



Syllabus
ORH 3815/5817C
Florida Native Landscaping
Spring 2026- 3 credits

Instructor

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Teaching Assistants

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Course Description:

This is an upper-division environmental horticulture course designed to encourage students to have an interest, understanding, and appreciation of Florida's native flora. Weekly lectures will cover plant nomenclature, effective utilization, and design elements of native plants that are commercially available for landscape use. Web-based topical lectures will be provided from experts who have a range of knowledge in the field. Weekly lab exercises will cover some of best native plants for our area, propagation of native plants, and incorporation of native plants into gardens and landscapes.

Prerequisite:

There are no course prerequisites for this class. Environmental Plant Identification (ORH 3513) is useful but not required. This course has a junior level standing requirement.

Class Meeting Time and Location:

Wednesdays (2:00 pm-5:00 pm). Class may end early on days where online lectures are assigned instead live lectures.

Meeting location: Greenhouse complex, PSF5, Gainesville.

*Students will be required to attend the scheduled field trips.

* Class may meet at alternate locations as needed such as Mehrhof Gardens, the UF Tree Unit, and the UF Herbarium.

Office Hours:

Please feel free to email the instructor or TA's at any time to meet. Office: Mehrhof Hall, Bldg 550, Room 102. Or contact by email, canvas, or text.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify 50+ species that are native to Florida and used in landscapes.
2. Examine the aesthetic and functional value of native plants and how they can be better incorporated into landscapes.
3. Characterize underutilized natives using learned taxonomic descriptions, species distinctions among shared genera, herbarium sampling, and photography.
4. Associate original plant ecosystems with selection, use, establishment, and maintenance of natives in modified landscapes.
5. Determine propagation and production practices for natives.
6. Distinguish between native and non-native cultivars.

Course E-learning site and website:

CANVAS (for lecture hand-outs, recorded lectures, additional readings, group assignment descriptions, discussions, etc.) <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>

Native Landscaping website: <http://irrecenvhort.ifas.ufl.edu/FNL/Index.htm>

Course Textbook:

Matrazzo, S. and N. Bissett. 2020. Native Plants for Florida Gardens. Pineapple Press, ISBN 978-1-4930-4378-1.

*There also will be supplemental reading material available online

Other Useful Book References: *desk copies can be found in the instructor's office

Armitage's Native Plants for North American Gardens. 2006. Timber Press, Portland, OR.

Daniels, J.C. 2022. Native Plant Gardening for Birds, Bees & Butterflies: Southeast. Adventure Publications, Cambridge, MN.

Hall, D.W. and W.J. Weber. 2019. Wildflowers of Florida and the Southeast. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.

Haehle, R.G. and J. Brookwell. 2004. Native Florida Plants. 2nd edition. Taylor Trade Publishing, Lanham, MD.

Huegel, C.N. 2010. Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife. University Press of Florida, Gainesville

Huegel, C.N. 2015. Native Plants for Shady Landscapes. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.

Nelson, G. 2003. Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.

Nelson, G. 2011. Botanical keys to Florida's trees, shrubs, and woody vines. A Guide to Field Identification. Pineapple Press, Inc. Sarasota.

Osorio, R. 2001. A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.

Rogers, G.K. 2011. Landscape Plants for South Florida. George Rogers Publishing, Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

- Snow, A.M. and S.E. Stans. 2015. Healing Plants: Medicine of the Florida Seminole Indians. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.
- Stibolt, G. 2015. The Art of Maintaining a Florida Native Landscaping. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.
- Stibolt, G. and M. Shropshire. 2018. A Step-by-step Guide to a Florida Native Yard. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.
- Taylor, W.K. 2009. A Guide to Florida Grasses. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.
- Walton, D. And L. Schiller. 2007. Natural Florida Landscaping. Pineapple Press, Inc. Sarasota.
- Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen. 2011. Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida. 3rd edition. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.
- Wunderlin, R. and G.R. Kish. 2015. Native Florida Plants for Drought- and Salt- Tolerant Landscaping. Pineapple Press, Inc., Sarasota.

