space for newly planted oaks and prune frequently when young for structure and longevity. Mature size: Up to 80' tall with a much wider spread. **Did you know?** The USS Constitution earned the name 'Old Ironsides' when cannonballs appeared to bounce off its hull, which was partly constructed of live oak.



Dahoon Holly
Ilex cassine



Female plants of this medium-sized holly bear brilliant red berries that are an excellent food source for small mammals and songbirds. Don't confuse this beautiful native tree with the Brazilian pepper, an invasive exotic plant that is prohibited in Palm Beach County. Dahoon holly tends to be a single-stemmed tree; Brazilian pepper has a dense, rounded, shrub-like appearance. Make sure there is a male dahoon in the vicinity. Female plants require males for best pollination and fruit set. Mature size: typically less than 40' tall and perhaps half as wide. **Did you know?** The Seminoles used dahoon holly to make soap.



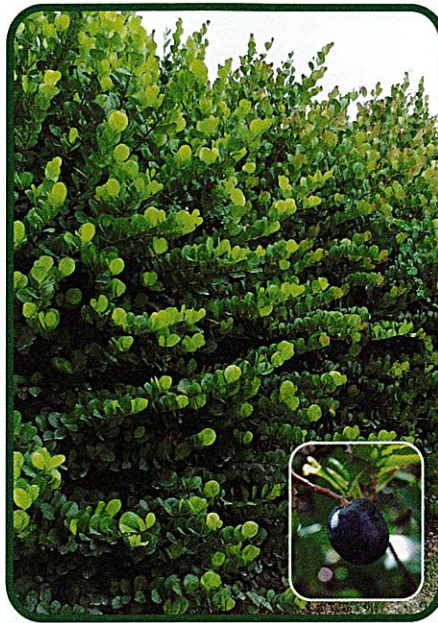
LEGEND:  Used by birds

 Used by butterflies

Bald Cypress *Taxodium distichum*



This signature tree of south Florida wetlands can be used in mixed plantings along pond banks where it may grow knobs or 'knees' near the buttressed trunks, or as a stately lawn, street or shade tree grown under typical landscape conditions. Attractive, feathery foliage emerges lime-green, darkens and turns coppery orange in fall before briefly dropping. The reddish-gray, peeling bark lends further appeal, as does the tree's reputation as one of the region's most storm-resistant species. Mature size: up to 80+ ' high with much less spread. **Did You Know?** Some cypress mulch comes from Florida's endangered wetlands. Select mulches made from more sustainable materials like pine or melaleuca bark since origin of cypress mulch is hard to determine.



Cocoplum *Chrysobalanus icaco*



Preserve or plant this native for its attractive foliage, flowers and fruit. Clusters of greenish to white flowers attract pollinating insects. The pink, white or dark purple fruits draw gopher tortoises, birds and other species. Mature size: two forms exist in nature and the nursery trade. The taller variety naturally grows inland to 20+ ' tall and wide. The shorter, more horizontal type tends to grow near the coast. Fruit color depends on type. Plant in full sun to light, not dense, shade. You can train taller specimens into a small tree, or clip either kind back into a formal or informal hedge. **Did you know?** Fruits are edible. Try them fresh or use them to make jams and jellies. Roasted seeds taste like almonds.

Sabal Palm *Sabal palmetto*



Florida's state tree is an important component of south Florida's ecosystems. Protect it in its natural setting and plant it in landscapes for its majestic appearance, fan-like fronds, and wildlife value. Erect or slightly-curved trunks may be smooth or covered with persistent leaf bases known as 'boots.' Small, fragrant white flowers attract pollinators and serve as nectar sources for various species of butterflies. Clusters of black fruits draw many birds, including cardinals, warblers, robins and several species of woodpeckers. Best planted in groups, this palm is an excellent choice for seaside plantings. Mature size: 40 ' to 50+ ' tall with less than half the width. **Did you know?** The Seminoles made house poles, thatched roofs, food paddles, arrows and more from this versatile palm.



Beautyberry *Callicarpa americana*

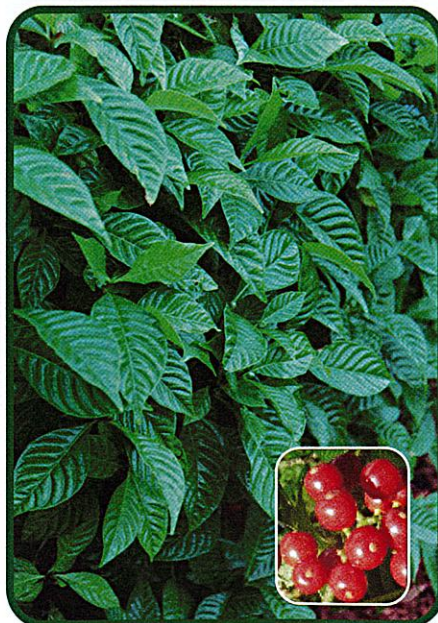


Striking magenta fruits encircle the stems of this fast-growing shrub and provide food for songbirds when few other native plants are fruiting. The high moisture content of the fruits adds to the plant's wildlife value for over 40 species of birds. If not devoured, the fruits provide a stunning display. Fragrant, light green leaves provide texture in the garden, while the pinkish flowers provide nectar for butterflies. Plant beautyberry in full sun for best fruiting. Clip fruiting stems and use them in flower arrangements. Cut the plant back after fruiting for a flush of new, more compact growth. Mature size: 3 ' - 8 ' tall and wide. **Did you know?** Early 20th century farmers crushed the leaves and placed them under the harnesses of horses to help repel mosquitoes and biting bugs.

Saw Palmetto *Serenoa repens*



This sprawling, native palm is useful for mass planting or as a groundcover beneath existing trees. Preserve larger specimens during land clearing since existing plants require little maintenance and replacements grow slowly. Some plants in the wild may be centuries old. Two forms are available: one with green, fan-shaped fronds; the other with silver. More than 100 bird species and many pollinators, butterflies and mammals rely on the fruits and flowers. Mature size: about 5 ' to 10 ' tall and wide. **Did you know?** Harvesting berries in Florida requires a permit from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, even if you are harvesting from your own property.



Wild Coffee *Psychotria nervosa*



Shiny, dark green, deeply-impressed leaves lend a quilted appearance to this shade-tolerant, evergreen, understory shrub. White flowers in the spring and summer turn into small red fruits that resemble true coffee beans. This subtle show-stopper provides significant food and cover for wildlife. Atala, great southern white, julia and other butterfly species seek out the plant for its nectar. Numerous songbirds feast on the fruit. Mature size: 4 ' - 10 ' tall with similar spread. **Did you know?** Despite its common name, wild coffee has no known uses as a coffee substitute and reportedly contains no caffeine.

Photos: Laurie Albrecht, Stephen Brown & Adrienne Deutsch.