



Frequently Asked Questions

Membership in Fairchild's Connect to Protect Network

- 1. Why can't I join CTPN if I live outside of Miami-Dade or Monroe County?** The Connect to Protect Network's mission is to connect the hyperfragmented pine rockland forests that were once abundant in Miami-Dade County and the Lower Keys. This ecosystem doesn't exist north of Miami-Dade County. If you live in Broward, Palm Beach, or another South Florida County and are interested in learning more about Florida native plants, please consider joining your local chapter of the [Florida Native Plant Society](#)!
- 2. If my spouse, child, cat, dog, and goldfish each join CTPN, can we all receive a 5-plant Pine Rockland Starter Kit?** Nope, sorry! The 5-plant Pine Rockland Starter Kits that we provide are intended to start one native plant garden at each new member household. Most years, we are able to also provide 5 plants to existing members who wish to come pick them up. But we do have limited resources and we appreciate your understanding that ours is not a free plant club, but rather a gateway to gardening with native plants. We very much hope you will supplement your starter kit with additional native plants from reputable vendors like those listed [on our website](#).
- 3. How do I get my Pine Rockland Starter Kit?** We schedule Starter Kit distribution days once a month during most months. Watch our monthly newsletter for dates and instructions. Distribution days are held at Fairchild's nursery (not at the botanical garden) and are by reservation only.
- 4. Can I join if I live in an apartment or condo?** If you live in an apartment or condo and have no outdoor space, we encourage you to join the Network as an 'Email only' member. If you have a balcony, think about whether your space could provide meaningful habitat for native wildlife. In most cases a balcony container garden cannot support a diverse pine rockland garden. However, if you live on the 1st or 2nd floor of your building and have a container garden that is already attracting wildlife like bees and butterflies, then send us a photo of your space along with a membership inquiry.
- 5. Why do you require 3 contacts for each member school?** Starting a school garden is hard, and it takes a lot of work! Unfortunately, many school gardens ultimately fail due to lack of support. We have found that one of the most important indicators of a successful school garden is that more than one person at the school is invested in it. If a school has widespread support for a native plant garden, we welcome membership and provide 10 plants---twice the number of plants reserved for homeowners!