Student Responsibilities:

- ✓ *Attendance:* You are expected to attend all classes and activities
- ✓ *Preparation:* You are responsible for retrieving and/or printing course materials
- ✓ *Plant ID Quizzes:* In order to do well, you will need to spend considerable time studying the live plants and PowerPoints presented and practicing rote memorization of the scientific and common names. There are no make-up quizzes unless prior approval is granted for extreme circumstances.
- ✓ *Handing in written assignments:* Unless otherwise stated, all assignments must be posted in e-learning and/or turned in prior to class on the due date.
- ✓ *Late or make-up assignments:* Assignments will be marked down 5 percentage points for each day late. Please remember, homework is assigned to prepare the student for class discussions. If you do not complete the assignments, your participation will suffer.
- ✓ *Completion of all assignments:* You must complete all assignments and participate in class in order to pass the course.

Student Evaluation:

You will be graded on the accuracy, conciseness, and grammar of your work using rubrics. Any questions regarding your performance on any assignment are welcome. Grading follows University standards and will be based on the following:

EXAMS (200 pts)

Midterm exam	100 pts
Final exam	100 pts

ID QUIZZES (80 pts)

Quiz 1 (plants 1-20).....	20 pts
Quiz 2 (plants 1-40).....	20 pts
Quiz 3 (plants 1-50).....	40 pts

ASSIGNMENTS (40 pts)

Assignment 1- Germination of native seed	10 pts
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Assignment 2- Small container project	5 pts
Assignment 3- Plant lecture presentation (group)	10 pts
Assignment 4- Guest lecture question and answer (for both exams)	10 pts
Assignment 5- Field trip summary report	5 pts

SURVEYS (5 pts)

Pre-course assessment	2.5 pts
Post-course assessment	2.5 pts

PARTICIPATION (5 pts)

Active attendance and participation in class and lab	2.5 pts
Participation in landscape design and installation	2.5 pts

TOTAL=330 POINTS

Format:

- *Hands-on Activities:* The use of tools and some outdoor, physical work can be expected. These outdoor activities are indicated in the syllabus so that you can dress appropriately.
- *Plant Identification:* Students will be exposed to almost 200 different plant species but only quizzed on 50 plants. There will be three cumulative ID exams. On test days, plan on taking a 20-minute quiz followed by other scheduled lab activities. Grading will be designated as follows: 0.8 points for genus, 0.8 points for specific epithet, 0.2 point for common name, 0.2 point for spelling. The quizzes are cumulative, meaning that by the end of the semester the identification test will cover all 50 plants.
- *Germination of Native Seed:* Each student will germinate one or more flats of seed provided in lab and monitor its growth and development. You will be responsible for the care of the seeded trays. Germination should be monitored and recorded once a week and graphed as percent germination over time. Results should be summarized and presented orally and/or in written format. Details may be found under the course assignment in canvas. Once complete, please post your assignment in canvas for up to 10 points graded by a rubric.
- *Small Container Project:* Each student will be given a container for greenhouse plants to be transplanted into (you will choose the design and plants for your individual container). You will be responsible for caring for your container garden. This includes watering if needed, fertilizing, weeding, scouting, etc. When ready, you will briefly present your container garden to the class, after which you will be able to take it home. A list of plant species, why you chose the species and their arrangement, and what you may have done differently if anything should be submitted in canvas. This assignment is worth 5 points and will be graded using a rubric.
- *Plant Lecture Presentation:* Students will work in teams; the size of each team will depend on the size of the class. Your instructor will determine this at the beginning of the semester. Each team will work together to select the best plant to teach the rest of

