

Plant Identification Newsletter

THIS ISSUE: WETLAND PLANTS

LEARN THE
IMPORTANCE!

IDENTIFY
PLANTS!



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FIRE FLAG, ALLIGATOR FLAG

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Thalia geniculata*

FAMILY: Marantaceae

ORIGIN: Native

SIZE: 5-10' HT / 3'-10' SPD

COLORS: Green with purple/white flowers

TYPE: Aquatic Shrub

LIGHT: Full Sun/Partial Shade

SOIL: Very wet to moist soil



POND CYPRESS

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Taxodium ascendens*

FAMILY: Cupressaceae

ORIGIN: Native

SIZE: 50-80' HT / 15-30' SPD

COLORS: Green with green/brown seeds

TYPE: Tree

LIGHT: Full Sun/Part Shade

SOIL: Very wet to moist soil

LIZARDS TAIL

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Saururus cernuus*

FAMILY: Saururaceae

ORIGIN: Native

SIZE: 2-4' HT

COLORS: Green, White

TYPE: Perennial

LIGHT: Full Sun/Partial Shade

SOIL: Rich, mild-acidic



STRING LILY

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Crinum Americanum*

FAMILY: Amaryllidaceae

ORIGIN: Native

SIZE: 2-3' HT / 1-2' SPD

COLORS: Green, White & Pink

TYPE: Perennial

LIGHT: Full Sun/Part Shade

SOIL: Wet rich soil



CANNA LILY 'BENGAL TIGER'

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *canna americanallis* var. *variegata*

FAMILY: Canaceae

ORIGIN: India

SIZE: 6' HT / 5' SPD

COLORS: Orange, Red

TYPE: Perennial

LIGHT: Full Sun

SOIL: Loam, standing water/ occasionally wet



PICKERELWEED

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Pontederia cordata*

FAMILY: Pontederiaceae

ORIGIN: Florida

SIZE: 4' HT / 2' SPD

COLORS: Purple

TYPE: Perennial

LIGHT: Full Sun

SOIL: Clay, loam, silt, standing water/
occasionally wet

BALD CYPRESS

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Taxodium distichum*

FAMILY: Cupressaceae

ORIGIN: Native

SIZE: 100'-200' HT / 3'-6' SPD

COLORS: Copper in Fall / Green in Spring

TYPE: Canopy Tree

LIGHT: Full Sun/Partial Shade

SOIL: Medium to wet



COCOPLUM

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Chrysobalanus icaco*

FAMILY: Chrysobalanaceae

ORIGIN: Native

SIZE: 6' HT / 18-24" SPD

COLORS: Burgandy-red, yellow/green, dark green

TYPE: Shrub

LIGHT: Full Sun/Part Shade

SOIL: Dry to moist

EELGRASS

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Vallisneria americana*

FAMILY: Hydrocharitaceae

ORIGIN: North America

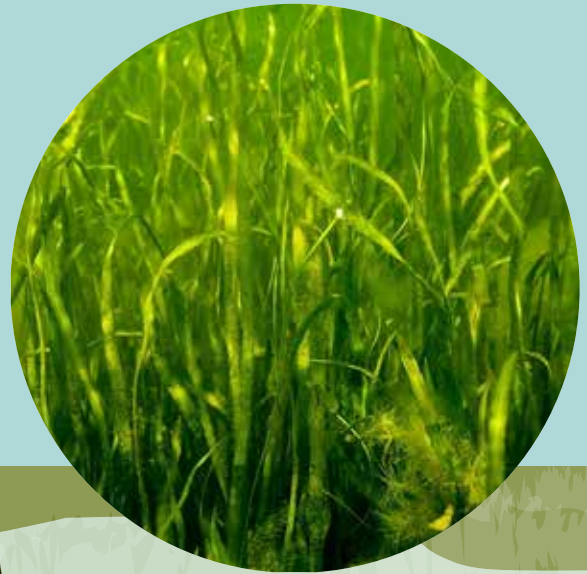
SIZE: 1-3' SPD

COLORS: Green

TYPE: Submerged aquatic perennial

LIGHT: Full Sun/Partial Shade

SOIL: Hydric



BUTTERFLY ORCHID

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Encyclia tampensis*

FAMILY: Orchidaceae

ORIGIN: Native

SIZE: 1-3' HT / 2" SPD

COLORS: Yellow, copper, green, bronze

TYPE: Epiphytic perennial

LIGHT: Partial Sun

SOIL: Tends to grow on trees

Why are Wetland Plants Important?

Wetland plants play a crucial role in Florida ecosystems, serving as the foundation for biodiversity and ecosystem services. These plants, including species like seagrass, cypress, and mangroves, provide habitat for a diverse array of wildlife, from amphibians and birds to fish and mammals. Additionally, they help maintain water quality by filtering pollutants and excess nutrients, thus improving the health of surrounding water bodies. Wetland plants stabilize shorelines, mitigating erosion and reducing the impacts of storms and flooding. In Florida, where wetlands are abundant and vital to the state's identity, preserving these ecosystems is essential for maintaining ecological balance, supporting tourism and recreation, and safeguarding against the effects of climate change, making wetland conservation a priority for environmental management efforts.

