

Purchasing Native Plants: Considerations and Nursery Sources

Always use the scientific name of the plant you are looking for – different plants may share the same common name.

Ideally, you should find plants that come from stock within a 100+ -mile radius in your physiographic region.



Purchase local native plants or seeds from local reputable nurseries, botanical gardens, or organizations that specialize in propagating native plants. Make sure that the nursery propagates what it sells, or buys from wholesalers who propagate plants from nursery grown stock plants. Do not purchase plants that were collected from the wild.

Where to Find Native Plants

Nurseries may carry some native plants, while others specialize and carry a greater selection. As the demand for native plants grows, the supply at nurseries will increase. Some plants will be more readily available than others. Prior to shopping for native plants, use the EcoScapes native plant search engine (www.ecoscapes.bugwood.org/) to determine the native plants that are suitable and desirable for your landscape site's conditions. Take a copy of the list with you when you visit nurseries. If you need help, ask for nursery staff familiar with native plants. If you see a new plant you like, check to see if it is included in the EcoScapes list for your particular local area and site conditions. Make sure that you check the common name with its scientific name to confirm that the plant you are considering is the intended plant you want to buy.

For those species that are more difficult to find, the hope and intention is that native plant species requests will spark a demand, and hence a greater supply. If you have a favorite plant that you cannot obtain, be sure to ask your local nursery to consider adding it to their stock. A list of native plant nursery references is available below.

For the greatest ecological value, select the “true” native species, especially if planting for wildlife and pollinator benefit. There are cultivated varieties (“cultivars”) available for many native plants. These are named using the scientific name (Latin genus and species, such as *Rudbeckia fulgida*) plus the cultivar name, a third word in single quotation marks (such as *Rudbeckia fulgida* ‘Goldstrum’). These varieties have been grown to provide plants



UGA Marine
Extension and
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Program

UGA EcoScapes
website:
Google “UGA
EcoScapes”

with certain physical characteristics, such as compact shape or size, flower color, or foliage variety. Although these are suitable for gardening, use true species (not cultivars) if you are planning a habitat project to provide food for wildlife. These plants are most suited for use by the native wildlife, and will increase your chances of attracting them.

Ask nurseries about the source of the native species sold. Did they come from seed or cuttings of plants found growing locally, or are they from another region? Ideally, the plants you use should come from stock from the same region, roughly within a 175-mile radius in the same physiographic province. Differences exist from region to region even in the same plant species, due to differences in climatic conditions between distant locations. For example, a plant grown in the piedmont may flower at a different time than the same species grown in the lower coastal plain of Georgia. They may have slight physical differences. These characteristics make a difference in designing gardens and they matter to wildlife seeking food sources.

We protect a species as a whole by preserving the genetic variation contained in local varieties. Not

only will planting a non-local variety dilute the local native variety, but these non-local plants will not grow as well for you as plants that were raised from local stock. The local variety of a species has spent many thousands of years adapting to the vagaries of its local conditions.

Recognizing that these challenges can sometimes be difficult to overcome, try to do your best in being a responsible gardener and protector of our wild treasures. The more consumers ask for locally grown plants or seed, the more likely it is that nurseries will carry local stock. Once you begin to explore and experiment with native plants, you'll soon discover that many of these plants go beyond just replacing worn out selections in your yard. Native plants will eventually reduce your labor and maintenance costs while inviting wildlife to your landscape helping to create your own sense of place.

Check out the native plant nursery listings below to assist in your purchasing of ecotypic native plants.



Stokes aster (*Stokesia laevis*) Source: UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

Retail and Wholesale Native Plant Nurseries Located in Lower to Upper Coastal Plain of Georgia, North Florida and Lower Coastal South Carolina

Ask nurseries about healthy, pesticide-free nursery-propagated native plants that are ecotypic to your area. For more information on selecting and purchasing native plants, check out the UGA EcoScapes “Points to Live by When Shopping and Gardening with Native Plants”. Plant inventories change frequently. Please contact nurseries for availability. The following are provided based on area code.

GEORGIA

Ann’s & Howard’s “Plants”

Hwy 204 – 5 miles west of I-95
Savannah, GA
912-748-2719
(native and ornamental)

Florabundance Gardens

P.O. Box D1050
Darien, GA 31305
(coastal county north of Brunswick and south of Midway)
McIntosh County
debshep@darientel.net
Limited quantities available.
By appointment only.

