



Lyonia Preserve Plant Guide

Volusia County, Florida

Florida Master Naturalist Program

Uplands Module

Final Project

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Environmental Management



Poorman's Pepper *Lepidium virginicum*

A member of the mustard family with stems that are branched and sparsely haired. Grows to be an average height of 24 in. tall. Has 4 petals and flowers are small and whitish-yellow in color. Flowers typically grow at the top of the plant stalk. Entire plant is edible (with caution) but has a pungent taste.

Habitat: Scrub, pastures and disturbed sites.



Adam's Needle *Yucca filamentosa*

A 6 ft. flowering stalk rises above 2-3 ft. high clumps of erect, dagger-like, blue-green leaves. The flowers are cream-colored and are followed by persistent seed pods. A tall, stout stem rises from a rosette of rigid, sword-like leaves and bears a loose cluster of white, nodding, bell-shaped flowers. Found in Scrub and scrubby flatwoods. Provides food and cover for wildlife. Larval host plant for cofaui giant skipper (*Megathymus cofaui*) and yucca giant skipper (*Megathymus cofaui*) and yucca. Habitat: Scrub, Scrubby flatwoods.



Cottonweed *Froelichia floridana*

A vascular dicot flowering plant that belongs to the Amaranth family. Also called plains snakecotton and field snakecotton. Annual blooms in summer in open sandy areas. Total height of plant reached about 1 meter with the leaves contributing to 1/3 of the plant's size.

Habitat: Scrub, sand prairies.



St. John's Wort *Hypericum fasciculatum*

A short lived perennial that grows to about 3-5 feet tall. The leaves are more numerous and densely packed than other Hypericum species. Flowers very showy and appear every 1-3 nodes. Blooming season is late spring into the middle of summer. Moderate amount of brown seeds and fruit. Fruit season starts in summer and continues into fall.

Habitat: Scrub, flatwood marshes and cypress swamps.



Winged Sumac *Rhus copallina*

A deciduous shrub which average height between 10-24 feet, 5-10 feet in South Florida. Long leaves with numerous toothless leaflets and a noticeable wing along the midrib. Tiny, green-yellow flowers appearing Spring into early Fall. Flowers are replaced by clusters of red hairy berries which can stay on the tree for weeks. Very important nectar plant for native bees. Edible berries that need to be soaked and strained before drinking.

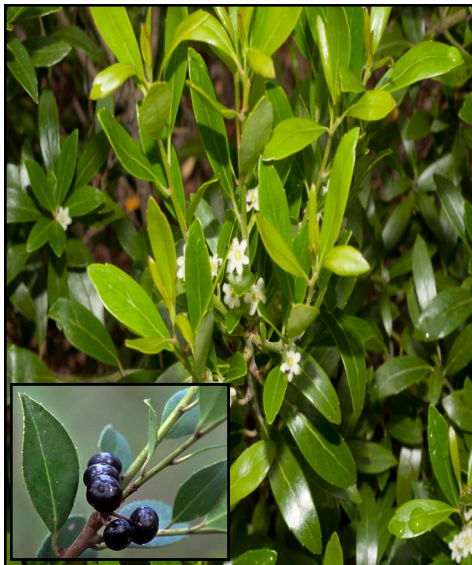
Habitat: Scrub, sandy woodlands.



Flag Paw paw *Asimina obovata*

A deciduous shrub which average height up to 10 feet. Long lived perennial with large whitish-yellow showy flowers with maroon centers. Fruit is edible raw or baked, some people get a skin rash when handling. Leaves are a diuretic and fruits were used by Native Americans as a laxative. Larval host plant for zebra swallowtail (*Eurytides Marcellus*) and pawpaw sphinx (*Dolba hyloeus*).

Habitat: Scrub, dry hammocks, dry hardwood forests



Gallberry *Ilex glabra*

An evergreen shrub growing to a height of 4-8 ft. Tiny creamy white flowers appear half hidden mid to late spring. Bears green berries that turn black and ripen in early fall. Bobwhite quail, turkeys, brown thrashers and other birds frequently eat the fruit. Galberry is an important pollinator plant. Bees feeding on the fruit produce an amber colored honey.

