

Native Plants



Leafcutter Bee cutting nesting material



Brazilian Pepper, an invasive plant introduced as an ornamental

Why Native Plants?

This garden displays plants native to the ecosystems of Florida, mimicking their natural habitat which is often threatened by the clearing of natural areas for land development. These plants are part of an ecological network of life, providing food and shelter for wildlife. While gardens often contain ornamental and non-native plants, adding native plants to them can provide crucial resources for local pollinators and animals. Oftentimes rare butterflies and bees require specific native plants which are often missing from the average home garden. In addition, grass lawns may be completely lacking in floral resources for pollinators, making suburban landscapes pollinator deserts. The common names of plants are in green, the Latin names in black. Plant family names are in red.



Mockingbird eating ripe elderberries



Zoysia grass, a popular lawn option lacking nectar



A Prescribed Fire, important to maintain habitat quality



The toxic white sap of a milkweed

Adaptations

The climate of South Florida poses challenges for plants. As a result, they have developed adaptations to survive. These include hairy leaves which reflect light, toxic chemicals to prevent animals from eating their leaves, and the ability to grow rapidly and flower after a fire. Many of these adaptations evolved over the course of millions of years, and so the rapid changes imposed on the landscape today are happening too quickly for the plants to adapt appropriately. Very often, unrelated groups of plants will develop similar adaptations due to being exposed to similar conditions. This process is known as “Convergent Evolution” and can be seen across all forms of life.

Look for small details on the leaves and stems of the plants.



Stiff hairs on a Black-eyed Susan



The thorns on a native dewberry



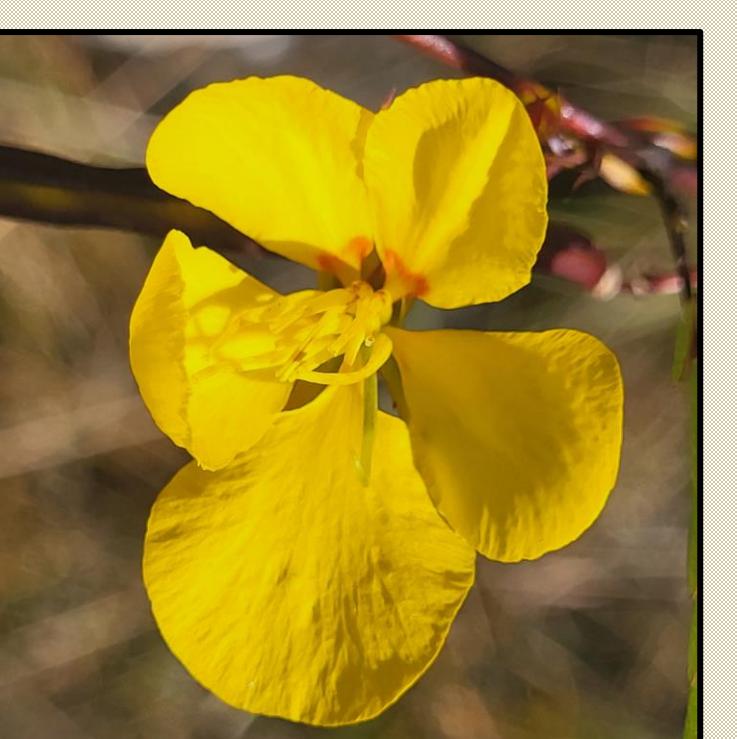
Wiregrass
Aristida stricta
Poaceae



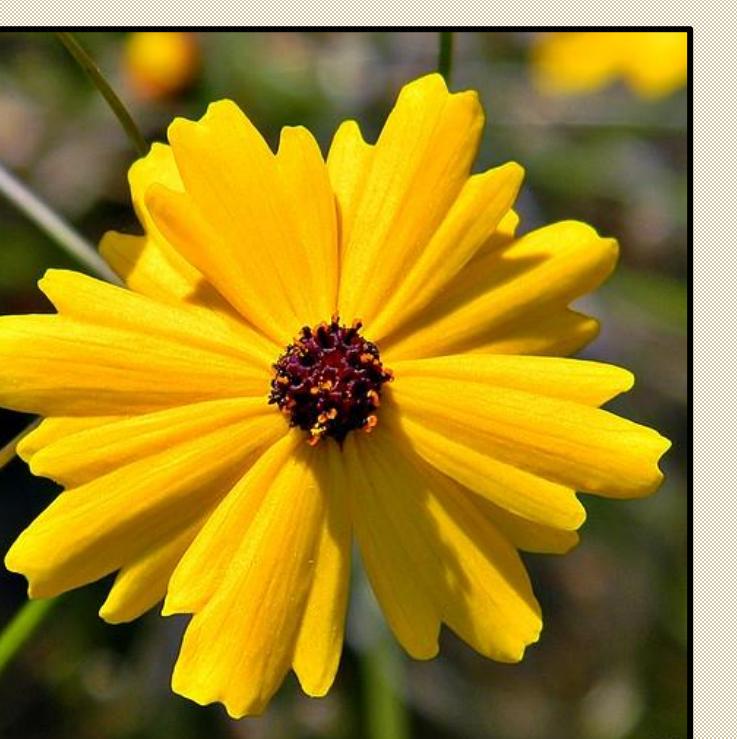
Butterflyweed
Asclepias tuberosa
Apocynaceae



