



Our YouTube Garden Tour Video <https://youtu.be/4UYCzxWVffE>

CRE Butterfly Garden Plant List

Trees

Southern Live Oak

Oaks support more life-forms than any other North American tree genus, providing food, protection or both for birds to bears, as well as countless insects and spiders, among the enormous diversity of species.

An oak can produce three million acorns in its lifetime — tons of protein, fat and carbohydrates — and a mature tree can drop as many as 700,000 leaves every year. The resulting litter is habitat for beneficial organisms, and the tree's canopy and root system are important in water infiltration, helping rain percolate instead of running off, and purifying it in the process. Oak trees also sequester carbon.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/31/realestate/oak-trees-why-you-should-plant.html>

The threatened Florida scrub jay relies on the scrub form of the southern live oak for nesting. Other birds make use of the moss that frequently hangs from the tree branches to construct nests.

<https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Plants-and-Fungi/Southern-Live-Oak>

Bushes/Shrubs

Yew Podocarpus

Hedge encircling the garden

Blue Porterweed

- Nectar plant.
- Non-native variety and not a host plant.
- Other observations: there is a native variety that grows 2-3ft tall, more of a sprawling groundcover growth habit.

Firebush, *Hamelia patens*

<https://www.south-florida-plant-guide.com/firebush.html>

- Nectar plant attracting butterflies, moths and hummingbirds.
- Showy flowers year-round.

Saw Palmetto, *Serenoa repens*

<https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/palms-and-cycads/saw-palmetto.html>

- Host plant for palmetto skipper and monk butterflies
- Its yellow berries turn black, ripening August through October. These berries are an important food source for many mammals and birds.

Ramgoat Dashalong, *Turnera ulmifolia* L

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=TUUL

Date planted April 2022

- Yellow flowers are a nectar source
- Florida native

Herbs, groundcovers

Tropical Milkweed

- Host plant for monarchs
- Non-native variety
- Gets eaten to stubs during butterfly migration but will recover

Virginia pepperweed, *Lepidium virginicum*

[https://www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-lepidium-virginicum/#:~:text=Virginia%20pepperweed%20flowers%20are%20hermaphroditic,white%20\(Ascia%20monuste\)%20butterflies.](https://www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-lepidium-virginicum/#:~:text=Virginia%20pepperweed%20flowers%20are%20hermaphroditic,white%20(Ascia%20monuste)%20butterflies.)

- Host plant for Checkers white (Pontia Protodice) and Great Southern White (Ascia Monuste) butterflies.
- Florida native.

Privet Senna, *Senna ligustrina*

<https://www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-senna-ligustrina/>

- Yellow flowers.
- Larval host plant for the cloudless sulphur and sleepy orange butterflies.
- Native to central and southern Florida and the Bahamas.

Clockvine

- Host plant?
- Purple flowers (growing in shady area)

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Tropical Sage, *Salvia coccinea*

- Red and pink varieties planted.
- Flowers attract butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators.
- Host plant for painted lady butterfly.
- Florida native.

To be added at later date:

Sunshine Mimosa, *Mimosa strigillosa*

<https://floridanativegarden.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/a-short-bit-on-sunshine-mimosa-mimosa-strigillosa/>

- Host plant for little sulfur butterfly
- Florida native
- Nitrogen fixing ground cover
- Purple puffball flowers look like something from Dr. Seuss.

Seminole Pumpkin, *Cucurbita moschata*

- Florida native
- Produces great edible pumpkins and serves as living weed barrier by shading the ground

Coontie, (*Zamia integrifolia*)

- Florida native
- Host plant for Atala butterflies

Vines, air plants and orchids

Corkystem Passionvine, *Passifloraceae*

<https://www.fnps.org/plant/passiflora-suberosa>

- Larval host for Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*), Julia Heliconian (*Dryas iulia*) and Zebra Heliconian (*Heliconius charitonius*) butterflies.
- Fun fact: The passion flower contains a toxin that gives the butterflies that munch on it as caterpillars an unpleasant taste and makes them poisonous to predators.

Blue butterfly pea, *Clitoria ternatea*

- Nectar plant.
- Larval host plant for Long Tailed Skipper butterfly
- Like most plants in the fabaceae (bean) family, its roots fix nitrogen and improve soil fertility to the benefit of neighboring plants.
- Fun fact: flowers are edible and will turn your tongue blue!

Oncidium, Catleya, Vanda and Ground Orchids (*unknown varieties*)

Student Grow Pots

Each pot includes a variety of plants including but not limited to the Butterfly plants listed above as well as parsley, dill, tomatoes, papaya, squash, sunflowers, rosemary, thyme, corn, amaranth, lemongrass, eggplant.