SP 619

PLANT THIS NOT THAT

A Guide to Avoiding Invasive Plant Species in Florida

Tina McIntyre, Rachel Gutner, Morgan Pinkerton & Sandra Wilson

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

SEMINOLE COUNTY
FLORIDA'S NATURAL CHOICE

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM

SP 619 Plant This, Not That: A Guide to Avoiding Invasive Plant Species in Florida

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INTRODUCTION

What are invasive plant species?

Florida's climate, with its mild winters and abundant sunshine and rain, makes an inviting environment for many organisms. Unfortunately, it also allows many non-native plants and animals to invade our native ecosystems, where they can upset the natural balance and do considerable damage. Although escaped exotic pets that become invasive animal species tend to grab the headlines, invasive plants are no less destructive. Invasive plants can cause serious harm to human and environmental health due to their ability to spread, impact waterways, and disturb ecosystems and food webs. Many non-native horticultural and landscape plants can become invasive species when they are introduced to natural areas and/or have escaped intentional plantings. Non-native invasive plants now impact approximately 1.5 million acres of Florida and affect Florida's economy in a variety of ways. The State of Florida spends $45 million annually on managing invasive plants (Hiatt, et al. 2018) on conservation acres alone, so it is a major cost for our economy.

An invasive plant is defined by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) as a plant which sustains itself outside of cultivation and expands its range into and within Floridian ecosystems. These invasive species can degrade our natural resources, cause management problems in agricultural fields, and can be very costly overall.

Agricultural industries in Florida are also affected by invasive plant species. The annual cost of invasive plants, animals, and disease in losses to Florida's agriculture is estimated at $179 million (Schmitz 2002). Production of pine straw has been reduced due to invasion of the Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*) which thrives in northwest Florida (FDACS), to the extent that some producers have abandoned leased pine stands because pine straw cannot be sold as legally clean. Forests and rangelands may be infested with invasive plants and weeds, affecting cropland production and reducing habitat for native wildlife.

Homeowners and landscaping professionals should have basic information to select proper Florida-friendly plants and not further introduce invasive species in their landscapes.

How are invasive plant species introduced?

The ornamental plant industry is the primary pathway for movement of invasive plants

worldwide, with invasives accounting for a significant portion of the inventory and revenue (Bechtloff et al. 2019; Hulme 2018). For example, Brazilian pepper was introduced to Florida as an ornamental plant in the mid-1800s that escaped cultivation. With a quick growth rate, wide climate tolerance, and profuse seed production, as well as tolerant seedlings with a high germination rate, this plant rapidly displaces native vegetation (NPS). With this document, UF/IFAS aims to inform homeowners, small-scale nurseries, and landscapers about how to avoid purchasing invasive plants.

What you can do

You can play a part in fostering a sustainable landscape and selecting plants that will reduce the prevalence of invasive species! This guide is specifically for that purpose and we hope it helps you select the right plant for the right place. You may encounter both invasive and cultivated varieties for sale, so it is important to pay close attention to the available options. Most plants listed in the "Plant Instead" section of this guide may be acquired through the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (www.FANN.org), www.plantANT.com, or www.plantfinder.com. If you are seeking additional resources specifically for native plants, see *Concepts for Sustainable Landscapes*, https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP605 which contains a plant matrix that details species ideas on what to plant, native status, and more.

To help in the fight against invasive plants you can:

- recognize and remove invasive species from the landscape;
- learn the differences between common names, scientific names, and cultivars;
- use alternatives to invasive species, such as native plants or sterile and non-invasive cultivars;
- practice Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles by ensuring that you're choosing the right plant for the right place;
- if you have a question, talk with your local UF/IFAS Extension Office and/or Florida Master Gardener Volunteer.

Environmental, Social, and Economic Implications

With increasing globalization, people and goods are moving around the world at an incredible rate, in some cases leading to the introduction of harmful plant species to Florida. Approximately 85% of all non-native plants in the United States enter through one of Florida's 30 ports of entry. Because invasive plants affect waterways, access to clean water, ecosystem dynamics and stability, and the recreation industry, the social and economic implications of invasive plants are widespread.

Some invasive aquatic plants pose a significant threat to human health by interfering with flood control and affecting recreational use of waterways/trails and its associated surrounding economy. In 2019, Florida's state parks hosted over 24 million visitors, and ecotourism activities such as hiking, camping, paddling, and birding in state parks made up a total economic impact of $2.27 billion per year, supporting 31,810 jobs (Florida DEP). Saltwater and freshwater fishing in Florida brings in $13.8 billion. Additionally, freshwater fishing attracts over 34 million people to Florida each year, who spend upwards of $35 billion per year (Adams, et al. 2007). Excess aquatic plant growth impedes the gratification of nature granted to residents and visitors.

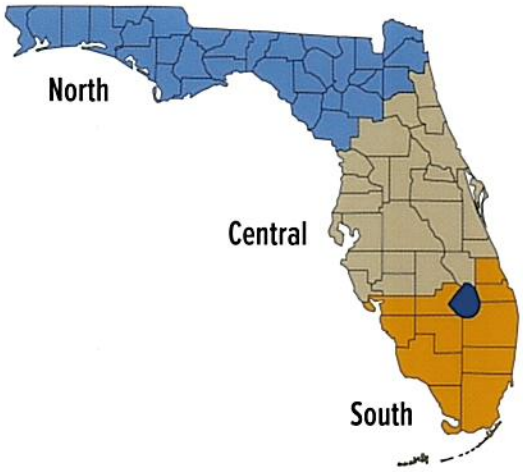
About This Guide

Each entry in this guide features an invasive plant that is commonly found for sale around Florida or in online catalogs. They are organized by type of plant and size: trees, shrubs, vines, and groundcovers in order from largest to smallest. Each entry contains the common and scientific names of the plant, a description of its appearance, growth habit, distribution and range in Florida. The ecological implications of the plant, mostly native alternatives, as well as approved cultivated varieties, called cultivars, of certain plants are also listed under each entry. For further clarification, cultivars are denoted with an asterisk.

We ask that you use this document, in combination with other Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ resources, to make the decisions which best suit your needs and the needs of future generations.

Distribution and range are described by North (N), Central (C), and South (S), as shown on the map. It is important to note that certain plants may be considered invasive in some regions, but not in others.

NOTE: Range and invasion status can change as new science becomes available. Please use the resources page along with this book to get the most up to date information.