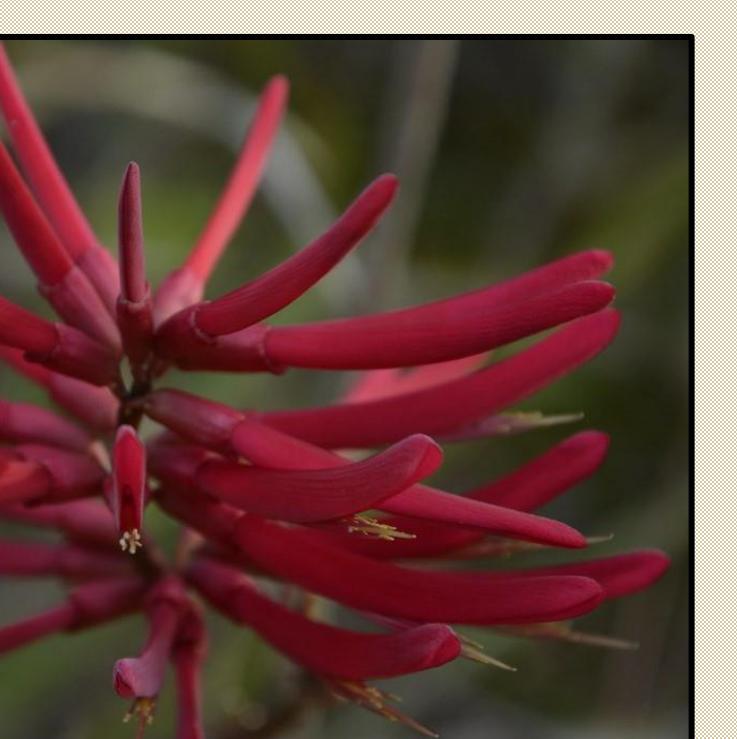
Beautyberry
Callicarpa americana
Lamiaceae



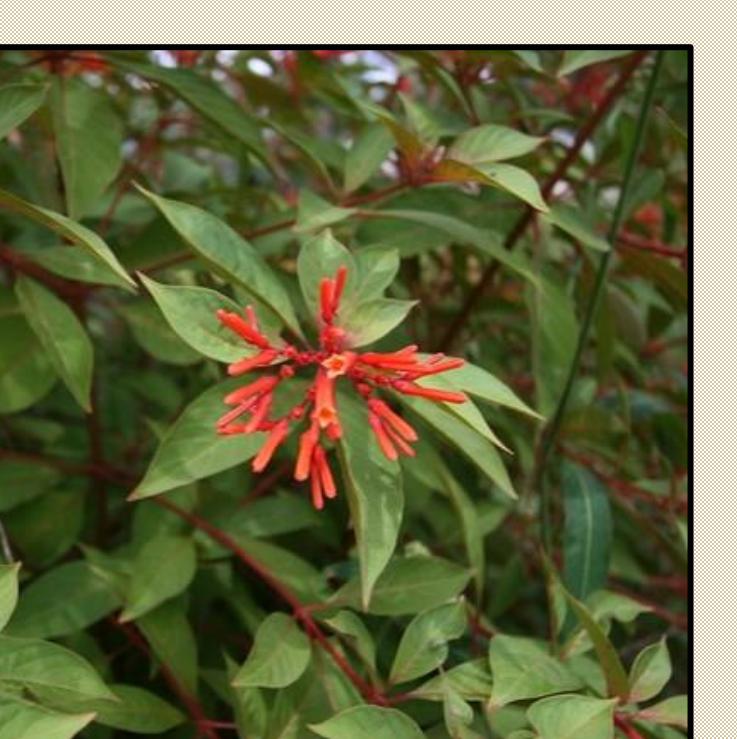
Partridge Pea
Chamaecrista fasciculata
Fabaceae