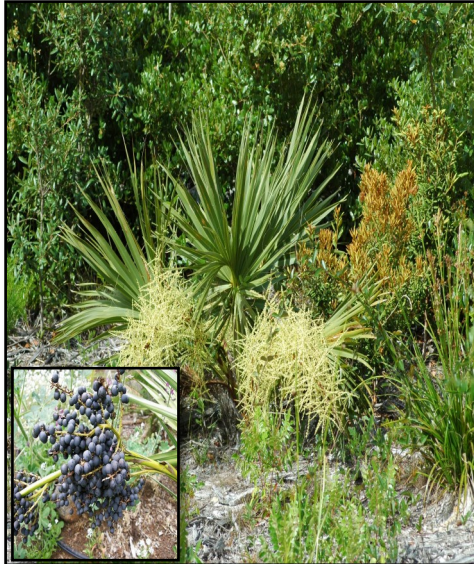
Habitat: Scrub and pine flatwoods



Slash Pine

A fast growing long-lived (some up to 200 years) tree. Leaves are needle like and usually bear 2-3 on each stem. Pinecones are generally 2-6 in. long, scales are thin and they have a curved sharp spine. The seeds from this plant are an excellent food source for gray and fox squirrels and turkeys.

Habitat: Scrub, coastal plains and pine flatwoods



Scrub Palmetto

Sabal etonia

A evergreen that flowers in the spring, fruit matures in summer. White to yellowish colored flowers and small blackish berries. Average height 4-6 feet. Stringlike filaments (fibers) that develop along the edges of the fan-like leaf segments. These fibers are used by the Florida scrub jay for nesting material. The jays will use these fibers to line the inside of their nest.

Habitat: Scrub and dry pinelands



Saw Palmetto

Seroenoa repens

A member of the palm family and a perennial shrub. Flowers appear in spring and attract many pollinators including lovebugs, native bees, wasps and ants. Fruit begins to appear in autumn and varies in color from orange to nearly black when mature. Fruit is a tasty treat for black bears.

Habitat: Scrub, coastal lands, pine flatwoods and hardwood hammocks.



Butterfly Weed

Asclepias tuberosa

A member of the milkweed family and a perennial dicot. Tuberosa refers to tuberous (knobby with swelling) roots. From midsummer to autumn, it produces clusters of brightly orange or yellow colored flowers. Blooms early fall, fall, summer to late summer. Attracts beneficial bugs, butterflies, hummingbirds and songbirds. Larval host plant for queen, soldier and monarch butterflies.

Habitat: Scrub, dry sand and prairies.



Curtis Milkweed *Asclepias curtissii*

A member of the milkweed family and a perennial dicot. From midsummer to autumn, it produces clusters of brightly orange or yellow colored flowers. Blooms early fall, fall, summer to late summer. Attracts beneficial bugs, butterflies, hummingbirds and songbirds. Larval host plant for queen and monarch butterflies.

Habitat: Scrub, dry sand or gravel soil.



Blazing Star *Liatris tenuifolia*

A short-lived perennial that is a member of the Aster family. This family includes herbs, shrubs and vines. Average height is between 3-6 feet. Flowers appear in summer, autumn and early winter. Small flower heads that are bright purple in color.

Habitat: Scrub, scrubby flatwoods and dry flatwoods.



Dog Fennel *Eupatorium capillifolium*

A native perennial found throughout much of the Southeast. Normally reaches about 4-5 feet in height. This plant is wind pollinated. Flowering period is unusually long starting late August into November. Flowers are either green, yellow or white in color.

Habitat: Scrub, scrubby flatwoods and dry flatwoods.



Garberia *Garberia falcatum*

A long-lived perennial that is part of the Aster family. Grows to the average height of 1.5-3 feet and is as wide as it is tall. Flowering mostly in late autumn with tips of every branch bearing large clusters of tiny tubular violet flowers. Butterflies of all kinds succumb to the nectar-filled flowers. Listed as a state threatened species due to habitat loss.

Habitat: Scrub and xeric hammocks.



Goldenrod *Solidago chapmanii*

A perennial wildflower that occurs naturally in poor sandy soil. Emerges in late summer to fall, hairy stems single-veined, narrow dark green leaves. Sometimes used in upland coastal areas to help secure loose sand on dunes. When crushed, the leaves smell of anise or licorice. This plant thrives in fire controlled area, once burned it comes back with vengeance. Following pollination, bright yellow flowers give way to fuzzy, light gray seedheads.

Habitat: Scrub and sandhill habitats.



