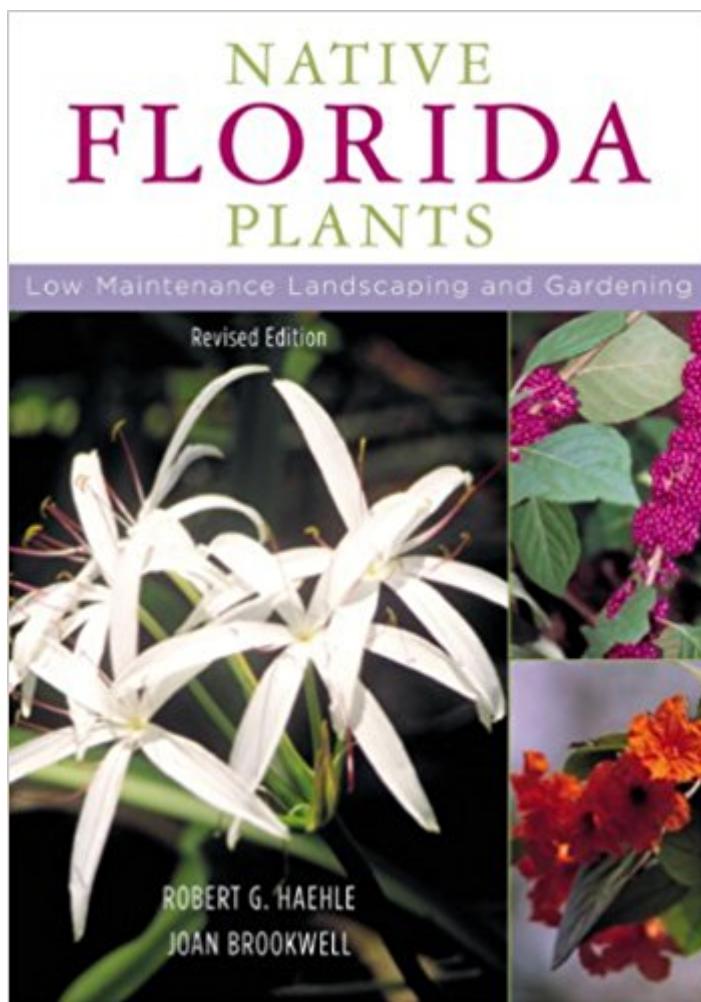


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# Native Florida Plants: Low Maintenance Landscaping And Gardening



## **Synopsis**

Many counties in Florida now require that new commercial landscapes contain a percentage of native plants. Native landscapes are easier to maintain, use less water and thrive without chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Native Florida Plants describes every type of regional flora—from seaside foliage and wildflowers to grassy meadows, shrubs, vines, and aquatic gardens—in 301 profiles and accompanying color photographs.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

A handy manual for newcomers to Florida whether new homeowners or tourists. (National Garden Clubs, (Www. Gardenclub.Org))Native Florida Plants by Haehle and Brookwell updates the list of native plant nurseries in addition to adding a number of new plant profiles not included in the 1999 edition. And it includes the family names of plants in an additional appendix, making the book useful as a text. Add to your Florida collection. (Georgia Tasker Miami Herald)As in the first edition, Brookwell's beautiful photography helps novices with plant identification and the easy-to-read format gives quick information on plant characteristics and growing conditions. (Charlyne Varkonyi Schaub South Florida Sun-Sentinel)Haehle and Brookwell detail plants that are successful in the diverse climates throughout Florida. (Gainesville Sun)Page after page of plant pictures and information making identification much easier. (Florida Times-Union)Whether you are interested in trees, shrubs, perennials, vines or aquatics, this book will help you choose a native plant for the task. Informative. (Becky Wern, Georgia Times-Union)Page after page of plant pictures and information.

(Becky Wern Florida Times - Union) Especially aimed at those who want to turn their outdoor space into a landscape for wildlife and native plants. (Tallahassee Democrat)"a good encyclopedia of Florida natives, with large detailed photographs...It's worth having on your shelf." (Harriet Howard Heithaus Naples Daily News)

Robert G. Haehle is a horticulture consultant and gardening writer. He was the radio host of "Garden Line". He has written numerous columns and articles for Southern Living, South Florida Home & Garden, Florida Nuseryman, and many others. Joan Brookwell has worked for 10 years at the Sun-Sentinel in Fort Lauderdale as the home and garden editor. She is currently a freelance writer and photographer living in Fort Lauderdale.