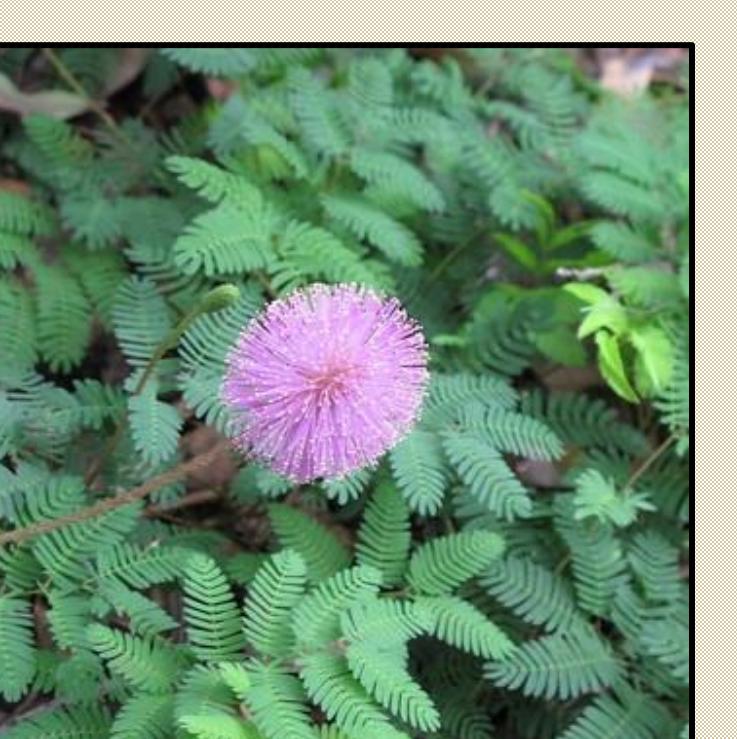
Tickseed
Coreopsis leavenworthii
Asteraceae