Each entry has a category for ecological threat, which contains terms such as "Category 1" or "noxious weed," and others. These terms come from the organizations that are an authority on the matter of invasive species and we are utilizing their existing terminology.

The **Florida Invasive Species Council (FISC)**, formerly the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC), is a nonprofit network of "boots-on-the-ground" environmental professionals and researchers that support the management of invasive non-native (exotic) plants in Florida's natural areas.

- A **"Category 1" invasive plant is defined by FISC as invasive non-native** (exotic) species that are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives.
- A **"Category 2" invasive plant is defined by FISC as an invasive non-native** (exotic) species that has increased in abundance or frequency but has not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category 1 species.

The **UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants (CAIP)** is a multidisciplinary research, teaching, and extension unit that develops and disseminates strategies for addressing the impact on native plants. The CAIP determines if a plant is invasive and typically follows the FISC invasive status. It also lists whether a plant is native or non-native and has detailed management plans for native and invasive plants. If a plant needs to be removed, such as tuberous sword fern (*Nephrolepsis cordifolia*), refer to the CAIP website (https://plants.ifas.ufl.edu) to find **removal recommendations**. Because CAIP recommendations follow FISC guides, in this guide FISC and CAIP are listed together as FISC/CAIP under the "ecological threat" listing.

The **UF/IFAS Assessment (IFASAS)** uses literature-based tools to **predict and model** the invasion risk of both non-native plants that occur in Florida as well as plants proposed for introduction (Lieurance and Flory 2020). The assessment team identifies and evaluates potentially problematic non-native species. There are a few possible results of the assessment, three of which are used in this guide:

- Caution (may be recommended, but manage to prevent escape)
- Invasive, **not recommended**
- High Invasion Risk

The **Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)** is a regulatory agency that administers and enforces codes which prohibit listed pest plants from cultivation, introduction, collection, and transport without a permit. These laws are the primary invasive plant laws of concern to land managers in Florida. Plants on the FDACS Noxious Weed List are illegal to sell in Florida; however, some of these may still be available through mail-order catalogs, seed swaps, or dispersal.

A "noxious weed" is defined by FDACS as any living stage of a parasitic or other plant which may be a serious agricultural threat in Florida; have a negative impact on endangered, threatened, or commercially exploited plant species; or if the plant is a naturalized plant that disrupts naturally occurring native plant communities. Nursery sales of these weeds are **prohibited**, and their movement is regulated by the Division of Plant Industry.

NOTE: Some historically used common names can be considered culturally insensitive. Where possible, we have selected common names that are more appropriate and listed the other common names as *formerly known as*.

Camphor Tree

Credit: James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Scientific name: *Cinnamomum camphora*
Large evergreen tree that can reach 60 ft. tall. Droplet-shaped, glossy green leaves. Loose clusters of greenish white to yellow, small, fragrant flowers. Produces dark-blue-to-black, small globose fruits. At the time of this publication, this plant was being added to the FDACS noxious weed list, which would officially change its status to "prohibited."

Distribution and range: N, C, S
Ecological threat:

- FISC/CAIP: Category 1 statewide
- IFASAS: Invasive (N, C) Caution (S)
- FDACS: Noxious weed – Prohibited

Credit: Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Turkey Oak** (*Quercus laevis*)
- **Live Oak** (*Quercus virginiana*)
- **Bluejack Oak** (*Quercus marilandica*)
- **Dahoon Holly** (*Ilex cassine*)
- **Red Bay** (*Persea borbonia*)
- **Sand Live Oak** (*Quercus geminata*)
- **Winged Elm** (*Ulmus alata*)

Turkey Oak (*Quercus laevis*)

Umbrella Tree

Scientific name: *Schefflera actinophylla*

Thin, bare trunks support large, palmately compound, shiny leaves that resemble an umbrella on this tree. Can grow up to 40 ft. tall and has horizontally protruding stalks of red flowers, followed by reddish-purple half-inch fruits. Often grown as a houseplant and then planted outside.

Distribution and range: N, C, S

Ecological threat:

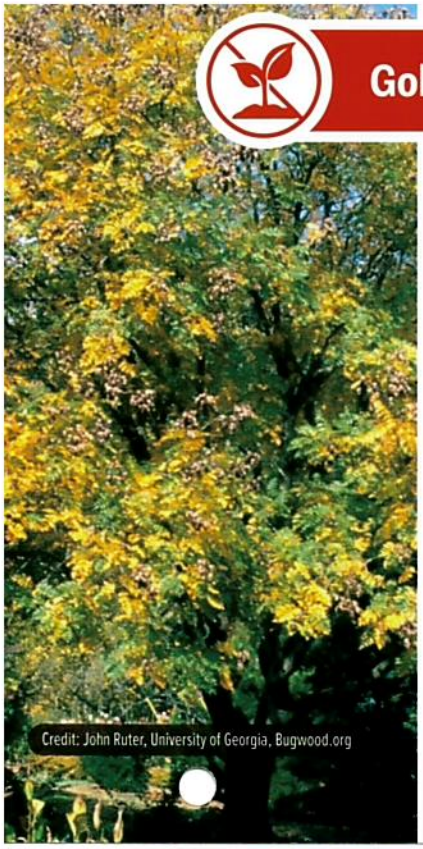
- FISC/CAIP: Category 1 (C, S)
- IFASAS: Invasive (C, S)

PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Wild Date Palm** (*Phoenix sylvestris*)
- **Cabbage Palm** (*Sabal palmetto*)
- **Crape Myrtle** (*Lagerstroemia indica*)

Cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*)

Golden Rain Tree


Credit: John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Scientific name: *Koelreuteria paniculata*
Branched tree that grows up to 20-30 ft. tall with a globe-shaped, open growth habit. Feather-like leaves with clusters of many yellow flowers. Flowers produce seeds with a dry, papery covering that turns pinkish-brown when mature and rides the wind for dispersal.