This is one of several books we bought to help us learn about and come up with ideas for landscaping our new home in south-central coastal Florida. Our yard has several oaks, dozens of palm trees and various shrubs and vines, all of which are rather different than what we had been used to in Connecticut. On the west our lot backs up to a wetlands nature preserve that in turn abuts a lagoon, and the Atlantic Ocean is a few blocks to the east, so we have warm weather year-round with rare frosts. However, this book covers the full range of Florida climate zones, not just our mild Zone 9B. This book is well laid-out with informative text about, and good-sized color photos of, palms, large and small trees, shrubs, vines, wildflowers, grasses and ferns. There are also very helpful sections on climate, water gardens and attracting wildlife. Every item has at least one color photo plus common name, scientific name and a wide range of other information such as size, sun/shade and water requirements, etc. Given the high cost of landscaping, and the challenges of growing and maintaining plants in a semi-tropical climate, buying a few books to help develop ideas about and understanding of the many options is a worthwhile investment. I did not find just one book that covered everything about Florida plants; given our site and our unfamiliarity with its botanical inhabitants, I bought five books which together provided a comprehensive range of information (this book on native/low maintenance plants, one on fruiting plants, one on natural landscaping, one on readily available native plants, and one on landscaping for attracting Florida wildlife). I found this book to be especially helpful regarding native and low-maintenance plants. Invasive plant species are a problem in Florida and just about everywhere else in the US, so learning from this book how to "go native" means we will end up (at least on our property) with few or no invasive species and, most importantly, plants that are already well adapted to this environment.

A must have for any Floridian who wants to learn about native plants and their profiles. Many natives require no watering after being properly established and no additional fertilizer. I have learned and purchased some natives plants to replace exotics with the help of this book, and it has made my gardening a lot easier. One note of advice, this book does not contain wind tolerance on the plant profiles. Most natives do great in storms and hurricanes, but there are some exceptions such as the laurel oak, the mahoe, and water oaks. If this information had been provided, this book would have been absolutely perfect.

This book provides a good overview on the benefits of using native plants. When it comes to the plants included, however, the authors have an acknowledged bias toward South Florida, so it may not be the best choice if you are not in that part of the state. A more serious drawback is the photography. There are no photographs of residential landscapes using native plants, from which one might draw inspiration, and most of the plant profiles contain only one photo, generally a close-up, so one has no idea of the plant's shape or growth habit. A number of additional plants have been included in this updated edition, but rather than placing them under the appropriate category, they are appended at the end.

While no one book is perfect, this revised edition has a lot going for it. It has interesting chapters on Florida's climate and different plant communities, e.g. seaside, interior sections, etc. Then it gives an excellent and concise description of plants, e.g. DAHOON HOLLY (*Ilex cassine*) with a GOOD COLOR PHOTO. I have one in my backyard. It gives all the relevant information in a clear and concise way: height, light, bloom, etc. Habitat was extremely helpful, i.e. usually found near streams and swamps. I started making sure it got more water! It is on my shelf next to "Florida Landscaping Plants Revised Edition" by Watkins and Sheehan, and between the two, I think I can usually find some helpful information.

A great book for newcomers to Florida, as well as instructors of landscaping classes that provides the rationale and importance behind utilizing native Florida plants and trees. This book includes beautiful color photos accompanied by profiles which describe the plant's native range, size, light requirement, bloom time and other important information. The author explains how to create a native garden (including a few landscape designs for different kinds of communities), and describes the best plants that thrive in the state's varied and unique climates. In the back of the book you will find a list of Plant Families, a list of Florida Native Nurseries and a bibliography. This book is an

excellent resource for all Florida gardeners.

Nice book about Florida plants.

This book is way too general, the picture quality is terrible, I have gotten more from magazines about Native Florida Plants. Dont get me wrong it names a lot of plants, but if you plan on landscaping you will be looking for other resources. Would not recommend...

Very helpful, I recently moved here from the Northeast and found that gardening here in Florida is quite different.

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