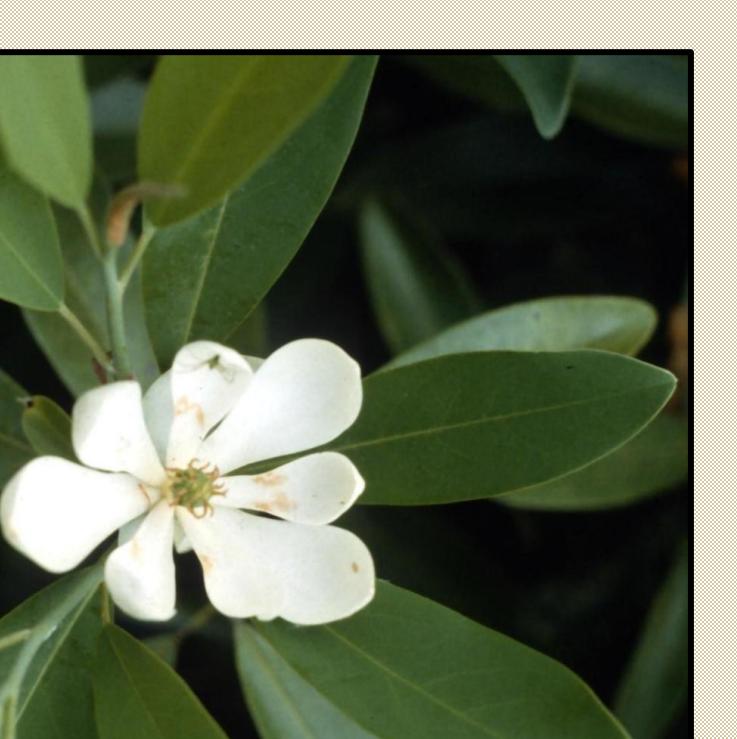
Coral Bean
Erythrina herbacea
Fabaceae



Firebush
Hamelia patens
Rubiaceae



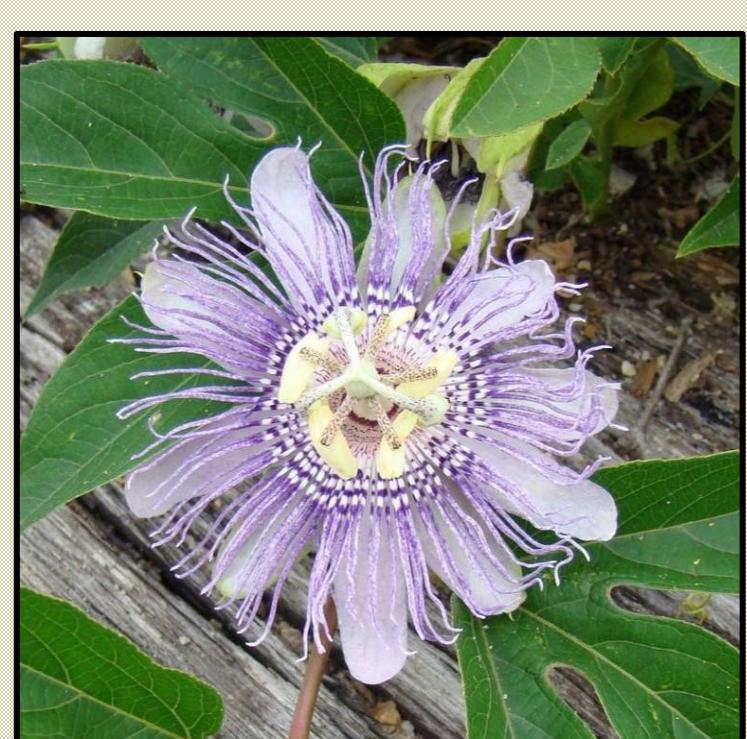
Sunshine Mimosa
Mimosa strigulosa
Fabaceae



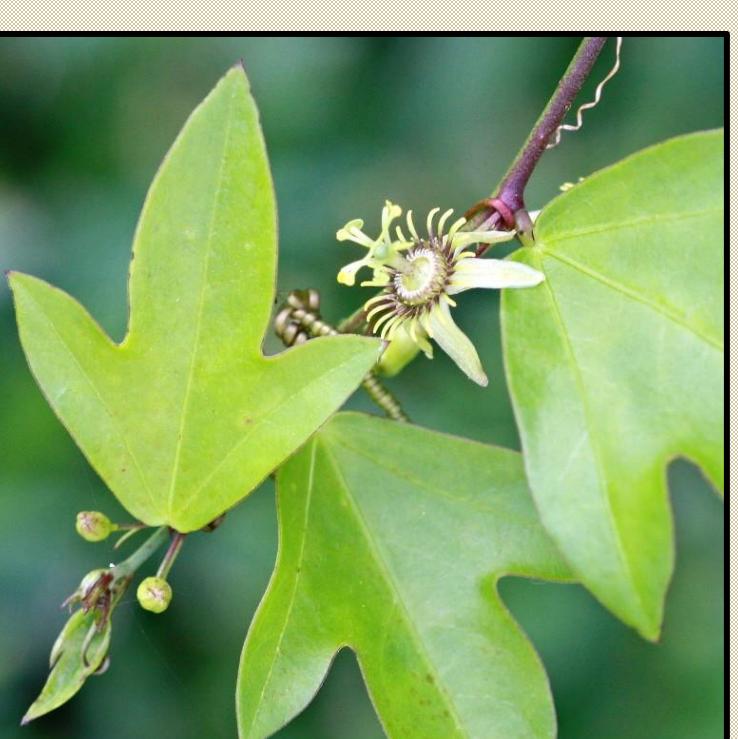
Sweetbay
Magnolia virginiana
Magnoliaceae



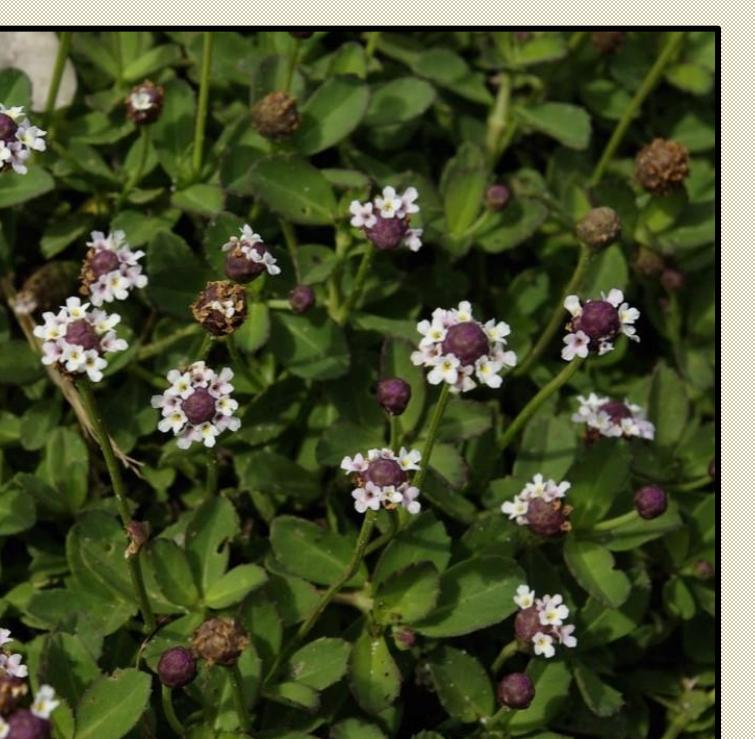
Simpson's Stopper
Myrcianthes fragrans
Myrtaceae