Distribution and range: N, C, S
Ecological threat:

- FISC/CAIP: Category 2 (C, S)
- IFASAS: Caution (C, S)


Credit: Tina McIntyre, UF/IFAS

PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Sapphire Shower** (*Duranta erecta*)
- **Dahoon Holly** (*Ilex cassine*)
- **Pink Trumpet Tree** (*Tabebuia heterophylla*)
- **Chaste Tree** (*Vitex agnus-castus*)

Chaste tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*)

Bottlebrush, Weeping Bottlebrush

Scientific name: *Melaleuca viminalis*

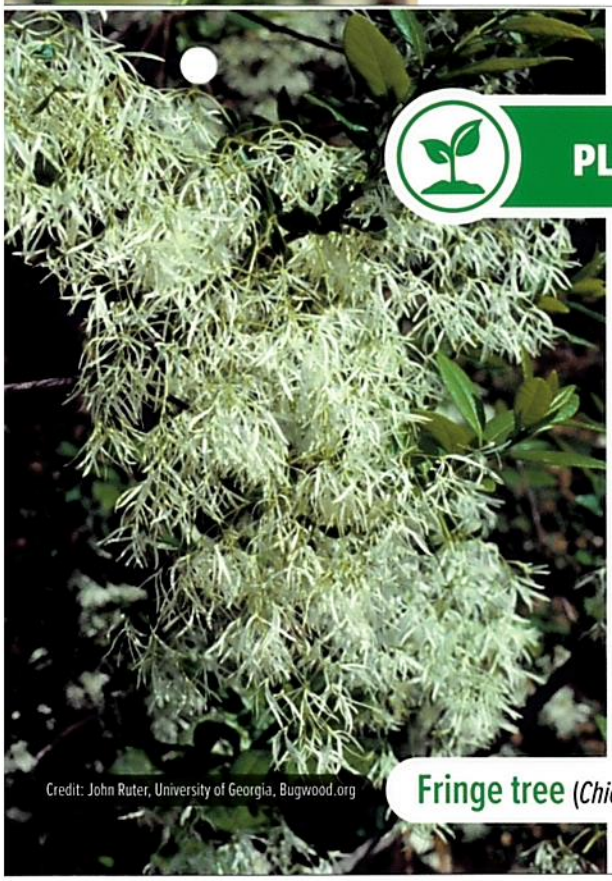
Evergreen tree that can reach up to 30 ft. tall and 10-15 ft. across. Leaves are linear and the hanging branches give the tree a weeping appearance. Dark red, bottle-brush shaped flowers.

It may be difficult to tell the difference between *M. viminalis* and other Bottlebrush species. *Callistemon citrinus* can be differentiated by crushing the leaves, which give off a citrus aroma. *C. citrinus* and *M. rigidus* species are much smaller, reaching just 10-15 ft. in height and spread. Err on the side of caution and select one of our recommendations below.

Distribution and range: N, C, S

Ecological threat:

- IFASAS: Invasive (N, C, S)



PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Sweet Acacia** (*Vachellia farnesiana*)
- **Chickasaw Plum** (*Prunus umbellata*)
- **Firebush** (*Hamelia patens*)
- **Fringe Tree** (*Chionanthus virginicus*)

Fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)

Cayenne Cherry
(formerly known as Surinam Cherry)

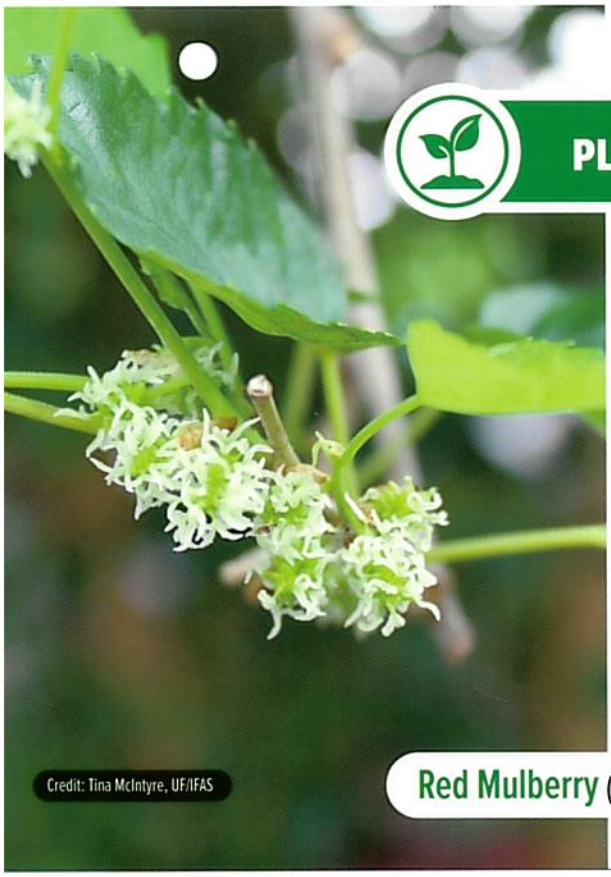
Scientific name: *Eugenia uniflora*

Fast-growing tree that grows up to 25 ft. high. It has fine textured leaves with fragrant white flowers. The edible fruit is ribbed red turning dark, purplish maroon when fully ripe.

Distribution and range: C, S

Ecological threat:

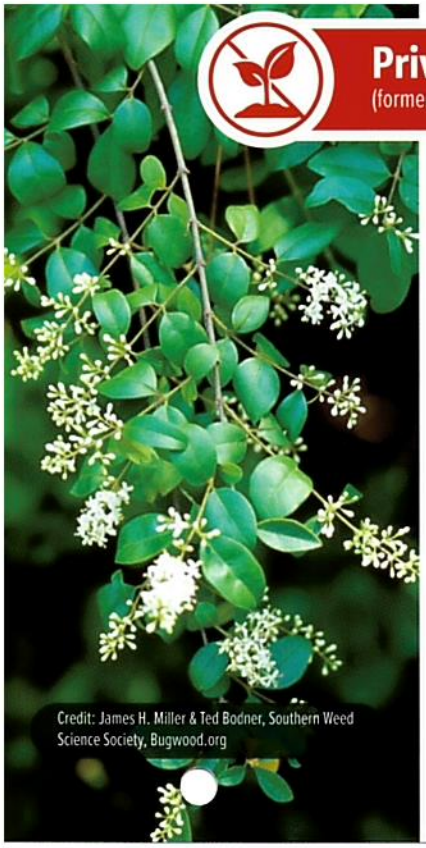
- FISC/CAIP: Category 1 statewide
- IFASAS: Caution (N, C) Invasive (S)



PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Red Mulberry** (*Morus rubra*)
- **Marlberry** (*Ardisia escallonioides*)
- **Simpson's Stopper** (*Myrcianthes fragrans*)
- **Spicewood** (*Calyptranthes pallens*)
- **Holywood Lignum-vitae** (*Guaiacum sanctum*)

Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*)


Credit: James H. Miller & Ted Bodner, Southern Weed Science Society, Bugwood.org

Privet
(formerly known as Chinese Privet)

Scientific name: *Ligustrum sinense*

Privet is a shrub or small tree that grows between 6-13 ft. tall. It produces extremely fragrant flowers in late spring that develop into toxic fruits. There is a variegated variety that has leaves bordered with a white-to-gray coloring. The variegated cultivar, 'Variegatum,' may revert back to the green variety, so we do not recommend it.

