

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COASTAL PLAIN ECOREGION

- This ecoregion encompasses more land than any other ecoregion in the state.
- It is characterized by mostly sandy loamy soils.
- It is relatively flat with subtle changes in elevation making a difference between upland and lowland areas.
- The driest months tend to be April and October.
- Plant communities are defined primarily by soil moisture and fire frequency.

## WHAT ARE NATIVE PLANTS?

- **Native plants** are species that grow naturally in this region and are adapted to local physical and biological conditions, and to frequent fires. They have co-evolved over time with other organisms of the region.
- **Cultivars of native plants** have been selectively bred. Because they have diminished genetic diversity, they are more susceptible to disease and less capable of supporting wildlife.

## WHAT ARE INVASIVE PLANTS?

- **Invasive plants** are not native to a given ecosystem and are likely to cause environmental harm.
- They tend to out-compete native species because they have no natural predators, diseases, or competitors.
- They have much less value to native pollinators, birds, and other wildlife than native plants.

## BENEFITS OF NATIVE PLANTS

- Native plants promote biodiversity and foster appreciation for our natural communities.
- They provide habitat for all types of wildlife, satisfying their needs for food, shelter, health, and reproduction.
- After establishment, they require less landscape and garden maintenance.

## USING NATIVE PLANTS

- Coastal Plain planting zones are 7-9, with suggested planting between October and February.
- Visit natural areas near where you live and observe which plants are growing together. Create similar plant communities in your garden.
- Match plants with the right soil, moisture, and light conditions.
- Plant only nursery-propagated plant material.
- Provide initial care the first year, as for any newly planted landscape plants.

## PROTECTING NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES

- Learn about and protect native plants and their natural communities.
- **Do not** remove plants from the wild unless participating in a legitimate and authorized “plant rescue” program.
- Remove invasive plants where possible as soon as possible.
- **Do not** plant invasive species, no matter how pretty they are.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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*Lilium  
catesbaei*

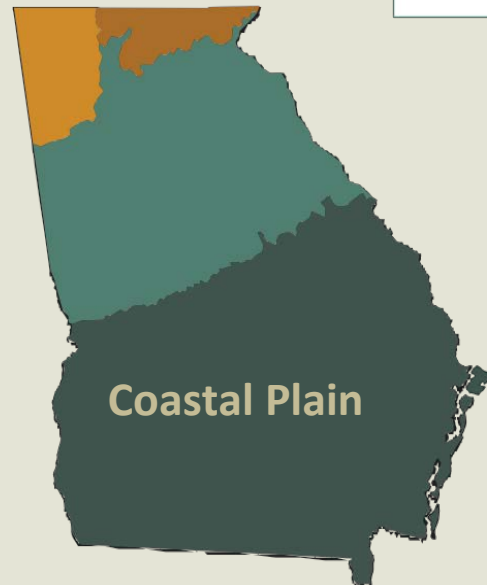
# Coastal Plain Chapter *Georgia Native Plant Society*

## LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS IN THE

# GEORGIA COASTAL PLAIN

## GEORGIA REGIONS

- Ridge and Valley
- Blue Ridge Mountains
- Piedmont
- Coastal Plain



*Asclepias tuberosa*  
Butterfly weed

**NATIVE PLANTS**

FOR THE

**GEORGIA COASTAL PLAIN**

**Coastal Plain Chapter**

*Georgia Native Plant Society*

**Light**

**F** = full sunlight  
**P** = partial shade  
**S** = shade

**Soil Moisture**

**H** = hydric; wet, plants periodically or often inundated  
**M** = mesic; moist, adequate soil moisture retention year round  
**S** = sub-xeric to sub-mesic; dry to moist, periodically droughty  
**X** = xeric; dry & frequently droughty, excessively well-drained

