

# A Word About Native Plants

The use of native plants in the landscape has become much more common recently. Natives such as Seagrape, Sea Otas, Yucca and Green Buttonwood have long been used by residents living in coastal areas with excessive salt spray.

Now as water for non-essential uses such as lawn and landscape irrigation is more highly scrutinized, the idea of using native plants will become more attractive to a greater number of homeowners and developers. Native plants used properly in a landscape can lead to reduced water usage for irrigation as well as greater versatility to climatic changes. The Florida State Tree, the Sabal Palm, is an excellent example of a highly adaptable native plant which is able to grow in a variety of conditions. Wax Myrtle is another native which can tolerate a variety of soil conditions. Furthermore, it can be sheared as a hedge or maintained as a multi-stemmed small tree depending on the landscape needs. Included below is a partial list of some native plants which you might consider using for your landscape. A more complete listing is available from the Cooperative Extension Service Office.

1. *Acer rubrum* - Red Maple
2. *Ardisia escallanioides* - Marlberrry
3. *Bumelia salicifolia* - Willow Busic
4. *Chrysobalanus icaco* - Cocoplum
5. *Chrysophyllum oliviforme* - Satin Leaf
6. *Conocarpus erectus* - Green Buttonwood
7. *Cordia sebestena* - Geigor Tree
8. *Dodonea viscosa* - Varnish Leaf
9. *Erythrina herbacea* - Coral Bean
10. *Ficus aurea* - Strangler Fig
11. *Gordonia lasianthus* - Loblolly Bay
12. *Ilex cassine* - Dahoon Holly
13. *Ilex vomitoria* - Yaupon Holly
14. *Liquidambar styraciflua* - Sweet Gum
15. *Lysiloma bahamensis* - Wild Tamarind
16. *Magnolia grandiflora* - Southern Magnolia
17. *Magnolia virginiana, australis* - Southern Sweet Boy
18. *Myrica cerifera* - Wax Myrtle
19. *Persea borbonia* - Red Bay
20. *Psychotria undata* - Wild Coffee
21. *Quercus laurifolia* - Laurel Oak
22. *Quercus virginiana* - Live Oak
23. *Simarouba glauca* - Paradise Tree
24. *Swietenia mahogani* - West Indies Mahogany
25. *Taxodium distichum* - Bald Cypress
26. *Thespesia populnea* - Portia Tree

Availability of some native plants is probably one of the greatest factors restricting their use. The number of nurseries offering natives is increasing, however, more should be encouraged to grow natives as the demand increases. Just remember, native plants were around long before sprinkler systems.

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