Distribution and range: N, C, S

Ecological threat:

- FISC/CAIP: Category 1 statewide
- IFASAS: Invasive (N, C, S)
- FDACS: Noxious weed – Prohibited


Credit: John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Florida Anise (*Illicium floridanum*)

PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Florida Privet** (*Forestiera segregata*)
- **Waxleaf Privet** (*Ligustrum quihoui*)
- **Florida Anise** (*Illicium floridanum*)
- **Eastern Redbud** (*Cercis canadensis*)

Approved Privet Cultivars:

- **Golden Ticket Privet** (*Ligustrum x vicaryi* 'nclx1')*
- **Sunshine Privet** (*Ligustrum sinense* 'Sunshine')*

Cayenne Snakeweed, Nettle-leaf Porterweed

Scientific name: *Stachytarpheta cayennensis*

Grows up to 8 ft. tall and has long spikes of small, bluish-purple flowers, supported by a woody stem. Likes to grow in areas that are often disturbed (e.g., mowed, overturned, etc.) and has a high tolerance for a variety of ecosystems. Highly ornamental plant often mistaken for the native blue porterweed (*S. jamaicensis*), which only reaches about 4 ft. in height.

Distribution and range: N, C, S

Ecological threat:

- FISC/CAIP: Category 2 (S)
- IFASAS: Caution (N, C, S)

PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Blue Porterweed** (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*)
- **Beach Verbena** (*Glandularia maritima*), *Stachytarpheta frantzii* 'Violacea'
- **Pineland Heliotrope** (*Heliotropium polyphyllum*)
- **Seaside Heliotrope** (*Heliotropium curassavicum*)
- **Roadside Phlox** (*Phlox divericata*)

Roadside Phlox (*Phlox divericata*)


Credit: Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Heavenly Bamboo

Scientific name: *Nandina domestica*

Description: Broadleaf, evergreen shrub that resembles bamboo, growing between 4-8 ft. tall and spreads approximately 2-4 ft. wide. White to pink flowers develop on the ends of new growth and develop into bundles of red berries.

Distribution and range: N, C

Ecological threat:

- IFASAS: Invasive (N, C), Caution (S)


Credit: Tina McIntyre, UF/IFAS

PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Wild Coffee** (*Psychotria nervosa*)
- **Velvet Leaf Wild Coffee** (*Psychotria tenuifolia*)
- **Bahama Wild Coffee** (*Psychotria ligustrifolia*)
- **Gall Berry** (*Ilex glabra*)
- **Firebush** (*Hamelia patens*)

Shopping guidance:

- *N. domestica* 'Gulf Stream' (S. FL)*
- 'Firepower'*
- 'Harbor Dwarf'*
- 'AKA' Blush Pink*
- 'Firehouse'*
- 'Monfar' Sienna Sunrise*
- 'Jaytee' Harbour Belle (S. FL)*
- 'Firestorm'*
- Lemon-Lime*
- 'SEIKA' Obsession™*
- Murasaki Flirt™*
- Greray Sunray®*

Firebush (*Hamelia patens*)

Coral Ardisia

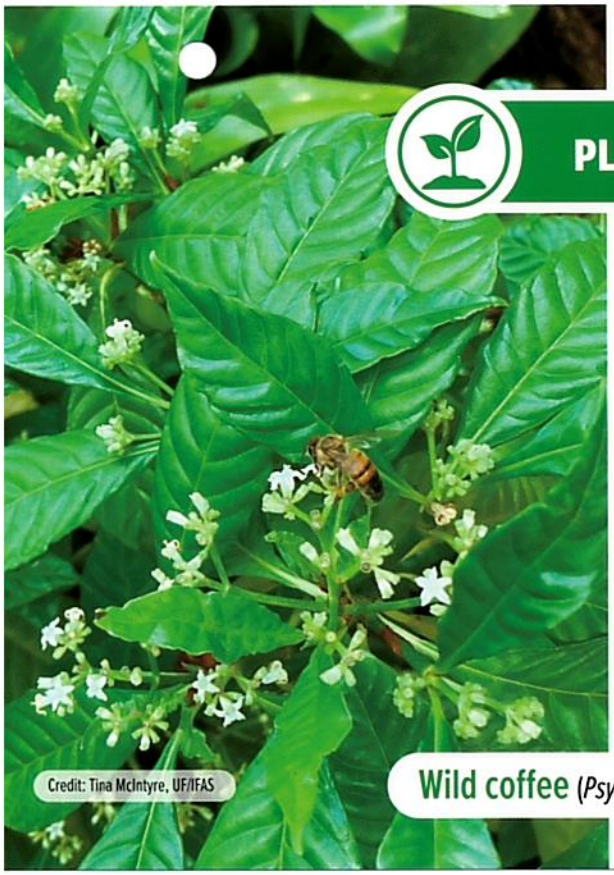
Scientific name: *Ardisia crenata*

Upright shrub that can grow up to 6 ft. in height and often grows in clumps. Leaves are thick, dark green, and somewhat glossy with scalloped edges. White to pink flowers are borne at nodes of development. Red berries are mature fruit.

Distribution and range: N, C, S

Ecological threat:

- FISC/CAIP: Category 1 statewide
- IFASAS: Invasive (N, C, S)
- FDACS: Noxious weed – Prohibited



PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Gallberry** (*Ilex glabra*)
- **Dwarf Yaupon Holly** (*Ilex vomitoria* - dwarf)
- **Wild Coffee** (*Psychotria nervosa*)
- **Velvet Leaf Wild Coffee** (*Psychotria tenuifolia*)
- **Bahama Wild Coffee** (*Psychotria ligustrifolia*)

Wild coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*)

Lantana, Shrub Verbena

Scientific Name: *Lantana strigocamara* (formerly *L. camara*)
Perennial woody shrub up to 6 ft. tall and 5 ft. wide. Tubular flowers are arranged in 1-2 in. spherical clusters on the tip of the stem. Each flower has four petals and flower colors may be solid or a combination of white, pink, red, purple, yellow, or orange. Mature fruits are dark purple and not edible for humans.

