



Native Plants of and for Key West

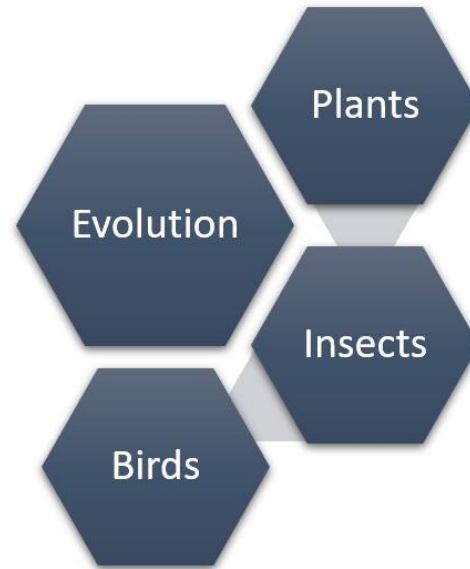
Significance and Need

Name		Full Sun	Mix/ sun & shade	Shade	Growth Rate	Salt Wind Tolerance	Somewhat Drought Tolerant	Moderate Moisture	Really Moist	Birds -	Butterflies
Bahama senna	Shrub - 2 to 4'	✓	✓		Fast	Low	Moderate	✓	✓		
Bahama wild coffee	Shrub - 3 to 4'		✓	✓	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	✓			
Balloonvine	Vine - 10' +	✓	✓		Fast	Moderate	High	✓	✓		
Bandana of the Everglades	Herbaceous - 3 to 6'	✓	✓		Fast	Low	Low				
Bay cedar	Shrub/Sm tree- 6 to 10'	✓			Moderate	High	High	✓			
Beach creeper	Low shrub/Groundcover	✓			Moderate	High	High	✓			
Black ironwood	Small to medium tree - 15 to 25'	✓	✓		Slow	Moderate	High	✓			
Blacktorch	Shrub - 4 to 8'	✓			Moderate	High	Moderate	✓			
Blolly	Shrub or small tree - 10 to 25'	✓	✓		Moderate	High	Moderate	✓			
Blue porterweed	Herbaceous/groundcover - 1 to 3'	✓			Fast	Moderate	High	✓			
Caribbean princewood	Tree - 15 to 30'	✓	✓		Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	✓			
Cinnamonbark	Shrub or small tree - 15 to 20'	✓	✓		Slow	Moderate	Moderate	✓			
Cinnecord	Shrub or small tree	✓			Fast	Moderate	High	✓			
Cocoplum	Shrub - 10 to 15'	✓			Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	✓			
Coffee colubrina	Small tree - 10 to 20'	✓			Fast	Low	Moderate	✓			
Common snowberry	Shrub, climbing - 6 to 10' & up		✓		Moderate	High	Moderate	✓			
Coontie	4'	✓	✓		Slow	High	High	✓			
Corkystem passionvine	Vine - to 10'	✓	✓		Fast	High	High	✓			
Crabwood	Tree - 10 to 25'	✓	✓		Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	✓			
Dahoon holly	Tree - 10 to 20'	✓	✓		Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	✓			
About 300 species of plants are native to the City of Key West											
Ferns: Giant sword, Southern shield											
Fiddlewood	Tree - 15 to 25'	✓	✓		Moderate	Low	Moderate	✓			
Firebush	Shrub - 6 to 12'	✓			Fast	Moderate	Moderate	✓			
Florida boxwood	Small tree - 10 to 20'		✓		Slow	Moderate	Moderate	✓			
Florida Keys blackbead	Shrub or small tree - 8 to 15'	✓			Moderate	High	High	✓			
Florida privet	Shrub or small tree - 8 to 15'	✓			Fast	High	High	✓			
inkwood	Tree - 25 to 35'	✓	✓		Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	✓			
Jamaica caper	Shrub or small tree - 6 to 12'	✓	✓		Moderate	High	High	✓			
Joewood	Shrub - 4 to 10'	✓	✓		Slow	High	Moderate	✓			
Lancewood	Tree - 20 to 30'	✓	✓		Moderate to Fast	Moderate	High	✓			
Lignum vitae	Small tree - 8 to 20'	✓			Slow	Moderate	High	✓			
Locustberry	Shrub or small tree - 5 to 15'	✓	✓		Slow to Moderate	Moderate	High	✓			
Maidenberry	Shrub - 3 to 8'	✓	✓		Moderate	Low	Moderate	✓			
Mangrove spider lily											
Marlberry	Shrub or small tree - 8 to 15'	✓	✓		Moderate	High	Moderate	✓			

