



Gopher Tortoise Forage Plants Native Plants to Landscape Your Florida Yard



Common Name	Scientific Name	Tree, Shrub, Herb, Vine, Cactus	Climate N=North C=Central S=South	Forage Quality VH=Very High H=High M=Mid	Desired for Landscaping	Water BW WK	Care O P
Beautyberry	Callicarpa americana	Shrub	N,C,S	M	Attractive YR	WK	O
Spanish Needles	Bidens spp.	Shrub	N,C,S	VH	Attractive S	BW	P
Blackberry	Rubus spp.	Shrub	N,C,S	VH	Attractive S	BW	P
Blanket Flower	Gaillardia spp.	Herb	N,C,S	H	Attractive S	BW	P
Blueberry	Vaccinium darrowii Vaccinium myrinites	Shrub	N,C,S	H	Low Key S	BW	P
Butterfly Pea	Centrosema spp.	Vine	N,C,S	M	Attractive S	WK	O
Coco Plum	Chrysobalanus icaco	Shrub	S	M	Attractive YR	WK	O
Coral Bean	Erythrina Herbacea	Shrub	N,C,S	M	Attractive S	BW	O
Gopher Apple	Licania michauxii	Herb	N,C,S	H	Attractive S	WK	O
Hibiscus	Hibiscus spp.	Shrub	N,C,S	M	Attractive YR	WK	O
Lantana	Lantana spp.	Shrub	N,C,S	M	Attractive YR	WK	O
Mulberry	Morus rubra	Tree	N,C,S	M	Attractive YR	WK	O
Pawpaw	Asimina spp.	Shrub	N,C,S	L-M	Low Key S	WK	O
Portulacca	Portulacca spp.	Herb	N,C,S	VH	Attractive S	BW	O
Prickly Pear	Opuntia spp.	Cactus	N,C,S	M-VH	Attractive YR	WK	O
Railroad vine Morningglory	Ipomoea spp.	Vine	N,C,S	L-M	Attractive S	WK	O
Saw Palmetto	Serenoa repens	Shrub	N,C,S	M	Attractive YR	WK	O
Seagrape	Coccoloba uvifera	Tree	S	M	Attractive YR	WK	O
Sea Oxeye	Borrchia frutescens	Shrub	N,C,S	M	Attractive YR	BW	O
Sunflower	Helianthus spp.	Herb	N,C,S	L-M	Attractive S	WK	O
Sumac, Winged	Rhus copallina	Shrub	N,C,S	M	Attractive S	WK	O
Verbena	Verbena spp.	Herb	N,C,S	H	Attractive S	BW	P
Wild Grape	Vitis spp.	Vine	N,C,S	VH	Attractive S	WK	O

LEDGEND:

1. Climate requirements - Northern Florida, Central Florida, South Florida
2. Quality of forage - Very High, High, Moderate, Low
3. Desirability for landscaping - Attractive, Low Key, Seasonal, Year Round
4. Required Water - Bi-Weekly (twice), Weekly (once) - If not getting regular rainfall
5. Care Required - Periodically, Occasionally



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Scrub Garden planting plan is ideal for the rear of a property.

design | preview

0 3 6 9 12 15 18 21 24 27 30 33 36 39 42 45 48 51 54 57 60 63 66 69 72 75 78

0 3 6 9

Objects | **Tools**

My Objects

scrub oak	dwarf palmetto
coontie	prickly pear
Beautyberry	blue porterweed
wax myrtle	shiny blueberry
lantana	Starter Burrow Spoil Pile
grapevine	Blanket Flower
manyflower beardtongue	golden aster

Remember when selecting tortoise forage species to plant in a school yard or for home landscaping to consider these key points:

80% of a tortoise's diet is grass - native and non-native (Bahia, St. Augustine, Alexander grass and even crabgrass are good) and tortoises frequently eat the flowering species "weeds" and sedges found throughout grassy areas - herbaceous species provide important nutrients but are used in smaller amounts compared to grasses.

Tortoises will eat fern fiddleheads, smilax (green briar) shoots and many wetland plants like pennyworts and rushes.

Tortoises will eat any garden plant you would eat. Keep in mind if there are tortoises and they like a plant, then they would at some point consume a great deal or all of that plant. Plants attractive to butterflies are also often species eaten by tortoises.

Fruit producing trees should be along edges or infrequent so as not to shade out the grass and herbaceous species needed by tortoises if you wish to encourage them. Do not use weed killers or insecticides

Scrub garden plan provided by: **Suncoast Ecological Services**
<http://www.suncoasteco.com>

To find out more about the FWC Gopher Tortoise Yard Recognition Program
myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/gopher-tortoise/yard-recognition/

Learn more about the gopher tortoise: www.gophertortoisecouncil.org