It is important to note the subtle differences in the cultivars and the invasive varieties of lantana. Invasive lanatana has flattened, square stems which are woody, and it can spread by rooting where the stem touches the ground. It often pushes out other plants and becomes leggy, thorny, and unattractive.

Distribution and range: N, C, S
Ecological threat:

- FISC/CAIP: Category 1 statewide
- IFASAS: Invasive (N, C, S)

PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Buttonsage** (*Lantana involucrata*)
- **Christmasberry** (*Lycium carolinianum*)
- **Blue Porterweed** (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*)
- **Locustberry** (*Byrsonima lucida*)

Approved Lantana cultivars:

- **Bloomify Red Lantana** (*L. camara* 'UF-1013-2A')*
- **Bloomify Rose Lantana** (*L. camara* 'UF-1011-2')*
- **Luscious Royale Red Zone Lantana** (*L. camara* 'UF-1013-1') *'LAN-53'*, 'LAN-54'*

Buttonsage (*Lantana involucrata*)


Credit: Forest & Kim Starr

Bowstring Hemp

Scientific name: *Sansevieria hyacinthoides*

Evergreen perennial with large tongue-shaped leaves that are often green banded with a yellow border. Grows in clumps along the ground and reaches up to 6 ft. tall. If in the landscape, removal is recommended.

Distribution and range: N, C, S

Ecological threat:

- FISC/CAIP: Category 2 (C, S)
- IFASAS: Invasive (N, C, S)


Credit: John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Cast Iron Plant (*Aspidistra elatior*)

PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Adam's Needle** (*Yucca filamentosa*)
- **Pharus Grass** (*Pharus glaber*)
- **Cast Iron Plant** (*Aspidistra elatior*)

Sisal Hemp

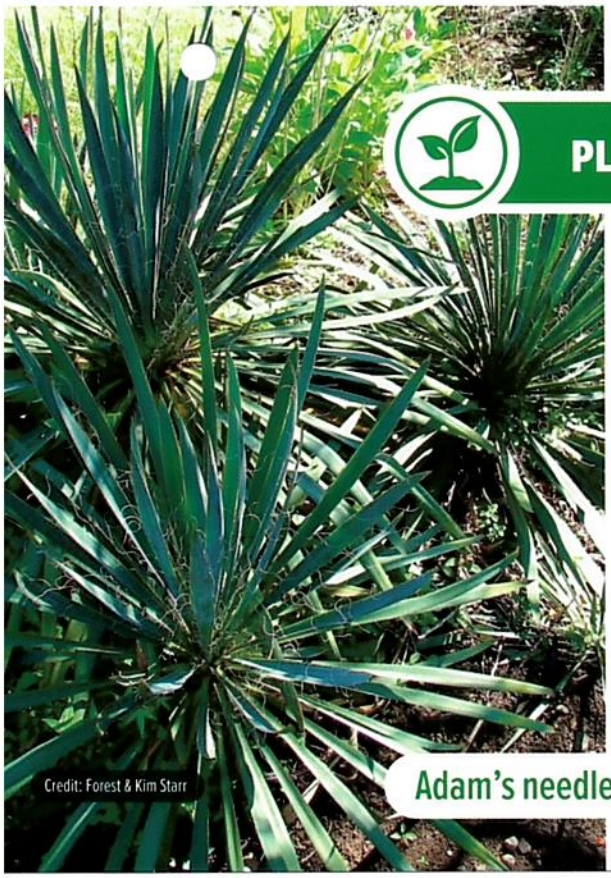
Scientific name: *Agave sisalana*

Shrub consists of rosettes of sword-shaped, greyish-green leaves that have a sharp brown spine on the tips. Grows up to 6 ft. tall. Branched clusters of yellowish flowers form on a stalk up to 30 ft. tall.

Distribution and range: C, S

Ecological threat:

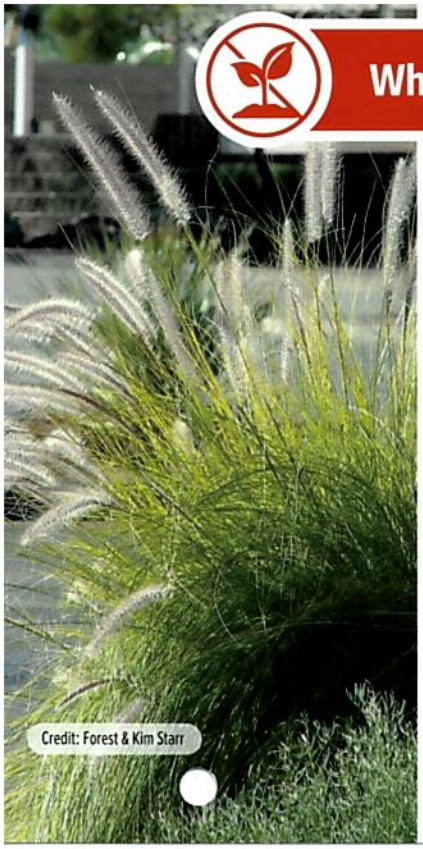
- FISC/CAIP: Category 2 (C, S)
- IFASAS: Caution (C, S)



PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Century Plant** (*Agave americana*)
- **Dwarf Century Plant** (*Agave desmettiana*)
- **Thread Agave** (*Agave filifera*)
- **Adam's Needle** (*Yucca filamentosa*)
- **Bluestem Yucca** (*Yucca guatemalensis*)

Adam's needle (*Yucca filamentosa*)



White Fountain Grass

Scientific name: *Pennisetum setaceum*
Ornamental perennial with fine-textured leaves and long, feathery tufts of white flowers. Grows around 3-4 ft. tall. Flowers produce small seeds that may volunteer to form plants nearby.

The sterile fountain grass cultivar (*Pennisetum setaceum* 'Rubrum') is red and has red flowers. When buying this plant, it may be difficult to distinguish between the invasive or cultivated variety when it is not blooming.