Ragweed *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*

A member of the Aster family with leaves that are deeply divided. Male flowers are on upper portion of stem with 5 united petals. Female flowers are just below and lack clustered. Grows to a height of 6 ft. Flowering in summer, fall and early winter. Pollen from this plant is a major source for hayfever for some people.

Habitat: Scrub and disturbed sites.



Ball Moss *Tillandsia recurvata*

A small densely clumping epiphytic bromeliad that forms round ball-like clusters on trees and bark. Perhaps the most common airplant in Florida and is found growing on a wide variety of hosts. Belongs to a highly adapted group known as twig epiphytes that are advanced. Capable of forming colonies of dozens of plants. Flowers in late spring and early summer but flowers are not showy.

Habitat: Scrub and disturbed sites.



Spanish Moss *Tillandsia usneoides*

A native perennial epiphyte that is gray when dry and green when wet. Found under a variety of conditions, found anchored to its host plant. The majority of the plant dangles freely in the air. The flower spikes, similar to bromeliads are very tiny, solitary green flowers. Flowering in late spring and early summer but flowers are not particularly showy. This plant is not parasitic and has not roots. Classified in the pineapple family.

Habitat: Scrub, live oak and swamps.



Prickly Pear *Opuntia humifusa*

A succulent with stems that are fleshy, spiny bearing few showy yellow flowers. Pads are covered in reddish, brown barbed bristles. Oval segmented pads of this occur in low mounds usually less than 8 in. A reddish-colored, fruit follows shortly after flowers bloom. Small hair like spines appear on the pads and fruits. Flowers bloom in May, June & July. Gopher tortoises favorite foraging plant. Important plant for our native bees.

Habitat: Scrub, sandy and rocky soils.



Gopher Apple *Licania michauxii*

A member of the coco plum family with small yellowish flowers. Grows with a massive extensive root system that send up slender woody shoots. Evergreen oaklike leaves that are stiff and about 2-4 in. long. Flowers around spring and summer and produces a fruit that is tinged reddish or purplish. Fruits are loved by all wildlife especially gopher tortoises.

Habitat: Scrub, coastal dunes and dry pinelands.



British Soldier *Cladonia cristatella*

A lichen with hollow branches that end with distinctive red fruiting bodies. It occurs on the ground or on dead wood. It is greener and redder in color in early spring than other times of the year. Exhibits a prime example of mutually beneficial symbiosis in nature. This lichen is formed when a fungus and algae come together. Coined "British Soldier" because of the red caps present that resemble red hats worn by invading British troops during the American Revolutionary War. Found in scrub, dry pinelands and woodlands.



Deer Moss *Cladonia evansii*

A light colored fruticose lichen that is grayish white in color. Another example of a mutualistic association between a fungus and an algae. Very slow growing in cloud like clusters on the ground. Fire kills this lichen, so if you see a large amount in an area, it is an indication that fire has not been in that area for a long time. Often used by architects and model railway enthusiasts to make realistic trees and shrubs.

Found in scrub, well drained areas and woodlands.



Scrub Sedge *Rhynchospora megalocarpa*

A large dryland sedge that is an easy one to spot in scrub habitat. Makes large blue to brownish beaked seeds on long flexible wands bending over and sometimes arching over towards the ground. Seeds of this plant are particularly large and provide food for Scrub jays and Florida mouse.

Found in scrub, pine flatlands and coastal areas.



Pink Sundew *Drosera capillaris*

A carnivorous plant that makes its living off of killing and eating bugs. Has what appears to be sparkly droplets of dew on numerous hair like structures of its leaves. This dew is actually a bead of sticky mucous packed with enzymes to help the plant digest. This interesting adaptation helps these plants to fill a nutritional gap left by their environment. Bloom time is in March. A member of the Drosera family that makes their home in moist, acidic and nutrient deficient soil. Found in scrub, pine flatlands and bogs.



Florida Rosemary *Ceratiola ericodes*

A perennial evergreen shrub that grows to an average height of 3 feet tall or more. Needlelike evergreen leaves which flowering time is fall into spring and summer. Rosemary plants are alleopathic, their roots contain toxins that prohibit other plants from growing near it. Provides nesting sites for northern cardinal, grey catbird, yellow-rumped warbler, Florida scrub jay, common yellowthroat and morning dove. Only species of its family found in the southeast U.S. Habitat is Scrub, coastal dunes and river dunes.