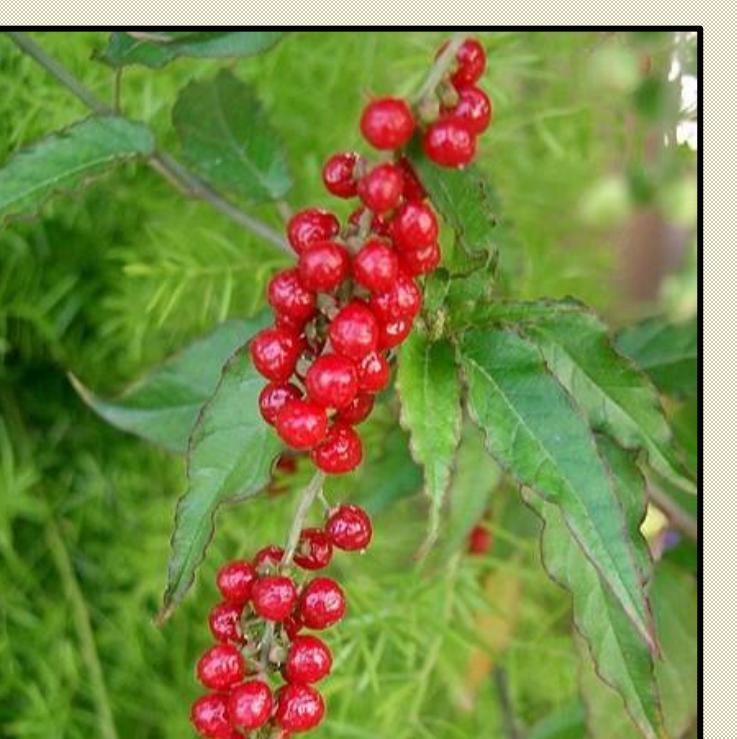
Maypop
Passiflora incarnata
Passifloraceae



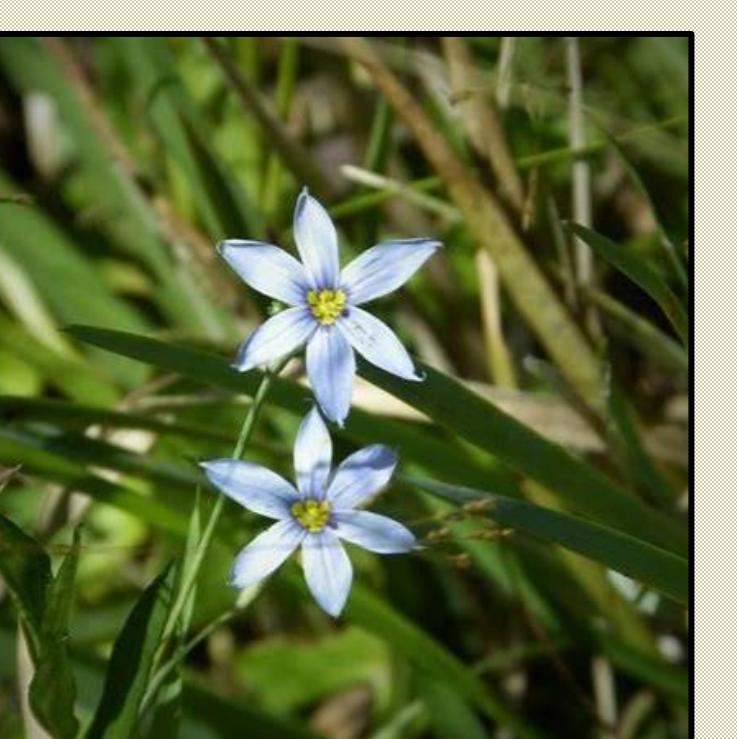
Corkystem
Passiflora suberosa
Passifloraceae