Distribution and range: N, C, S
Ecological threat:

- FISC/CAIP: Category 2 (S)

PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Muhly Grass** (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)
- **Chalky Bluestem** (*Andropogon virginicus*)
- **Lopsided Indiangrass** (*Sorghastrum secundum*)
- **Cordgrass** (*Spartina bakeri*)
- **Elliot's Lovegrass** (*Eragrostis elliotti*)
- **Purple Lovegrass** (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)

Muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)


Credit: Rosanna Freyre, UF/IFAS

Britton's Wild Petunia
(formerly known as Mexican Petunia or Mexican Bluebell)

Scientific Name: *Ruellia simplex*

Evergreen, herbaceous perennial up to 4 ft. tall with woody base. Consistent purple, trumpet-like flowers are short-lived and borne on the upper part of the dark stems, close to leaf nodes. This plant grows quickly, self-seeds aggressively, and spreads by rhizomes.

Differences in the cultivated varieties as compared to the invasive species are few, so special attention should be paid to the colors of the flowers: violet, white, and pink. In sterile cultivars, the pedicles shrivel after flowers drop, where pedicels are persistent in fertile *Ruellia simplex*.

Distribution and range: N, C, S

Ecological threat:

- FISC/CAIP: Category 1 statewide
- IFASAS: Caution (N, C, S)


Credit: Tina McIntyre, UF/IFAS

PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Carolina wild petunia** (*Ruellia caroliniensis*)
- **Blue Porterweed** (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*)
- **Wild Blue Phlox** (*Phlox divaricata*)
- **Narrowleaf Sunflower** (*Helianthus angustifolius*)
- **Blue Curls** (*Trichostema dichotomum*)

Approved Ruellia Cultivars:

- **Mayan Purple** ('R10-102')*
- **Mayan Compact Purple** ('R12-2-1')*
- **Mayan White** ('R10-108')*
- **Aztec Pink** ('R-16-1-1')*
- **Aztec Pink/White** ('R15-24-17')*
- **Aztec Purple** ('R-15-5-3')* are fruitless, yet can spread by rhizomes
- **Mayan Pink** ('R10-105-Q54')* produces few fruits, but seeds are not viable.

All approved cultivars should be used with caution to prevent vegetative escape, such as container planting or installing borders around the beds. We recommend buying from reliable sources with the cultivar names clearly labeled.

Blue porterweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*)

Taro

Scientific name: *Colocasia esculenta*

Herbaceous perennial that thrives in rich, wet soil and tropical climates. It has large green (or sometimes purple) leaves and resembles an elephant's ear. Grows up to 4 ft. tall with thick shoots. Flowers are densely packed along a fleshy stalk, enveloped by a modified leaf. Grows along streams, marsh and lake shores, canals, and ditches.

Distribution and range: N, C, S

Ecological threat:

- FISC/CAIP: Category 1 statewide
- IFASAS: Invasive (N, C, S)

PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Florida Swamp-lily** (*Crinum americanum*)
- **Mangrove Spider-lily** (*Hymenocallis latifolia*)
- **Caladiums** (*Caladium* x *hortulanum*)

Caladiums (*Caladium* x *hortulanum*)

Wax Begonia

Scientific name: *Begonia cucullata*

Small, erect shrub that grows up to 18 in. high and 24 in. across. Green to purple leaves and delicate white or red flowers. Tends to be adjacent to wetlands. Should be hand removed if spotted in these areas.

Wax begonia is the common name for multiple begonias, so it is important here to note the scientific names and appearance of the begonias. There are many begonias suitable for Florida; however, the species *B. cucullata* is invasive.

Distribution and range: N, C, S

Ecological threat:

- FISC/CAIP: Category 2 statewide
- IFASAS: Caution (N, C, S)

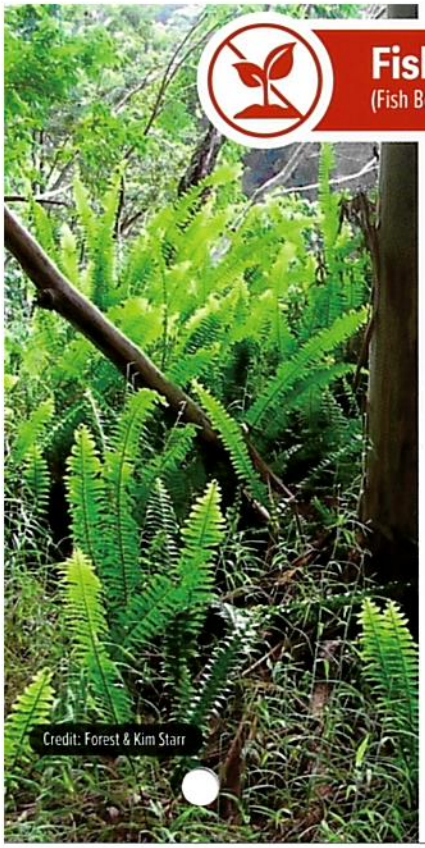
PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Swamp Twinflower** (*Dyschoriste humistrata*)
- **Twinflower** (*Dyschoriste oblongifolia*)
- **Carolina Wild Petunia** (*Ruellia caroliniana*)
- **Rain Lily** (*Zephyranthes atamasca*)

Shopping guidance:

- *Begonia* x *semperflorens-cultorum* (Florida-friendly)

Swamp twinflower (*Dyschoriste humistrata*)



Fish Bone Fern and Tuberous Sword Fern

(Fish Bone Fern formerly known as Asian Sword Fern)

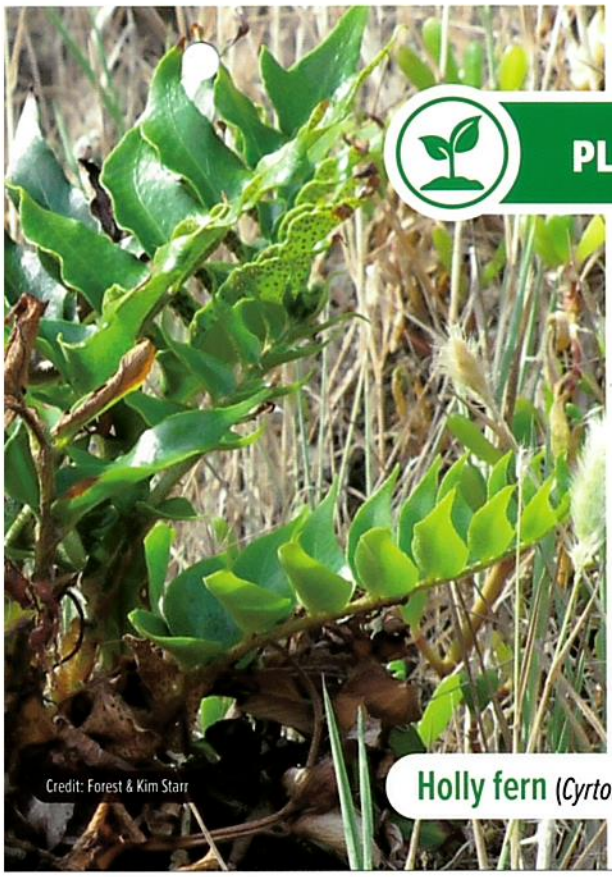
Scientific name: *Nephrolepsis brownii, Nephrolepsis cordifolia* (respectively)

Grows quickly and creates a dense thicket by means of runners and tubers. 2-3 ft. high fern with pale green leaves and a hairy appearance on stem. Recommend removal with special care to eliminate the tubers.