Southern Native Plantings

(northwest of Statesboro)
1549 Pryor Road
Newington, GA 30446
Screven County
912-687-0649
www.southernnativeplantings.com

Thompson’s Garden

(south of Statesboro, north of Stilson)
6215 GA Highway 67
Brooklet, GA 30415
Bulloch County
912-839-2164
plantguy@bulloch.net

Vincent Gardens

(east of Tifton, northwest of Waycross)
Coffee County
Douglas, GA
912-381-0644

www.vincentgardens.org

By appointment only. Online mail order.

FLORIDA

For more complete information on individual Florida retail nurseries, visit the plantREAL FLORIDA website: www.plantrealflorida.org.

Native and Uncommon Plants

6511 Lou Drive S.

Jacksonville, FL 32216

Duval County

904-388-9851

<http://www.nativeanduncommonplants.com>

goingnativejax@gmail.com

Reflections of Nature Landscape Nursery, Inc.

3030 S 8th Street

Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Nassau County

904-225-9915

<http://www.rninenursery.com>

rninenursery@comast.net

Closed on Sundays.

Southern Horticulture

1690 A1A S

St. Augustine, FL

St. Johns County

904-471-0440

<http://www.southernhorticulturefl.com>

shoho@bellsouth.net

Mail Order Natives

P.O. Box 9366

Lee, FL 32059

850-973-0585

<http://www.mailordernatives.com/>

(Retail nursery component of wholesale nursery Superior Trees, Inc.)

Native Nurseries of Tallahassee, Inc.

(directly south of Albany and SW of Valdosta Georgia)

1661 Centerville Road

Tallahassee, FL 32308

850-386-8882

<http://www.nativenurseries.com/>

Seven Pines Native Plant Nursery

4235 County Highway 192
Defuniak Springs, FL 32433
Walton County (SW of Dothan Georgia)
850-859-0096
Wildflowersmatter@7pinesranch.com
By appointment only.

Southern Habitats

418 NW Sand Dollar Way
Greenville, FL 32331
850-948-6294
<http://www.southernhabitats.com/>

Breezy Oaks Nursery

(East of Gainesville, FL)
23602 SE Hawthorne Road
Hawthorne, FL 32640-7330
Alachua County
352-481-3795
By appointment only.

Natural Treasures Farm and Nursery

(West of Gainesville, FL)
1002 SW 9th Ave
Trenton, FL 32693-5601
Gilchrist County
352-463-0696
naturaltreasuresfn@gmail.com
By appointment only.

Florida Wholesale Nurseries

For more complete information on individual Florida wholesale nurseries, visit the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN) website: www.floridanativenurseries.org.

Central Florida Lands and Timber Nursery

3087 N County Road 53
Mayo, FL 32066-2816
Lafayette County
386-294-1211
<http://www.cflatnursery.com>
cflat@windstream.net

Gateway Farms

22413 NW 227th Drive
High Springs, FL 32643
Alachua County
386-454-5688

<http://www.gatewayfarms.net>
dave@gatewayfarms.net

Specialize in native palms, evergreens and deciduous trees, as well as shrubs and grasses.

TACA Nursery

1096 SW Cumberland Street
Fort White, FL 32038
Columbia County
386-497-2413
772-342-3238 (cell)

karcher1us@yahoo.com

Oglesby Plants International

(west of Tallahassee)
26664 SR 71 N
Altha, FL 32421
Calhoun County
800-763-0022
407-252-1538 (cell)

<http://www.oglesbytc.com>
info@oglesbytc.com

Southern Habitats

(east of Tallahassee)
418 NW Sand Dollar Way
Greenville, FL 32331
850-948-6294

<http://www.southernhabitats.com/>

Superior Trees, Inc.

(east of Tallahassee, west of Jacksonville)
12493 E. US Hwy 90
P.O. Drawer 9400
Lee, FL 32059
850-971-5159

<http://www.superiortrees.net>
superiortrees@centurylink.net

(wholesale nursery component of Mail Order Natives)

Trillium Gardens Nursery, LLC

3523 Trillium Court
Tallahassee, FL 32312
850-893-5757
850-212-9533 (cell)

SOUTH CAROLINA

Naturescapes of Beaufort

(north of Savannah and Hilton Head)

Daniel Payne

48 Sherman Drive

Beaufort, SC 29907

Beaufort County

843-525-9454

<https://naturescapesofbeaufort.com>

danielpayne@naturescapesofbeaufort.com

For more information regarding Georgia's native plants; wildlife, pollinator and beneficial insect habitat guidance; or sustainable landscaping practices, go to the EcoScapes website:

www.gacoast.uga.edu/outreach/programs/ecoscapes/.



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Georgia Sea Grant**
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