How to Create a Hedgerow

Identify Possibilities: Look for fence lines, woodland edges, corners of a field or garden, a pond edge or hard to mow hillside to create a natural wonderland.

Think Corridors: How does wildlife move from one place to another? Hedgerows can be vital highways, as well as a place for wild critters to live and find food.

Mow Less: This saves energy and your time, and helps to reduce air and noise pollution. Mow close to houses, but mow only every 4 - 6 weeks. Mow meadows annually or every two years to allow native plants to reseed. Keep road edges cut so that unwary wildlife can see cars in time.

Talk to Your Neighbors: Spread the word (and this pamphlet). Cooperate on common borders to allow a hedgerow to thrive. Look for adjoining corners that will create an oasis for wild plants and animals.

KEEP THE NIGHT SKY DARK

Do you enjoy country evenings and seeing the stars at night far from the glare of street lamps? You can help by shielding your outdoor bulbs to direct light to the ground and by not leaving outdoor lights on all night. Artificial lights confuse nocturnal wildlife and migrating birds.

Visit Dark Sky International's website to learn more.

https://darksky.org/

For more educational resources, check out our website.

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Florida Native Plant Society's

Resident's Guide to Practicing Sustainability in the Landscape

Mow less, provide more!

Our Changing Landscape

Florida's beautiful landscape holds a rich diversity of native plants and wildlife. As natural communities are converted to other uses - such as agriculture, mining or development - habitat is lost. As residents of Florida, we hold the key to preserving and protecting the natural beauty and ecosystem functions of Florida for ourselves, our children, future generations and the large number of animals that depend on it.

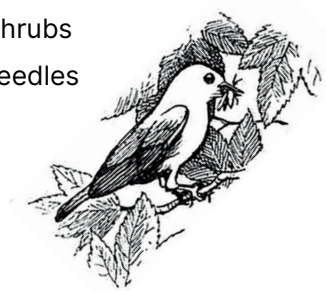
Save a Place for Wildlife

Native plants survive and thrive! They're well-adapted to the soil and climate here. They have attractive natural shapes. They offer the best food, shelter and nest sites for wildlife.

Native plants are part of the natural cycles of life here in Florida. They make our landscape beautiful and provide habitat or wildlife.

How Can I Make a Difference?

- Maintain "wild" areas - the more, the better: woodlands, wetlands, corridors, hedgerows, and pollinator strips
- Blend homes into the landscape with native vegetations
- Reduce the size of your lawn and create a pollinator garden
- Creative native meadows, cluster trees and shrubs
- Use natural mulch, like oak leaves and pine needles
- Minimize disturbance to the environment



Why Choose Native Plants?

Native plants survive and thrive!

Plant a cluster of native trees and shrubs that create privacy and welcome wildlife where property boundaries meet. Plan your landscape to provide nectar sources and food throughout the year. Small brush piles in a quiet corner with leaves, branches, and yard waste will become a haven for wildlife. Cardinals, summer tanagers, and warblers nest in leafy branches.

Plant a Native Tree

It is the single best thing you can do for the environment, wildlife, and yourself. Trees are beautiful. They add height, color, shade, shape, and texture to a home landscape. Trees provide privacy screening and enhance air quality by providing the oxygen we breathe and cool summer air temperatures. For wildlife, trees provide food, nesting sites, and shelter. Trees reduce hurricane wind damage by acting as natural windbreaks that slow gusts, deflect force, and stabilize soil, thereby protecting communities and landscapes.

Protect Our Water

90% of water used for residences, businesses, and agriculture comes from the Floridan Aquifer beneath us. Please help protect water resources for people and nature.

- Avoid using chemicals that seep into wetlands, streams, sandy soils, and lakes
- Encourage natural growth or a buffer along the lakeshore 10-50 feet to control erosion and absorb chemicals
- Save existing wet areas no matter how small. Wetlands, springs, lakes, and streams are all part of our watershed
- Do not fill in wet prairies, depressional wetlands, or ponds; these are vital habitat for turtles, frogs, toads, and salamanders
- Consider planting blooming native aquatic plants along your shoreline to encourage butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds

Create a Bird or Butterfly Garden

It is easy to do in your backyard and fun for children and adults. Plant native plants that are larval or host plants for caterpillars and food or nectar plants for adult butterflies. Combine wildflowers with shrubs to create a real plant community with a diversity of species and shapes.

Avoid pesticides that poison birds and herps which the best insect control. Chemicals can also harm beneficial insects, beetles and butterflies. Keep a clean water source such as a small fountain, which can attract birds looking for a bath or a drink.

POPULAR NATIVE PLANTS FOR BUTTERFLY GARDENS

Wildflowers
- Dotted horsemint
- Salvia
- Square stems
- Partridge pea
- Blazing star
- Black-eyed Susan
- Goldenrod
- Ironweed

Trees
- Wax myrtle
- Sparkleberry

Vines
- Coral honeysuckle
- Trumpet creeper
- Crossvine

Shrubs
- Simpson stopper
- Elderberry
- Buttonbush
- Sumac
- Saw palmetto

Find a Nursery
PlantRealFlorida.org