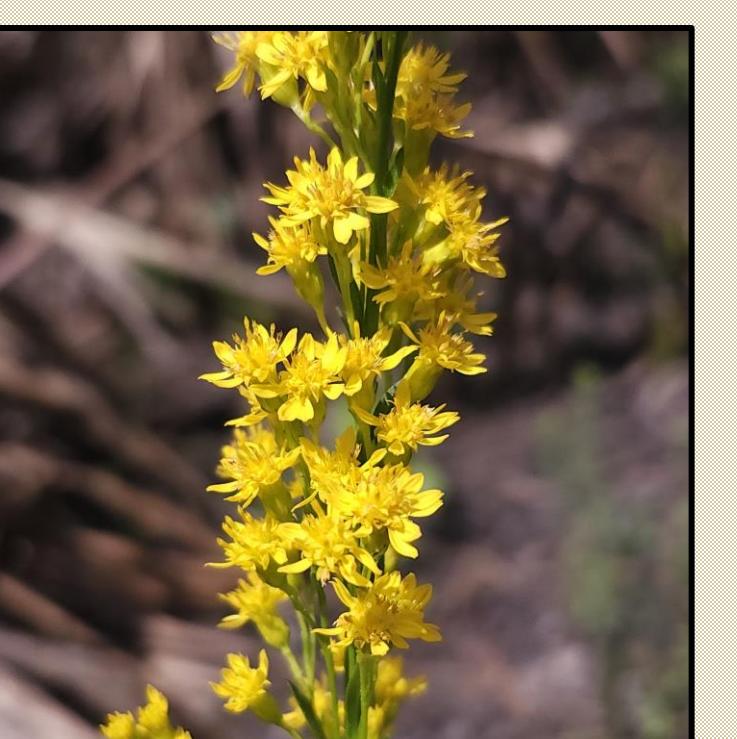
Frogfruit
Phyla nodiflora
Verbenaceae



Rougeplant
Rivina humilis
Petiveriaceae



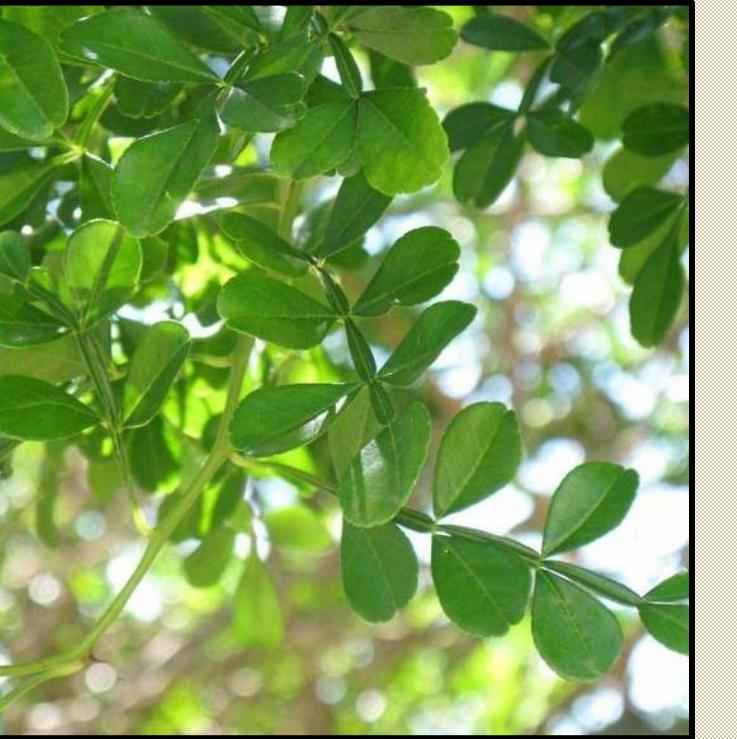
Blue-eyed Grass
Sisyrinchium angustifolium
Iridaceae



Goldenrod
Solidago spp.
Asteraceae



Coontie
Zamia integrifolia
Zamiaceae



Wild Lime
Zanthoxylum fagara
Rutaceae



Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta
Asteraceae



Blue Porterweed
Stachytarpheta jamaicensis
Verbenaceae