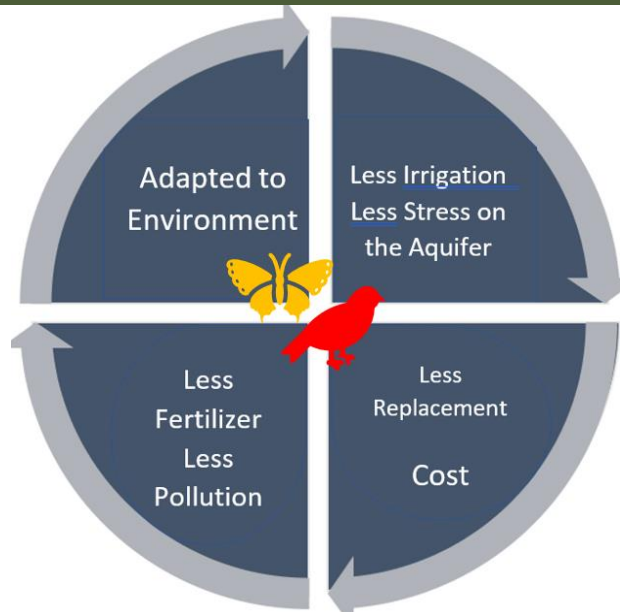


Neotropical migrants, such as wood thrushes, warblers, catbirds, hawks, wrens, vireos, flycatchers, kingbirds, nightjars, swallows, tanagers, orioles—orioles—species that fly thousands of miles to Central or South America to spend the winter—have declined an average of 1 percent per year since 1966

Tallamy, Douglas W. . Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants



Native Plants are important



Wildlife - tourism

Cost – adapted, care

Opportunity – tourism, grants, enthusiasm

Beauty – Livability, ease

Ecotourism - an economic opportunity

Birds

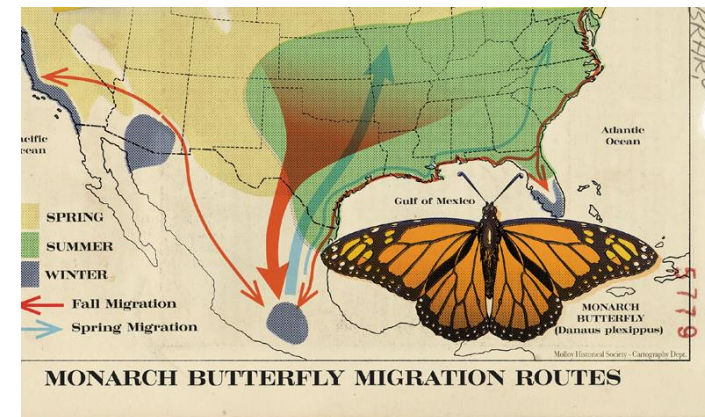
“The Florida Keys is home to many bird varieties, even more, stop by during the migrating season. This makes the Keys one of the top destinations for year-round bird watching!”



“In the winter months, the raptors; hawks and vultures, can be seen circling in large groups. In March and April, migrating birds are coming back from the Caribbean and points south heading north for the summer.”

Butterflies

“Butterflying is a fairly recent phenomenon in the United States, having taken off in the 1980s with the development of close-up binoculars and digital photography. Increasingly viewed as a resource to be conserved, most butterfly watchers today pack binoculars and cameras rather than nets.”



Citizens for Conservation
Native Plant Conservationists
Natural Neighborhoods
??????????

- <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/01/pollinator-pathway/513395/>
- <https://grist.org/cities/bee-boulevard-how-to-turn-an-urban-corridor-into-a-haven-for-native-pollinators/>
- <https://citizensforconservation.org/conservation/habitat-corridors/>
- <https://conservationcorridor.org/2018/01/urban-riparian-corridors-spread/>
- <https://chicagolivingcorridors.org/tag/native-plants/>
- <https://theconversation.com/go-native-why-we-need-wildlife-allotments-to-bring-species-back-to-the-burbs-69631>



Inkwood, 25 – 30', M



Krug's holly, 20 – 30', M, Th



Lancewood, 20 – 30', M-F



Mastic, 30 – 60', M



Milkbark, 20 - 30', S, E



Satinleaf, 20 – 30', S-M, Th



Soapberry, 15 – 30', M



White ironwood, 15 – 30', S



Black ironwood, 15-25', S



Cinnamon bark, 15-20', S, E



Coffee colubrina, 10-20', F, E



Dahoon holly, 10-30', M



Fiddlewood, 15-25', M



Myrsine, 10-15', M



Rough strongback, 8-15', M, E



Spanish stopper, 8-15', M-S



Blacktorch, 4-8', M, Th



FL Keys blackbead, 8-15', M, Th



FL privet, 8-15', M



Locustberry, 5-15', S-M, Th



Marlberry, 8-15', M



Pearlberry, 5-10', S, E



Privet senna, 4-8', F, R



Sevenyear-apple, 5-15', S-M



Nurseries Local/Mainland - Importance of Germplasm

Monroe County:

- Key West Garden Club
- Key West TF & BG Native Nursery
- Mama's Landscaping
- Bayshore Landscaping
- Octopuses Garden??
- Islamorada and Key Largo?

Homestead:

- Silent Native Nursery
- Casey's Corner
- Native Tree Nursery



Be Mindful

- **Maintenance/Cost**

- Less fertilizer and pesticide usage
- Less irrigation once established
- Less damage/replacement after storms

- **Eco-friendly**

- Less opportunity for pollution - run-off
- Less pressure on the aquifer
- Less damage/replacement after storms
- Pollinators –birds, butterflies, other pollinators

- **Sustainability**

- Typically non-native plants require more establishment time, more irrigation, fertilizer
 - **and** recurrent maintenance!!!



- Key West is unique!
- Do we want to be a Palm Beach or a Boca?
- Do we want to engage in environmental issues and embrace eco-tourism?
- Going with native Keys or Caribbean plants can add to the flavor of the City
- Natives and Exotics can complement each other; they both have their place

The End

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UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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 **FLORIDA
MASTER
GARDENER**

