

NWF Florida Do-not-Buy/ Do-not-Plant List

Florida Non-Native Plant to Avoid		Notes	Plant Instead	
Common Name	Latin Name		Common Name	Latin Name
Grasses				
Fountain Grass	<i>Cenchrus setaceus</i> (<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>)	FISC Category II Invasive, still widely available for sale but has escaped from cultivation	Purple Lovegrass Elliott's lovegrass Muhly Grass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i> <i>Eragrostis elliottii</i> <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>
Golden Bamboo	<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i> <i>Bambusa sp.</i>	FISC Category II Invasive, available for sale online and in garden centers, quickly spreads by underground rhizomes and escapes cultivation	Switchgrass Eastern Gamagrass/ Fakahatchee Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> <i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>
Herbaceous Perennials				
Mexican Petunia	<i>Ruellia simplex</i> (<i>Ruellia brittoniana</i>)	FISC Category I Invasive, can withstand a broad range of conditions, grows rapidly, produces large quantities of seed that germinate with a high rate of success	Ohio Spiderwort Blue Porterweed	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i> <i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>
Tropical Milkweed	<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	When planted in areas where it does not die back in the winter, this plant helps to sustain high levels of parasites called OE that are highly detrimental to the health and migration success of Monarch butterflies.	Butterfly Milkweed Whorled Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> <i>Asclepias verticillata</i>
Wedelia	<i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i>	FISC Category II Invasive, spreads along roads, trails, streams, and agricultural areas, forms a dense mat of vegetation that crowds out native vegetation	Fogfruit/ Capeweed Oblongleaf Twinflower	<i>Phyla nodiflora</i> <i>Dyschoriste oblongifolia</i>
Wild Taro, Elephant Ear	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	FISC Category I Invasive, has widely invaded wet habitats, forms dense shade and shades out native vegetation, rhizomes easily spread by water to invade new areas	Southern Marsh Canna Scarlet Hibiscus	<i>Canna flaccida</i> <i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>
Ferns				
Asparagus/Foxtail Fern	<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> (<i>Asparagus</i>	FISC Category I Invasive, highly invasive plant that spreads vegetatively by tubers, birds disperse seed, displaces native vegetation	Boston sword fern Virginia chain fern Coontie	<i>Nephrolepis exaltata</i> <i>Woodwardia virginica</i>

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	<i>densiflorus or sprengeri</i>)			<i>Zamia pumila (Zamia integrifolia)</i>
Tuberous Sword Fern	<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>	FISC Category I Invasive, spreads aggressively and known to escape from cultivation, thousands of spores spread by wind and water year-round	Giant Sword Fern	<i>Nephrolepis biserrata</i>
Vines				
Chinese Wisteria	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	FISC Category II Invasive, available at garden centers, highly aggressive habit of this vine girdles and shades out native vegetation, stems can become like tree trunks	Passion Vine Corkystem Passion-flower	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i> <i>Passiflora suberosa</i>
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	This vine can kill trees that it climbs and smother vegetation along the ground. It also hosts Bacterial Leaf Scorch, a disease problematic to some native trees and shrubs.	Carolina Jessamine Coral/ Trumpet Honeysuckle	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i> <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>
Shrubs				
Brazilian Pepper	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius (Schinus terebinthifolia)</i>	Florida Noxious Weed and FISC Category I Invasive, highly aggressive and wide-spread plant that invades both wet and dry habitats throughout Florida, the dense vegetation shades out all other plants, causes skin reaction similar to poison ivy and pollen can cause respiratory problems for sensitive individuals	Simpson's Stopper Yaupon Holly	<i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i> <i>Ilex vomitoria</i>
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	This deciduous shrub easily invades riparian areas and areas that have been disturbed. Although it provides nectar, it is not a source of food for butterflies and moths, so wildlife is impacted when it is planted instead of or when it displaces native host plants.	False Indigo-Bush	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>