Fetterbush

Lyonia lucida

A evergreen shrub that has shiny leaves and reaches a height of 3-5 feet. Flowers are bell shaped white to pink in color and appear late winter and early spring. Member of the heath family, which is particularly widespread especially on acid soils. Flowering time is March, April & May. Flowers are aromatic and fragrant.

Habitat: Scrub, scrubby flatwoods and flatwoods.



Rusty Lyonia

Lyonia ferruginea

A evergreen shrub that gets to a height of 10 to 20 feet. Often called crooked wood or staggerbush because of its crooked trunks. The leaf's lower color is "rusty" colored, giving way to its namesake. Rusty color of the underside of the leaves is found to be protection new growth from harmful insects. Blooms in March, April and May with white flowers.

Habitat: Scrub, scrubby flatwoods and flatwoods.



Staggerbush

Lyonia fruiticosa

A evergreen shrub that gets to a height of 6-12 feet. Also called coastal plain staggerbush and "poor grub". Bears white flowers that are urn shaped and hanging downward in early spring to summer. Fruit is a dry egg-shaped capsule about 4mm in diameter.

Habitat: Scrub, pine flatwoods and oak pine forests.



Piedmont Staggerbush *Lyonia mariana*

A evergreen shrub that gets to a height of 7 feet. Also called piedmont staggerbush. Bears white flowers that are ornamental in clusters starting in May to around June. Flowers are bell shaped with upturned edges.

Habitat: Scrub, pine flatwoods and oak pine forests.



Shiny Blueberry *Vaccinium myrsinites*

A evergreen short lived perennial that gets to a height of 1-2 feet. White to pink flowers that are showy in appearance and attract lot of pollinators. Birds and other wildlife including bears eat the blue to black colored fruit. Fruit appears after blooming around March to May.

Habitat: Scrub, pine flatwoods and oak pine forests.



Sparkleberry *Vaccinium arboreum*

North America's largest blueberry that gets to a height of 8-10 feet. White to pink flowers that are bell-shaped with five lobes and attract lot of pollinators. Blooms in late spring with fruit maturing in late summer. Fruit is shiny black and remain on trees throughout winter. Fruit appears after blooming around April to June. Relished by all kinds of birds and wildlife.

Habitat: Scrub, pine flatwoods and sandy soils.



Hatpins *Eriocaulon compressum*

Small, compact, white button-like, flowering head that is solitary at the end of a leafless stem. The stalk gets to a height of 1.5 feet tall with dried heads that remain white in color. Blooming months are May through October. A member of the Pipewort family and often called "Shoe Buttons".

Habitat: Scrub, pine flatwoods, marshes and coastal plains.



Sky Blue Lupine *Lupinus diffusus*

A biennial evergreen that grows to 2-3.5 feet tall. Produces showy blue lavender flowers with fuzzy leaves. Covered in countless spikes of blues and whites. Its seeds may lie dormant for years and wait for the right condition to germinate. Spring is flowering season; but have seen blooms in February and into March. Plants are full of toxic alkaloids, which attract butterflies. Host plant to gray hairstreak and attracts bees.

Habitat: Scrub, coastal strands and pine flatwoods.



Chapman's Oak *Quercus chapmanii*

A native oak that grows to heights of 30 feet. Leaves may exhibit waviness and slightly lobed edges. Acorns produced in pairs, under 1/2 inch in size and a gray cup encloses each brown nut. These acorns are a significant source of food for a variety of wildlife, ranging from birds to large mammals. Leaves turn attractive shades of red and yellow in fall and winter.

Habitat: Scrub, sandy ridges and coastal dunes.



Myrtle Oak *Quercus myrtifolia*

Sometimes called shrubby oak, it is a small evergreen tree that often reaches 35 to 40 feet tall. Winds shape this tree forming tangled thickets that are twisted. The acorn fruit is small, about 1/2 inch with a saucer-shaped cap that covers 1/3 of the nut. Shiny, leathery dark leaves on upper surface and underneath are yellowish green or orange smooth.

Habitat: Scrub, coastal dunes and near saltwater.



Sand Live Oak *Quercus geminata*

A native oak that is similar to live oak except for the leaves are rolled down and inward. Height rarely reaches 10 feet. Acorns (fruit) mature in fall and one or two on stem. This oak grows faster than live oak, but will not get as large. Wood is not as strong or dense as live oak. Acorns are an important source of food for wildlife during the winter.