**Benefits**

(B)-Birds, (P)-Pollinators, (W) – Other Wildlife

E = Evergreen

D = Deciduous

**TREES**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Light			Moisture				E	D	BENEFITS
		F	P	S	H	M	S	X			
<i>Acer barbatum</i>	Southern sugar maple	x	x	x		x				x	BPW
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud		x				x			x	BPW
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringetree	x					x			x	PW
<i>Benthamidia florida</i>	Flowering dogwood		x				x			x	BPW
<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>	Black titi	x	x			x				x	BP
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon	x	x				x			x	PW
<i>Halesia diptera</i>	Two-wing silverbell					x				x	BP
<i>Ilex cassine</i>	Dahoon holly	x	x			x			x		PW
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American holly	x	x								PW
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Southern red cedar	x					x		x		BW
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum		x			x				x	PB
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Yellow poplar	x	x	x		x				x	BPW
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	Southern magnolia		x	x			x		x		BPW
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay magnolia		x				x		x	x	BPW
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black gum	x	x	x	x					x	BPW
<i>Osmanthus americanus</i>	Wild olive, devilwood		x	x			x		x		BW
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black cherry	x	x	x			x			x	PBW
<i>Quercus minima</i>	Dwarf live oak										PW
<i>Quercus laevis</i>	Turkey oak	x	x			x	x	x		x	BPW
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Live oak	x	x	x			x		x		BPW
<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black willow										BPW
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras	x	x				x			x	BPW
<i>Styrax americanus</i>	American snowbell										BP
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald cypress	x	x	x	x	x				x	BPW

**SHRUBS**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Light			Moisture				E	D	BENEFITS
		F	P	S	H	M	S	X			
<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	Bottlebrush buckeye		x	x	x	x					BP
<i>A. pavia</i>	Red buckeye		x	x	x	x					BPW
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red chokeberry	x				x			x		BPW
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	American beautyberry	x	x				x			x	BPW
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	x	x		x	x				x	BPW
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet pepperbush	x	x	x	x					x	BP
<i>Crataegus aestivalis</i>	Eastern mayhaw	x	x		x	x				x	BPW
<i>Euonymus americanus</i>	Hearts-a-bursting	x	x				x			x	BPW
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Possumhaw		x	x		x				x	BPW
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry	x	x	x	x	x			x		BPW
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Yaupon holly	x	x				x		x		BPW
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia sweetspire	x	x		x	x				x	PW
<i>Morella cerifera</i>	Wax myrtle	x	x				x		x		BPW
<i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	Chickasaw plum	x	x				x		x		BPW
<i>Rhododendron species</i>	Native azaleas	x	x			x				x	BP
<i>Rhus copallinum</i>	Winged sumac	x	x				x			x	BPW
<i>Sabal minor</i>	Dwarf palmetto		x	x			x		x		BPW
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Elderberry	x			x	x				x	BP
<i>Serenoa repens</i>	Saw palmetto	x	x	x			x		x		BW
<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i>	Sparkleberry		x	x			x		x		BPW
<i>V. corymbosum</i>	Highbush blueberry	x	x			x				x	BPW
<i>V. elliotii</i>	Elliott's blueberry	x	x		x	x				x	BPW
<i>V. myrsinites</i>	Shiny blueberry	x	x			x			x		BPW
<i>V. stamineum</i>	Deerberry	x	x	x			x			x	BPW
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	Adam's needle	x	x				x	x	x		BPW
<i>Zamia pumila</i>	Coontie	x	x				x	x	x		BPW

**VINES**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Light			Moisture				E	D	BENEFITS
		F	P	S	H	M	S	X			
<i>Apios americana</i>	Groundnut			x	x	x					BPW
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Cross vine	x	x				x		x		BPW
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	Trumpet vine	x					x		x		BPW
<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	Yellow jessamine	x	x				x		x		BPW
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Coral honeysuckle	x	x				x		x		BPW
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Passionflower	x	x				x			x	BP
<i>Wisteria frutescens</i>	American wisteria	x				x				x	BP