the class. Plants should be selected from: 1)the list of plants that are NOT highlighted in your comprehensive plant list (i.e., not covered by the instructor in class), 2)plants in the greenhouse or landscape, or 3)other plants that are suitable for landscape use. A detailed species report (plant data sheet) will be prepared and presented to the class. The lecture should include: scientific name, common name, family botanical description, native range in Florida and the U.S. when applicable, growth form, size, flower description, culture, tolerances, propagation and use. Photos and information on closely related species, or other available cultivars are encouraged. Presentations may use PowerPoint, video, photography, live plant material, hands-on activities, or other methods. Presentations should be downloaded in e-learning prior to assignment due date. This assignment is worth 10 points and will be graded using a rubric.

- *Guest Lecture Questions:* From the guest speakers, students will be asked to submit a potential question (with answer) that the instructor *may* select to include on an exam. This is to be submitted 5 days prior to the mid-term and final exam. Each question is worth 5 points for a total of 10 points.

- *Field Trip:* During scheduled class days we will take field trips to various native plant facilities. Students will summarize any visit during the semester and share what you learned in a one page or less report. This assignment is worth 5 points.

- *Landscape Installation Project:* As a group, students will design, install and maintain a section of Mehrhof Gardens. This activity is worth 2.5 points for participation.

Grading Policy

Final grades will be based on the follow scale:

93.5-100%	A	309-330 pts
89.5-93.4%	A-	296-308 pts
86.5-89.4%	B+	286-295 pts
82.5-86.4%	B	273-285 pts
79.5-82.4%	B-	263-272 pts
76.5-79.4%	C+	253-262 pts
72.5-76.4%	C	240-252 pts
69.5-72.4%	C-	230-239 pts
66.5-69.4%	D+	220-229 pts
62.5-66.4%	D	207-219 pts
59.5-62.4%	D-	197-206 pts
≤59.4%.....	E	≤196 pts

Please feel free to stop by, call or email your instructor(s) to discuss the class or your grades.

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Week	Date	Activity
1	Jan 14	Introduction of students/faculty; Brian Owens-greenhouse safety; Tour of greenhouses Activity: Propagation of natives: Seed germination
2	Jan 21	Lecture: Defining Native Plants Live Zoom Speaker: Cammie Donaldson, Executive Director, Florida Association of Native Nurseries/ Native Plant Horticulture Foundation- “Securing our Future with Native Plants” Activity: Propagation of natives: Plug transplanting
3	Jan 28	In Person Speaker: Dr. Bart Schutzman, Lecturer- “A Review of Native Plant Morphology” Plant ID Lecture: Wilson- Plant ID List 1 E-learning Speaker: Stephen Brown, Extension Agent, Lee County. “South Florida Native Tree Identification” Parts 1 and 2.
4	Feb 4	Plant ID Lecture: Wilson-Plant ID List 2 E-learning Speaker: Lloyd Singleton, Former Extension Agent, Florida-Friendly Landscaping; “Native Plant Use in Managed Communities” UF HERBARIUM VISIT Florida Museum of Natural History (https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/herbarium/), 379 Dickinson Hall. Tour provided by Dr. Marc Frank, Extension Botanist “Florida’s Flora and How to Prepare Voucher Specimens”
5	Feb 11	UF TREE UNIT VISIT 2977 SW 23rd Terrace Bldg 1356, Gainesville Chris Harchick-Biological Scientist and Dr. Ryan Klein, Assistant Professor– “Years of Research used to Guide Growers and Arborists in Pruning and Planting Practices of Native Trees” UF Native Plant Nursery Visit- Mowry Road- Gage LaPierre ID Quiz 1 (plants 1-20)- Mehrhof Gardens