Distribution and range: C, S

Ecological threat:

- FISC/CAIP: Category 1 statewide
- IFASAS: Invasive (S)



PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Boston Fern** (*Nephrolepsis exaltata*)
- **Cinnamon Fern** (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*)
- **Holly Fern** (*Cyrtomium falcatum*)

Holly fern (*Cyrtomium falcatum*)

Golden-and-Silver Honeysuckle
(formerly known as Japanese Honeysuckle)

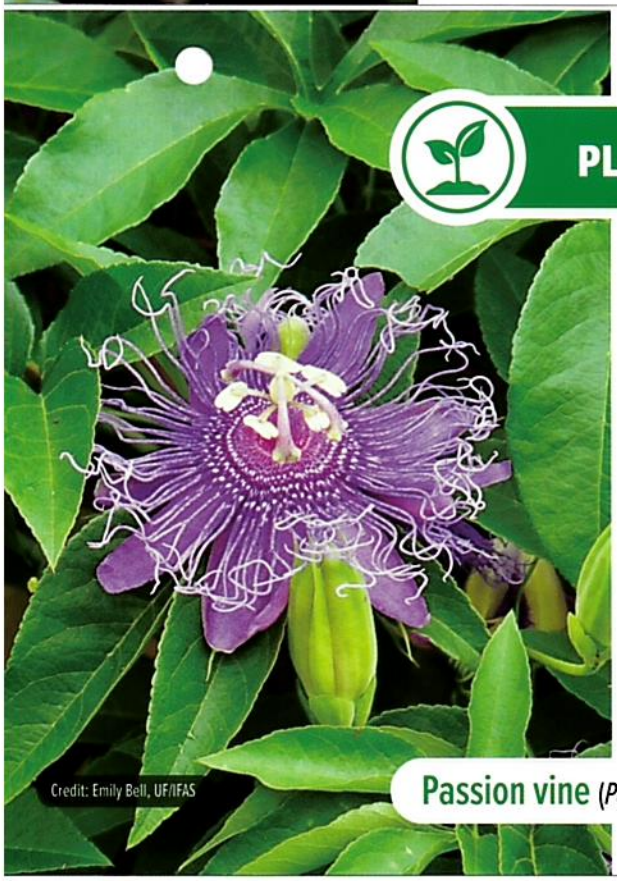
Scientific name: *Lonicera japonica*

Trailing vine with broad leaves grows between 16-30 ft. long and is deciduous to semi-evergreen. Sweet-smelling clusters of cream and white-to-orange flowers with long stamens that bear small, black fruits.

Distribution and range: N, C, S

Ecological threat:

- FISC/CAIP: Category 1 statewide
- IFASAS: Invasive (N, C, S)
- FDACS: Noxious weed – Prohibited



PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Coral Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera sempervirens*)
- **Passion Vine** (*Passiflora incarnata*)
- **Cross Vine** (*Bignonia capreolata*)
- **White Twinevine** (*Funastrum clausum*)
- **Corkystem Passionvine** (*Passiflora suberosa*)

Passion vine (*Passiflora incarnata*)

Flame Vine


Credit: Tina McIntyre, UF/IFAS

Scientific name: *Pyrostegia venusta*

This fast-growing woody vine is highly ornamental, bearing clusters of long, tubular orange flowers. Can grow up to 16.5 ft. in height. Spreads mostly by suckers, so it can be difficult to control.

Distribution and range: N, C, S

Ecological threat:

- FISC/CAIP: Invasive statewide
- IFASAS: Invasive (N, C, S)


Credit: Emily Bell, UF/IFAS

PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Coral Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera sempervirens*)
- **Passionvine** (*Passiflora incarnata*)
- **Corkystem Passionvine** (*Passiflora suberosa*)
- **Cross Vine** (*Bignonia capreolata*)

Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)

Asparagus Fern

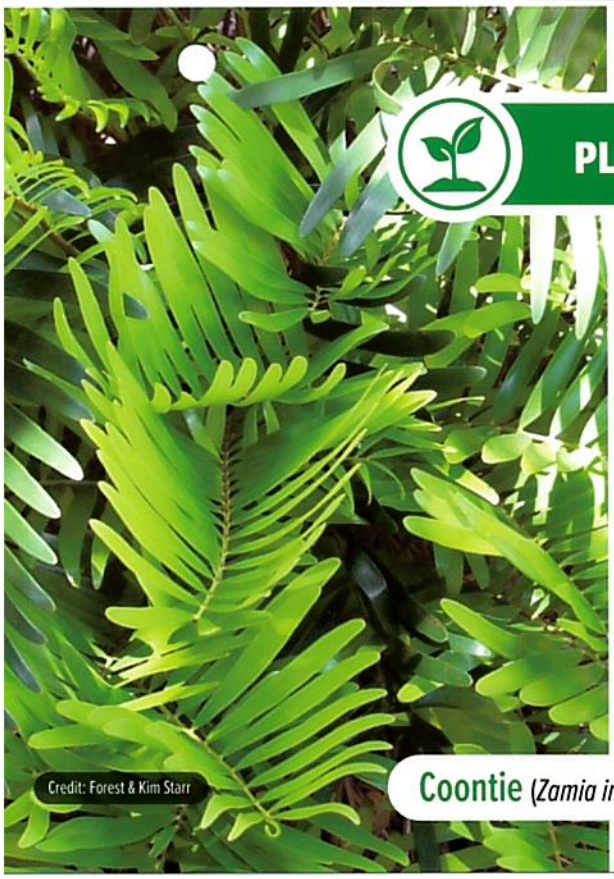
Scientific name: *Asparagus setaceus*

Woody, climbing vine with fine-textured leaves and thorny stems. Fast-growing ornamental species that is frequently found in disturbed sites throughout Florida.