**FERNS**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Light			Moisture				E	D	BENEFITS
		F	P	S	H	M	S	X			
<i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i>	Cinnamon fern	x	x	s	x	x				x	B
<i>Osmunda spectabilis</i>	Royal fern	x	x	x	x					x	
<i>Pleopeltis polypodiodes</i>	Resurrection fern	x	x			x	x	x	x		W
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas fern			x		x				x	W
<i>Thelypteris kunthii</i>	Southern shield fern	x	x		x					x	W

**FORBS**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Light			Moisture				E	D	BENEFITS
		F	P	S	H	M	S	X			
<i>Amsonia species</i>	Bluestar		x			x	x				BP
<i>Asclepias species</i>	Native to CP only	x	x			x	x				BP
<i>Baptisia species</i>	Native to CP only	x	x				x	x			BPW
<i>Centrosema virginianum</i>	Spurred butterfly pea		x	x		x	x				BP
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Blue mistflower	x	x			x					P
<i>Coreopsis species</i>	Native coreopsis	x						x			BP
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake-master	x				x					BP
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Blanket flower	x					x	x			P
<i>Helianthus angustifolia</i>	Swamp sunflower	x					x	x			BPW
<i>Helioopsis helianthoides</i>	Smooth oxeye							x	x		BPW
<i>Hibiscus aculeatus</i>	Comfortroot	x	x		x	x	x				BP
<i>H. coccineus</i>	Scarlet rosemallow		x			x	x				BP
<i>H. grandiflorus</i>	Swamp rm		x			x	x				BP
<i>H. moscheutos</i>	Crimsoneyed rm										BPW
<i>Iris verna</i>	Dwarf crested iris		x	x		x	x				P
<i>Liatris species</i>	Native to CP only	x					x				BP
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal flower	x		x			x				BPW
<i>Manfreda virginica</i>	False aloe	x					x	x			PW
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Spotted beebalm	x	x					x			BP
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Blue phlox		x			x					P
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Blackeyed Susan	x						x			BPW
<i>R. laciniata</i>	Cut-leaf CF		x		x	x	x				BPW
<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	Scarlet sage	x	x	x	x	x	x				BP
<i>S. lyrata</i>	Lyre-leaf sage	x	x	x		x	x				P
<i>Saururus cernuus</i>	Lizard's tail	x	x		x	x					BPW
<i>Silphium species</i>	Native to CP only	x	x				x				BPW
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	Blue-eyed grass	x	x				x				P
<i>Solidago species</i>	Native to CP only	x	x				x	x			BPW
<i>Symphotrichum species</i>	Native to CP only	x	x				x				BPW
<i>Tephrosia virginiana</i>	Goat's rue	x	x	x			x	x			BP
<i>Vernonia species</i>	Ironweed						x	x			BPW
<i>Zephyranthes atamasca</i>	Atamasco lily			x		x	x				PW
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders	x	x	x		x					BPW

**GRASSES**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Light			Moisture				E	D	BENEFITS
		F	P	S	H	M	S	X			
<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>	Bushy bluestem	x			x	x					BW
<i>A. ternarius</i>	Splitbeard bluestem	x	x				x	x			BW
<i>Aristida beyrichiana</i>	Southern wiregrass	x	x				x	x			B
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	River oats		x	x	x	x					BPW
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia rye grass	x				x					PW
<i>Eragrostis elliotii</i>	Field lovegrass	x				x					BP
<i>E. spectabilis</i>	Purple lovegrass	x					x	x			BP
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Common rush	x			x						
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	Muhly grass (sweet grass)	x					x	x			PW
<i>Erianthus gigantens</i>	Sugar cane grass	x			x	x					PB
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem	x	x				x	x			BP
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Yellow indiagrass	x	x	x			x	x			BPW
<i>Tridens flavus</i>	Purpletop		x				x	x			BPW