Great Flowering Perennials for the Home Landscape

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Plant Life Span

• **Annuals:** Complete entire life cycle within one growth season

• **Biennials:** Complete life cycle within two growth seasons (Usually growing first season, flowering, producing seeds and dying the second

• **Perennials:** Plants that grow for more than two seasons
  • **Herbaceous:** die to ground after growing season only to reemerge later
  • **Woody:** Retain stems
    • **Evergreen:** Retain foliage
    • **Deciduous:** Have period of dormancy where lose foliage
General Principles

• Consider using native plants. They can be very maintenance-free when planted under the right conditions: those that they thrive on in the wild.
• “Right Plants Right Place”
• Consider what your garden will look like throughout the year
• Consider the ultimate growth of your plants
• Vary plant heights; generally plant larger plants toward the back or center of beds
• Use variegation and contrasts in leaf color to advantage
• Use contrasts in form/shape and texture to advantage
Native Milkweeds
(*Asclepias* spp.)

- Height: varies, 2-5 ft
- Spread: varies
- Deciduous
- Varying conditions
- Butterfly host plants
Butterfly Weed
Asclepias tuberosa

- Herbaceous perennial
- Prefers sandy, dry, well-drained soils
- Full Sun
- Height: 3 ft.
- Pretty orange/yellow flowers in summer/fall are attractive to butterflies (larval plant for Monarchs, Queens and Soldiers)
- Deep taproot makes transplanting large plants difficult

Tropical Milkweed Asclepias cuassavica
Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias incarnata
White Wild Indigo
*Baptisia alba*

- Long-lived Herbaceous Perennial
- 2 - 5 ft height
- Part shade to full sun
- Moderate moisture to dry
- White blooms in spring, host plant for wild indigo duskywing and Zarucco duskywing butterflies
Flyr’s Nemesis, Heart-leaf Brickellbush

*Brickellia cordifolia*

- Long lived herbaceous perennial
- Up to 4 ft height
- Part sun to full sun
- Sandy soils
- Moderate moisture to somewhat dry
- Pink flowers in late summer attractive to butterflies
- Listed as endangered by State of Florida
False-rosemary, Scrub Mint
*Conradina canescens*

- Height: 2-4 feet
- Spread: 2-4 feet
- Evergreen, aromatic foliage
- Full Sun
- Dry sandy soil
- Drought tolerant
- Profusely blooming aromatic, lavender flowers
- Visited by butterflies and hummingbirds
Scarlett Calamint  
(*Clinopodium coccineum*)

- Height: 3 - 4 feet
- Spread: 3 – 4 feet
- Evergreen/semi-evergreen perennial
- Sun to Part Shade
- Dry sandy soil
- Drought tolerant
- Profusely blooming red/orange flowers through much of year
- Favored by hummingbirds
Coreopsis (Tickseeds)  
*Coreopsis* spp.

- Height: 1-4 feet
- Spread by seeding
- Annuals and short-lived perennials
- Many species in Florida
- Full sun to part shade
- Bloom May-July
- Attract butterflies
Purple Coneflower
*Echinacea purpurea*

- 1 - 3 ft. height
- Sun
- Blooms during Summer
- Perennial wildflower, make sure from native stock
Coral Bean, Cherokee Bean
(*Erythrina herbacea*)

- Height: 5-10 feet
- Deciduous, dies back to ground in winter in Bay county
- Partial shade to sun
- Average soil
- Beautiful red flowers in late spring/summer
- Attractive (yet poisonous) red seeds in summer
- Branches have thorns
- Can have gigantic root
- Hummingbird/butterfly plant
Sunflowers
*Helianthus* spp.

- Heights vary
- Sun
- A favorite of butterflies
Swamp Sunflower, Narrowleaf Sunflower

*Helianthus angustifolius*
Beach Sunflower
*Helianthus debilis*

- Vine-like annual except for very mild winters
- Growth rate: fast
- Sun
- Well-drained soils
- Evergreen or deciduous
- Yellow flowers year round
- Butterfly nectar plant
- Drought tolerant
- Salt tolerant
- Use as ground cover for native/coastal plantings.
Swamp Hibiscus, Scarlet Hibiscus

*Hibiscus coccineus*

- Height: 7 feet
- Partial shade to sun
- Moist to wet soils
- Flowers in summer
- Dies back to ground in winter
- Native perennial wildflower
Spider Lily
*Hymenocallis* sp.