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Chinese Ligustrum	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Florida Noxious Weed and FISC Category I Invasive, grows into dense thickets due to extensive root suckers, large quantities of fruit are produced and dispersed by birds and deer, tolerates heavy shade and poor soil, fruits and leaves poisonous to livestock and people	Florida Privet Simpson's Stopper	<i>Forestiera segregata</i> <i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i>
Coral Ardisia	<i>Ardisia crenata</i>	Florida Noxious Weed and FISC Category I Invasive, produces large quantities of seed with high germination rate, displaces natural plant communities by shading out understory and seedlings of larger plants	Darrow's Blueberry Shiny Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium darrowii</i> <i>Vaccinium myrsinites</i>
Heavenly Bamboo	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	FISC Category I Invasive, widely available in garden centers and nurseries, grows quickly from seed and root parts, forms dense thickets	Inkberry Wild Coffee	<i>Ilex glabra</i> <i>Psychotria nervosa</i>
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Florida Noxious Weed and FISC Category I Invasive, quickly outcompetes native trees and shrubs by pulling them down, makes it easier for other invasives to invade	Coral Honeysuckle Cross Vine	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> <i>Bignonia capreolata</i>
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i> (<i>Lantana strigocamara</i>)	FISC Category I Invasive. This popular garden plant has escaped freely and become a noxious weed in areas without frost. It has invaded a variety of habitats and can form dense thickets that outcompete native vegetation. It can tolerate all sorts of conditions and is spread by birds who have eaten the seeds. Its hybridization with native lantana species has reduced their natural populations. This plant is also problematic due to its toxic properties affecting children, livestock, and domestic animals. All parts of	Native White Lantana or Wild Coffee	<i>Lantana involucrata</i> <i>Psychotria nervosa</i>

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		the plant are poisonous if ingested. Handling the plant may cause skin irritation or allergic reaction.		
Oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Although attractive, all parts of this plant are highly toxic and can be fatal to humans, pets, and birds if ingested. Contact with the skin causes dermatitis. Oleander attracts pollinators with its flowers and scent, however offers no nectar reward, which wastes the pollinators' energy. Seeds of this plant are spread by wind, making it easy to spread to natural areas.	Coralbean/ Cherokee Bean Firebush	<i>Erythrina herbacea</i> <i>Hamelia patens</i>
Nettle-leaf Porterweed, Blue Snakeweed	<i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis</i> (<i>Stachytarpheta urticifolia</i>)	FISC Category II Invasive, readily available for sale, known to be invasive, still under assessment by UF/IFAS, can hybridize with the native species	Blue Porterweed	<i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>
Silverthorn Olive, Autumn and Russian	<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i> <i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	FISC Category II Invasive (<i>E. pungens</i> and <i>umbellata</i>), hybridizes with native <i>Elaeagnus</i> sp., displaces native species, tolerant of a wide range of stressors including salt, drought, and shade, seeds are widely dispersed by wildlife	Simpson's Stopper/ Twinberry Groundsel Tree/ Sea Myrtle	<i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i> <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>
Trees				
Chinese Tallow Tree	<i>Triadica sebifera</i> (<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>)	Florida Noxious Weed and FISC Category I Invasive, has naturalized throughout much of Florida, displaces native species throughout a wide range of habitats, seeds spread by birds, trunks resprout when cut	Hornbeam Florida Sugar Maple	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> <i>Acer saccharum</i> ssp. <i>Floridanum</i>

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→ on Noxious Weed List (regulated) but seem to still be planted – keep in top 10?

denotes plants that have been specified on landscape plans for Taylor Morrison

References:

Florida Noxious Weed Lists (Regulated) – [Terrestrial Plants \(Field Guide Version\)](#) and [Aquatic Plants](#)
[Federal Noxious Weed List](#)

(In addition to the plants listed above, species listed as noxious weeds may not be planted in Florida under any circumstances.)

Florida Invasive Species Council [2019 FLEPPC List of Invasive Plant Species](#)

Florida Native Plant Society [AlterNatives](#)

University of Florida UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants [Plant Directory](#)

Florida Today - [These 10 invasive plants are causing major problems in Florida](#)