6	Feb 18	Lecture: Right Plant/right Place-How Native Ecosystem Associations Can Help Plant ID Lecture: Wilson-Plant ID List 3
7	Feb 25	HALF DAY FIELD TRIP 12:00-5:00 pm Chiappini Farms, 150 Chiappini Farm Rd #4329, Hawthorne, FL 32640 (https://chiappinifarm.com) and Micanopy Wildflowers 210 Whiting St, Micanopy, FL 32667 (https://www.fann.org/professionals/detail/wholesale-growersnurseries/micanopy-wildflowers/210-whiting-st)
8	Mar 4	Activity: Individual Container Planting (5 pts) E-learning Speaker: Meg Whitmer, Landscape Architect- “Native Designs that Work” Mid-term Exam (in person)
9	Mar 11	Lecture: Native Alternatives to Ornamental Invasives Plant ID Lecture: Wilson-Plant ID List 4 E-learning Speaker: Dr. Rachel Mallinger, Associate Professor, Dept. Entomology and Nematology. “How can we support native wild bees in our Florida landscapes? ”
10	Mar 18	Spring Break
11	Mar 25	Plant ID Lecture: Wilson-Plant ID List 5 In Person Speaker: Dr. Gail Hansen, Professor- “Novel Landscapes: Alternatives to Traditional Landscapes”- UF’s master landscape plan is discussed Individual Container Plant Presentations- in person (5 pts) Germination Project Due- submit in canvas (10 pts) ID Quiz 2 (plants 20-40, plus review)- Mehrhof Gardens
12	Apr 1	FIELD TRIP Gainesville- Florida Wildflower Growers Cooperative (http://www.floridawildflowers.com) 27715 NW 107 Street, Alachua FL 32615; vans will leave GNV at 2:00 pm and return by 5:00 pm

13	Apr 8	Lecture: The Propagation of Native Plants (online) Activity: Group Landscape Planting at Mehrhof Hall E-learning Speaker: Dr. Jaret Daniels- Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department, "Maximizing Residential Landscape Resources for Insect Pollinators" ID Quiz 3 (plants 1-50)- Mehrhof Gardens
14	Apr 15	Lecture: Introduction of New Native Plants to the Market (online) Activity: Greenhouse cleanup, take plants home Student Plant Lecture Presentations (in person)
15	Apr 22-27	Final Exam (online)

*UF classes begin Jan 12th, 2026, drop deadline April 16th, classes end April 22th, Reading days April 23-24, final Exams April 25-May 1. Holidays Jan 19th, March 14-21st (spring break).

Course Policies and Campus Resources

Grades and Grade Points

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>.

Fees: Materials and Supplies- \$0.00.

Attendance and Make-Up Work

Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See the "Get Started With the DRC" webpage on the Disability Resource Center site. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal education use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and deliver by an instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, field trips, clinical presentation such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer

during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless, of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Online Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online.

Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals,
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or
3. The central portal at <https://my-uf.bluer.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Academic Honesty

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. See the UF Conduct Code website for more information. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: (New Link: <https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/4-040/>)

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

Whole Gator App and website connects UF students with resources dedicated to supporting overall health and well-being. In addition to many of the resources below it also has strategies to practice self-care.
<https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/topics>

- **Health and Wellness • U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- **Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.
- **University Police Department:** Visit UF Police Department website or call 352- 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care, call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.
- **GatorWell Health Promotion Services:** For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.
- **Hitchcock Field and Fork Pantry.** Food and toiletries for those experiencing food insecurity.
- **Student Success Initiative,** <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>.

Academic Resources

- **E-learning technical support:** Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392- 4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- **Career Connections Center:** Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392- 1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- **Library Support:** Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- **Teaching Center:** 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. • **Writing Studio:** Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- **Academic Complaints:** Office of the Ombuds; Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.
- **Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions):** View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information. • **Dean of Students Office.** 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261. Among other services, the DSO assists students who are experiencing situations that compromise their ability to attend classes. This includes family emergencies and medical issues.

Student Complaints

- **Residential Course:** <https://www.ombuds.ufl.edu/complaint-portal/>
- **Online Course:** <https://pfs.tnt.aa.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>