Habitat: Scrub and coastal sand dunes.



Turkey Oak *Quercus laevis*

A relatively small oak with large leaves that resemble the shape of a turkey's foot. Average height is around 15-30 feet. Acorns (fruit) are large, about an inch with cup that covers a third of the nut. The acorns take two years to mature. Adjust the position of its leaves to the direction of the sun throughout the day. In autumn, the leaves turn red-brown and often stay on tree for several weeks during winter.

Habitat: Scrub, sand dunes and sand hills.

**Silk Bay*****Persea humilis***

A evergreen shrub that is aromatic and has rusty hairs on the lower leaf surface. An adaptation used to reduce water loss by maintaining high humidity on leaf's surface. Reaches height of up to 10 feet tall. This tree is also related to the Avocado. There are four members of this family that are in our state. All are favored by Spicebush Swallowtail butterflies.

Habitat: Scrub, coastal strands and hammocks.

**Horsemint*****Monarda punctata***

A aromatic perennial that reaches heights of almost 3 feet tall. A member of the mint family that is also called "Spotted Beebalm". Oil of this mint is used to expel worms. Beautiful purple flowers appear in late spring, summer into fall. Flowers grow in clusters and are excellent pollinator plant for both Honey Bees and Bumble Bees. Nectar source for butterflies.

Habitat: Scrub, coastal sites and floodplains.

**Sand Pine*****Pinus clausa***

A relatively small, bushy, fast growing short needled tree. Also known as the scrub pine and spruce pine. Typical height of this tree is around 75-80 feet. Needles are typically in bundles of two. Have wax covered cones that only open with fire. Pine cones from this plant are serotinous and fire dependent. May accumulate in large numbers of one single tree.

Habitat: Scrub, ds and pine flatwoods.



Broomsedge *Andropogon virginicus*

A perennial grass that has seeds evenly distributed along 2-5 feet stems. Blooms in September, October & November. An attractive grass that grows in clumps and attracts birds and butterflies. Provides cover, seed for birds and nesting material. Larval host plant for the Zabulon Skipper.

Habitat: Scrub, dry fields and upper shores of ponds.



Chalky Bluestem *Andropogon glaucus*

A warm season perennial grass that reaches heights of 3-5 feet. Purplish brown seedhead is about an inch long. Blades, stems and sheaths are covered with chalky coating that rubs off easily. The seedheads appear in September and into early October & November.

Habitat: Scrub, dry fields and upper shores of ponds.



Sand Spur *Cenchrus incertus*

A monocot annual weed that has adapted to dry, sandy soils. It contains burs that can be painful and are difficult to remove. Start germinating in late spring and will continue to germinate into late summer and early fall. A dense stand of healthy grass provides the best control of this weed.

Habitat: Scrub, coastal dunes and pine flatwoods.



Jointweed *Polygonella basiramia*

A perennial herb with slender, red or green stems to 32 inches tall. Leaves tiny red or green with papery sheaths covering the stems. Slender flower spikes emerge small with no petals and 5 white to pinkish sepals. Flowers from summer into fall.

Habitat: Scrub



Catbriar *Smilax glauca*

A member of the Smilax family consisting of about 300 species. A climbing shrub with tuberous roots. Stems are covered with prickles and lower leaves are scalelike. White or yellow-green male and female flowers on separate plants. Starts to flower in February. The fruit is a red or bluish black berry.

Habitat: Scrub



Greenbriar *Smilax walteri*

A member of the Smilax family consisting of about 300 species. A climbing shrub that form dense impenetrable thickets. They will form over trees and other plants up to 10m high. Leaves are heart shaped and vary from 4-30 cm in length. White/green clustered flowers. Starts to flower in May and June. If pollinated, it produces a fruit that is a red or bluish black berry that matures in fall. These berries provide food for birds and other animals.

Habitat: Scrub and pine flatwoods



Tarflower

Befaria racemosa

A woody evergreen shrub that grows to be around 7 ft. tall or more. Flowers white to pinkish in color, fragrant and sticky. Blooming season is April through September. The sticky flowers attract and catch flies and other insects. Other names for this plant are “Flyweed” and “Flycatcher”

Habitat: Scrub and pine flatwoods



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