- Bulbous perennial
- Attractive shiny strap-live semi-evergreen foliage
- Grows in partial shade - sun
- Beautiful white flowers in Summer
- Shiny sword-shaped foliage
- Dies back in hard freeze
- Make nice border plant, will grow in moist locations
Henry’s Spiderlily, Green Spiderlily
*Hymenocallis henryae*
State listed as Endangered, Endemic to 3 Florida counties
String Lily, Swamp Lily
*Crinum americanum*

- Bulbous perennial
- Part shade to sun
- Well drained soils
- Some flooding to regular moisture
- Height to around 2 ft
- Attractive shiny green tropical foliage
- White flowers
- Host plant for Spanish moth
St John’s Wort, St Andrew’s Cross, etc. *Hypericum* spp.

- Heights vary
- Generally, sun to part sun
- Generally, bloom summer, some through fall
- Many native species
St Andrew’s Cross
Hypericum hypericoides

- Height: 1-4 feet
- Spread: 2-4 feet
- Evergreen, fine foliage
- Fast growing, short lived, self propagates
- Adapts to a variety of conditions.
- Part shade to full sun
- Yellow flowers in late summer
- Use as specimen shrub or for naturalistic landscapes
Pineland Lantana, Gold Lantana
*Lantana depressa var. depressa*

- 2 ft high, 5 ft wide
- Evergreen, long-lived south Florida perennial
- Well drained soils
- Sun
- Attracts butterflies, moths and birds
Spotted Horsemint
Monarda punctata

- Height: 2 - 5 feet
- Short lived perennial
- Bloom summer/fall
- Sun or part shade
- Attract pollinators
• Long-lived herbaceous perennials
• 1-2 ft height
• Generally prefer sun to part sun and regular moisture
• Ten native species in FL, two species listed by the State of Florida
• Attractive to bees and butterflies
Black-Eyed Susan
*Rudbeckia* spp.

- **Height**: 1-3 feet
- **Spread**: 1-2 feet
- **Annual to short lived perennial**
- **Readily reseeds**
- **Adapts, but prefers rich well drained soil**
- **Full sun to part shade**
Cutleaf Coneflower
*Rudbeckia lacinata*
Wild Petunia
(*Ruellia caroliniensis*)

- Height: 1-2 feet
- Perennial
- Shade to sun
- Spreads gradually through self-seeding
- Flowers spring - late summer/fall
- Host plant for Common Buckeye
Rosenweed
Silphium spp.

- 2 - 5 ft high
- Dormant in winter
- Well drained soils, moderate moisture to dry
- Sun to part shade
- Attractive to bees, butterflies and birds
Blue Eyed Grass
*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*
Goldenrod (Solidago spp.)

- 2 - 6 ft height
- Perennial, may die back
- Sun to part shade
- Moist to dry soils
- Fall blooming
- Several native species

Woody Goldenrod, Chrysoma pauciflosculosa)
Seaside Goldenrod
Solidago sempervirens
Indian Pink
Spigelia marilandica

- Native perennial
- Height 2 ft.
- Spread 1.5 ft.
- Prefers part shade
- Fertile, well-drained soils
- Attractive red/yellow tubular flowers spring/summer
- Dies to ground in winter
Stokes Aster  
*Stokesia laevis*

- Evergreen perennial
- Purple/blue flowers in Spring
- Height: 1 to 2 feet
- Spread: 1 to 2 feet
- Prefers part sun to shade and well drained soil
- Attractive to butterflies
Sunshine Mimosa
*Mimosa Strigillosa*

- Up to 1 ft. height
- Full sun to high shade
- Mats, possible turf replacement
- Native wildflower
- Host plant for Little Sulphur Butterfly
Turkey Tangle, Frogfruit
*Phyla nodiflora*

- 3 – 6 in. height
- Part Shade to Sun
- Blooms spring through fall
- Native perennial wildflower
- Host plant for Buckeye and Phaon Crescent Butterfly
Coral Honeysuckle, Southern Honeysuckle
*Lonicera sempervirens*

- Climbing twining vine to 15 feet
- Deciduous – evergreen, depending on winter severity
- Sun to part shade
- Well-drained, moderately dry soil
- Showy red flowers in summer attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies
- Orange/red berries attractive to birds
- Noninvasive

Photo by Teresa Nooney
American Wisteria
*Wisteria frutescens*

- 10 – 20 ft. high
- 6 – 12 ft wide
- Well drained soils
- Sun to part shade
- Fragrant lavender flowers spring to summer

Photos by Ron Houser
Passion Flower  
(*Passiflora spp.*)

- Prostrate or climbing perennial vines from 6 to 15 feet
- Deciduous
- Full sun to light shade
- Well-drained soil
- Moderately moist to dry (once established)
- Showy sometimes fragrant flowers spring through fall
- Some have edible fruit
- Maypop (*Passiflora incarnata*) and Yellow Passionflower (*Passiflora lutea*) are Florida larval plants
- Can pop up away from main plant
Thank You!