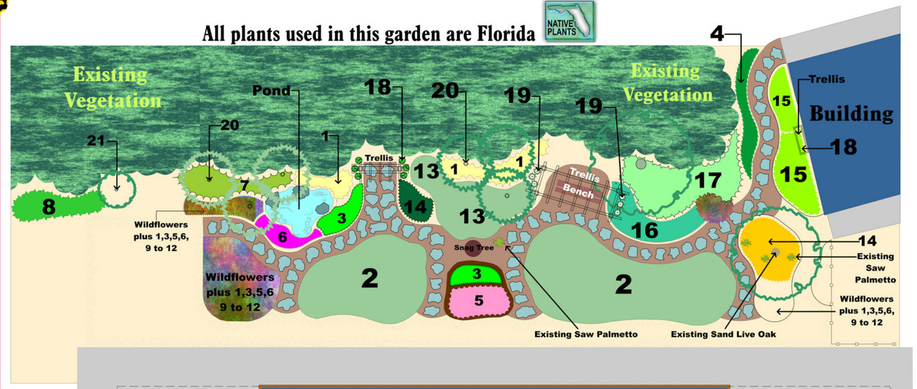
SEMINOLE COUNTY

Water Conservation Demonstration Garden

Florida-friendly landscaping is beautiful, yet saves water and protects the environment through the reduced use of pesticides and fertilizer. It typically requires less maintenance than traditional landscaping. Seminole County in partnership with the St. Johns Water Management District, has created this garden for your enjoyment. Our goal is to inspire you to think about incorporating these concepts into your own yard.

Demonstration Garden Layout

All plants used in this garden are Florida NATIVE PLANTS



Environmental Studies Center

A special thank you to "ALTERNATIVE LANDSCAPING", owned by Rich Beggs (407-366-0863) for the landscape plan for this garden.

Seminole County has more water-saving tips on the internet at www.seminolecountyfl.gov (look under Environmental Services).

This establishment is recognized by the National Wildlife Federation as an official wildlife habitat.

1 Sand Cordgrass, Spartina bakeri
- Full sun, perennial
- Clumping grass 4-6'
- Prefers moist, but will adapt to dry conditions
- Seed heads inconspicuous
- Seeds are an important bird and wildlife food

2 Sunshine Mimosa, Mimosa strigillosa
- Full sun, perennial
- Mat-forming groundcover, can be mowed
- Dry to moist conditions, drought tolerant
- Pink puffball flowers in spring and summer provide nectar
- A lawn substitute, but goes dormant in winter
- Leaflets close up when touched (try it!)

3 Leavenworth's tickseed, Coreopsis leavenworthii
Lanceleaf tickseed, Coreopsis lanceolata
Full sun, self-seeding annual
2-3' tall sparse clumps
Prefers moist conditions, but hardy
Flowers almost year around
Nectar source for butterflies

4 Gopher Apple, Licania michauxii
- Full sun, long-lived perennial groundcover
- Low spreading shrub up to 1½' tall
- Dry, well drained sandy conditions
- Small white flowers in spring and summer
- Large 1-2" cream colored fruit preferred by gopher tortoises and mammals (even us!)

5 Tampa verbena, Glandularia tampensis
- Full sun, short-lived perennial, self seeding
- Spreading groundcover 1-2' tall and 3-4' wide
- Prefers moist, but will adapt to dry conditions
- Purple flowers all year but heavily in spring
- On Florida's endangered plant list from habitat destruction. Make your yard their new habitat!

6 Wild Petunia, Ruellia caroliniana
- Sun to light shade, perennial
- Erect wildflower, ½ to 2' tall
- Prefers moist, but will adapt to dry conditions
- Showy lavender flowers early spring to late summer
- Beware! Mexican petunias sold at non-native nurseries is on the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, Invasive Plant List and is damaging natural habitat.

7 Elliott's or Silver Lovegrass, Eragrostis elliottii
- Full sun to light shade, perennial
- Clumping grass 1-2'
- Dry to moist sandy conditions
- Delicate seed heads form in fall
- Tiny seeds eaten by birds

8 Muhly Grass, Muhlenbergia capillaris
- Full sun, perennial
- Clumping grass to 3' tall and wide
- Prefers moist, but drought tolerant when established
- Fine seed heads create purple hazy look in fall
- Seeds eaten by ground-foraging birds

9 Blue Porterweed, Stachytarpheta jamaicensis
- Full sun to partial shade
- Drought tolerant
- Mounding up to 4'
- Blooms all year
- Self-seeds

10 Tropical Sage, Salvia coccinea
- Full sun to light shade, short-lived perennial, self seeding
- Erect wildflower to 2-3' tall
- Dry, well drained conditions
- Vivid red flowers from early spring to first frost
- Irresistible to hummingbirds and butterflies

11 Purple Coneflower, Echinacea purpurea
- Full sun, perennial
- Clumps up to 3' tall and wide
- Low water needs, well drained soil
- Many flowers over a long period
- Nectar source for butterflies

12 Rosinweed, Silphium compositum
- Full sun to part shade, long-lived perennial
- Erect wildflower, 2-4'tall
- Dry well drained conditions
- Large daisy flowers almost all year
- Nectar for a wide variety of insects

13 Firebush, Hamelia patens
- Full sun to shade
- Rapid growth up to 10'
- Drought tolerant once established
- Excellent for butterflies and hummingbirds

14 Coontie, Zamia pumilla
- Full sun to deep shade, perennial
- Stemless palm-like plant 1-4' tall and wide
- Adaptable, moist to dry conditions
- Woody cones erupt with orange/red seeds
- A living fossil, its ancestors got stepped on by dinosaurs!

15 Walter's Viburnum, Viburnum obovatum
- Full sun to deep shade, perennial
- Large shrub to 12', can be pruned
- Prefers moist acid soil, but adaptable
- Profuse white flower clusters in spring
- Berries mature from pink through red to dark purple in fall, preferred by birds and wildlife

16 Shiny Blueberry, Vaccinium myrsinites
- Full sun to deep shade, perennial
- Large shrub to 12', can be pruned
- Prefers moist acid soil, but adaptable
- Profuse white flower clusters in spring
- Berries mature from pink through red to dark purple in fall, preferred by birds and wildlife

17 Simpson's Stopper, Myrcianthes fragrans
- Sun to shade, long-lived perennial
- Shrub to small tree, can be pruned
- Prefers dry, well drained areas
- Flowers small with long graceful stamens, very fragrant
- Showy orange/red fruit up to 1" long in winter loved by birds

18 Coral Honeysuckle, Lonicera sempervirens
- Sun to light shade, perennial
- Twining vine, up to 15'
- Dry, well drained conditions
- Flowers spring/summer, irresistible to hummingbirds
- Berries in fall eaten by birds

19 Carolina Jessamine, Gelsemium sempervirens
- Sun to shade, perennial
- Twining vine, climbs to top of trellis or treetop
- Prefers moist soil, but adaptable
- Large fragrant flowers in late winter and spring
- All parts are posonous

20 Cabbage palm, Sabal palmetto
- Full sun, shade, long-lived perennial
- Single trunk palm up to 50'
- Wide variety of growing conditions, drought tolerant
- Large cream flower clusters provide abundant nectar
- Round black ½" seeds eaten by birds and wildlife
- Left on, the "boots" provide shelter and nest sites.

21 Dahoon Holly, Ilex cassine
- Sun to shade
- Shrub or small tree to 25' and narrow width
- Prefers moist, but drought tolerant when established
- Bright red berries in fall, enjoyed by birds
- Berries occur only on female plants