Distribution and range: N, C, S

Ecological threat:

- FISC/CAIP: Category 1 statewide
- IFASAS: Caution (N, C, S)



PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Coontie** (*Zamia integrifolia*)
- **Dwarf Walter's Viburnum** (*Viburnum obovatum* 'Nana')
- **Atlantic St. John's Wort** (*Hypericum tenuifolium*)
- **Beach Creeper** (*Ernodea littoralis*)
- **Scorpion's Tail** (*Heliotropium angiospermum*)

Coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*)

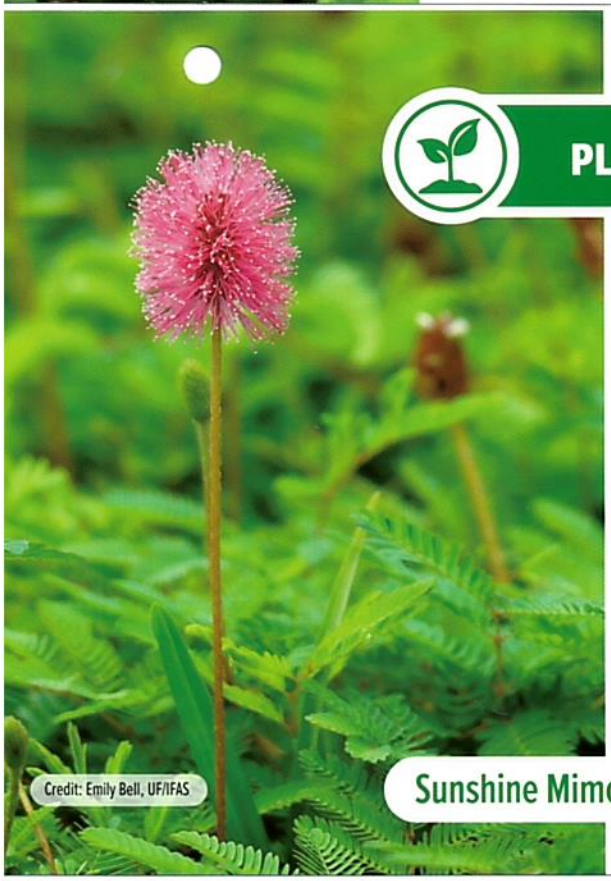
Creeping Oxeye, Wedelia

Scientific name: *Sphagneticola trilobata*
(formerly *Wedelia trilobata*)

Daisy-like, mat-forming groundcover with golden flowers. Prefers wet areas. Fast-growing and similar-looking to dune sunflower. Recommended removal if it is persistent in the landscape.

Distribution and range: N, C, S
Ecological threat:

- FISC/CAIP: Category 2 statewide
- IFASAS: Invasive (N, C, S)



PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Frog Fruit** (*Phyla nodiflora*)
- **Sunshine Mimosa** (*Mimosa strigillosa*)
- **Perennial Peanut** (*Arachis glabra*)
- **Railroad Vine** (*Ipomoea pes-caprae*)

Sunshine Mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*)


Credit: Tina McIntyre, UF/IFAS

Wandering Dude, Inch Plant

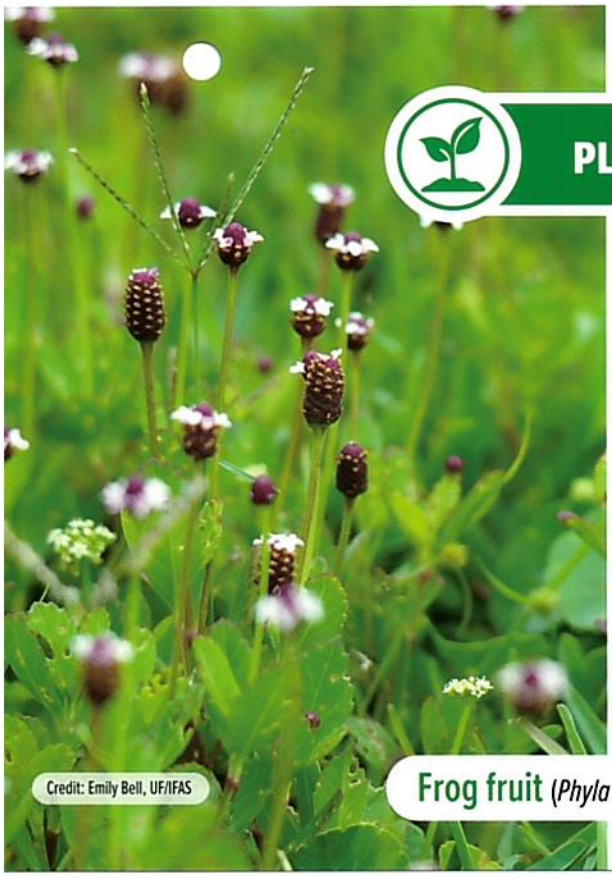
Scientific name: *Tradescantia zebrina*

This plant has attractive zebra-like patterns on the leaves with the new growth being purple and the older growth being green. The underside of the leaf is usually purple, and the topside often has a silvery surface. This plant forms dense mats but growing along the ground. Small pink to purple flowers. Can be used as a houseplant, but should not be in the landscape.

Distribution and range: C, S

Ecological threat:

- IFASAS: Invasive (C, S)


Credit: Emily Bell, UF/IFAS

Frog fruit (*Phyla nodiflora*)

PLANT INSTEAD ✓

- **Frog Fruit** (*Phyla nodiflora*)
- **Sunshine Mimosa** (*Mimosa strigillosa*)

RESOURCES

Invasive Plant Lists

Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants: https://plants.ifas.ufl.edu

Florida Invasive Species Council: https://floridainvasivespecies.org

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: https://www.fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/Our-Forests/Forest-Health/Invasive-Non-Native-Plants/Invasive-Non-native-Plant-Laws

Florida Noxious Weeds List: https://www.invasive.org/species/list.cfm?id=22

IFAS Assessment: https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu

General Information

Ask IFAS: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu

UF/IFAS Extension: http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu

Florida Association of Native Nurseries: https://www.FANN.org

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program: https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu

Florida Invasive Species Partnership: https://www.floridainvasives.org

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