

NPN Challenge 2026

Middle Schools

A selection of 8 plants
from the following list

In-ground OR
container
(potted plant)
garden

Corkystem passionflower

Passiflora suberosa

Type: Vine

Light: Light shade to full sun

Drought tolerance: High

Soil: Well-drained, sandy / limestone

Dimensions: Climbing

Growth rate: Fast

Flower: Small, greenish to yellowish

Fruit: Purple-black berry, edible

Wildlife: Larval host plant for Zebra longwing, Gulf fritillary and Julia butterflies



Florida Native Plant Society

In-ground OR
container
(potted plant)
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Silver Sea Oxeye Daisy

Borrichia frutescens

Type: Wildflower, forming large patches

Light: Full sun

Drought tolerance: High

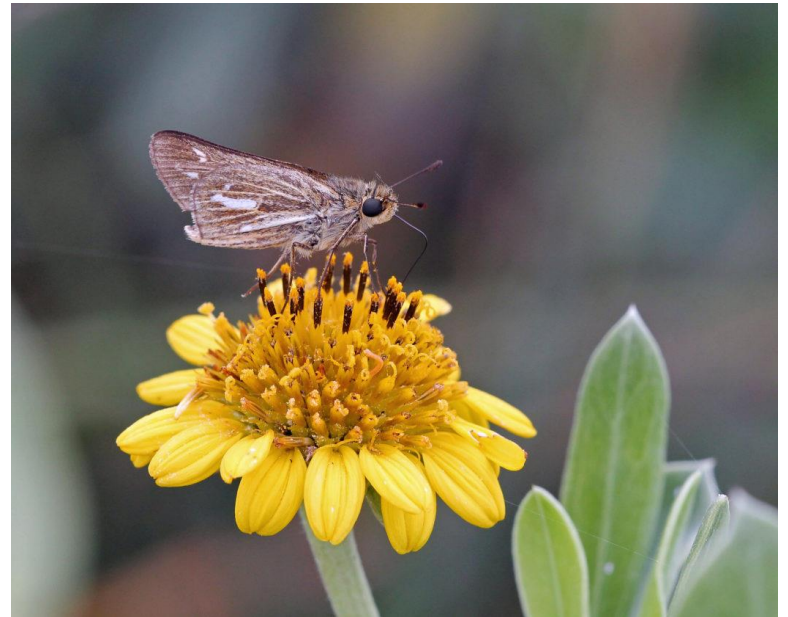
Soil: Well-drained, sandy / limestone

Dimensions: 2 – 4ft H x 2 – 3 ft W

Growth rate: Moderate

Flower: Yellow

Wildlife: Nectar plant for many butterflies,
birds eat the seeds.



Florida Wildflower Foundation

In-ground OR
container
(potted plant)
garden

Coontie

Zamia integrifolia

Type: Medium shrub-like herb with fernlike leaves, underground stem

Light: Full sun to light shade

Drought tolerance: High

Soil: Well-drained, sandy / limestone

Dimensions: 1 - 3ft H x 2 - 4ft W

Growth rate: Slow

Flower: n/a

Fruit: Cone. Dioecious - male and female on separate plants. Male cone is slender and female cone is much broader, both about 3-6" tall. Seeds are orange.

Wildlife: Larval host plant for Atala butterfly. Caterpillars will eat the leaflets – they will regrow.



In-ground OR
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Pineland Lantana

Lantana depressa var. *depressa*

Type: Groundcover, mat-forming

Light: Full sun

Drought tolerance: High

Soil: Well-drained, sandy / limestone

Dimensions: 1 - 2 ft H, broader than tall

Growth rate: Moderate

Flower: Yellow, showy, all year

Fruit: Black drupe

Wildlife: Birds, nectar plant for butterflies



In-ground OR
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Frogfruit

Phyla nodiflora

Type: Small, creeping wildflower, forming large patches

Light: Full sun

Drought tolerance: Moderate

Soil: sandy / limestone / organic

Dimensions: 1 - 3in H, to 6in when blooming

Growth rate: Fast

Flower: White with purple bracts, all year

Wildlife: Larval host plant for Common Buckeye, Phaon Crescent, White Peacock butterflies. Nectar plant for Barred Yellow, Ceraunus Blue, Field Skipper, Gray Hairstreak, Little Metalmark, Miami Blue, Palatka Skipper, Phaon Crescent, Queen, Swarthy Skipper, Tropical Checkered-Skipper and more.



In-ground
garden only

Firebush

Hamelia patens

Type: Large shrub or small tree

Light: Full sun

Drought tolerance: Moderate to high

Soil: Well-drained, sandy / limestone soils

Dimensions: 8 – 10ft H x 5 x 8ft W

Growth rate: Fast

Flower: Red to orange, tubular, showy, all year

Fruit: Red to purplish-black berries

Wildlife: Provides significant food and cover for wildlife. Birds eat the fruit. Nectar plant for butterflies and hummingbirds. Larval host plant for the pluto sphinx moth.



In-ground
garden only

Bahama senna

Senna mexicana var. chapmanii

Type: Small shrub / woody groundcover

Light: Full sun to light shade

Drought tolerance: Moderate to high

Soil: Well-drained, limestone

Dimensions: 2 - 4ft H, spreading, much broader than tall

Growth rate: Fast

Flower: Showy, yellow, all year

Fruit: Brown pod (legume)

Wildlife: Larval host plant for cloudless sulphur, sleepy orange and orange-barred sulphur butterflies



In-ground
garden only

Black Torch

Erithalis fruticosa

Type: Small to medium shrub

Light: Full sun

Drought tolerance: Moderate

Soil: Well-drained, sandy / limestone soils

Dimensions: 4 – 8ft H x 4 - 6ft W

Growth rate: Moderate

Flower: White, small, year round

Fruit: Red to black berries

Wildlife: Nectar plant for butterflies, birds eat the fruits



container
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garden only

Narrowleaf yellowtops

Flaveria linearis

Type: Medium wildflower

Light: Full sun

Drought tolerance: High

Soil: Well-drained, sandy/ limestone

Dimensions: 1 - 2ft H, spreading,
forming mounds broader than tall

Growth rate: Moderate to fast

Flower: Showy, yellow, all year

Wildlife: Nectar plant for many
butterflies



container
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Pineland Heliotrope (white)

Euploca polyphylla
(or *Heliotropium polyphyllum*)

Type: Wildflower

Light: Full sun to part shade

Drought tolerance: High

Soil: Well-drained, sandy /
limestone

Dimensions: to 1ft H, sprawling

Growth rate: Moderate

Flower: Showy, white

Wildlife: Nectar plant for many
butterflies



Florida Wildflower Foundation

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Simmond's aster

Symphyotrichum simmondsii

Type: Medium wildflower,
rhizomatous

Light: Full sun

Drought tolerance: High

Soil: Well-drained, sandy /
limestone

Dimensions: up to 4ft H, spreading

Growth rate: Moderate

Flower: Showy, lavender-purple, fall
to winter

Wildlife: Nectar plant for butterflies

