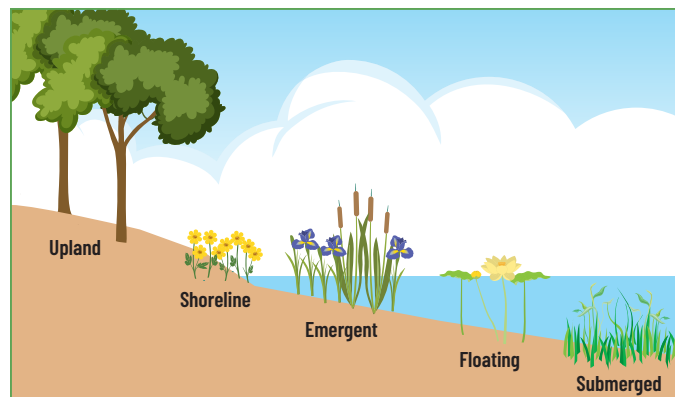


Florida is a great place to garden near or in water with native wildflowers and plants. You'll find a variety of areas where water is a permanent or temporary feature of the landscape including:

- Natural or man-made ponds or lakes.
- Graded stormwater retention ponds that collect and gradually drain excess rain runoff.
- Swales or ditches beside roadways that prevent excess water from reaching the road.
- Excavated rain gardens, which catch and utilize rain runoff from roofs and driveways.

All of these have the potential to become pollinator gardens as well as important habitat for a variety of insects and birds. Using a diverse slate of plants is the key to creating an area that supplies food, nesting areas and lifecycle support for a large variety of fauna.



## Know Your Aquatic Plant Zones

Ponds, lakes and rain gardens with shallow graded slopes and deeper central pools are ideal for a variety of plants. Different water depths support different plant species, depending on their root structure and capacity for saturation. It is important to match each species with its preferred soil conditions:

- **Upland** areas sit above the shoreline and may have moderately to very dry, well-drained soils since water drains downslope. Upland areas include hardwood hammock, pine flatwoods, scrub, dry prairie and pine rockland habitats.
- **Shoreline** plants occur from the upland area to the water's edge. They are adapted to moist or saturated soils and can tolerate periodic inundation. This is the optimal zone for planting aquatic wildflowers.
- **Emergent** plants are found in shallow water (up to 2 feet deep). Their roots may be temporarily or permanently underwater, while plant stems and leaves grow above water and adapt to changing water levels. These plants provide fish habitat, reduce water nutrients and improve water clarity.
- **Floating** plants occur in water up to 4 feet deep. They may be rooted in the soil or free-floating. Proper spacing of rooted plants will ensure sunlight reaches the pond floor.
- **Submerged** plants occur in deep open water where sunlight can still penetrate to aid in plant growth.



## Planting and Maintenance Tips

Use a variety of wildflowers blooming in spring, summer and fall. Plant sparsely in clusters if you are using colonizing plants. Some species may spread quickly by root or rhizomes as they stabilize soil banks. Plants that are not in standing water may require watering for several weeks to become established.

Herbaceous perennials may die back in winter but will still provide habitat and nesting material. Plan on yearly maintenance to thin plant colonies by removing dead vegetation as needed. Refresh plants in spring by trimming old stems and be sure to remove pruned debris so water movement is not impaired. Excess debris that sinks to the pond floor can reduce oxygen levels and water clarity.

Retention ponds with steep sides may pose planting challenges due to drainage patterns. Determining the average water level is critical for successful plant establishment. Avoid excessive plantings that prevent the pond from achieving its purpose of controlling water runoff. Before planting, check county and local policies for planting in stormwater management ponds.



Common name	Scientific name	Light	Color of bloom	Bloom season	Soil moisture	Hardiness zone	Growth habit	Shoreline zone	Pollinator/Bird use
Pink swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>					8A-10B	3-6 ft	S	
White swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias perennis</i>					8A-9B	1-2 ft	S	
Waterhyssop	<i>Bacopa</i> spp.					8B-11	3-4 in	S	
Smooth beggarticks	<i>Bidens laevis</i>					8A-11	2-4 in	S/E	
Golden canna	<i>Canna flaccida</i>					8A-11	3-4 ft	E	
Hairy chaffhead	<i>Carphephorus paniculatus</i>					8A-10B	2-4 in	S	
Brown's savory	<i>Clinopodium brownei</i>					8A-11	3-4 in	S	
Blue mistflower	<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>					8A-11	2-3 ft	S/E	
Leavenworth's tickseed	<i>Coreopsis leavenworthii</i>					8A-11	1-3 ft	S	
String-lily	<i>Crinum americanum</i>					8A-11	2-3 ft	S/E	
Swamp twinflower	<i>Dyschoriste humistrata</i>					8A-9B	2-3 in	S	
Rattlesnakemaster	<i>Eryngium</i> spp.					8A-10B	1-3 ft	S	
Joe pye weed	<i>Eutrochium fistulosum</i>					8A-9B	3-10 ft	S	
Narrowleaf sunflower	<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>					8A-10A	4-6 ft	S/E	
Scarlet hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>					8A-11	3-7 ft	S/E	
Swamp rosemallow	<i>Hibiscus grandiflorus</i>					8A-11	3-6 ft	S	
Crimson-eyed rosemallow	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>					8A-9A	3-6 ft	S	
Skyflower	<i>Hydrolea corymbosa</i>					8B-10B	2-4 in	S	
Spiderlily	<i>Hymenocallis</i> spp.					9A-10B	2-3 ft	S/E	
Prairie iris	<i>Iris hexagona</i>					8A-11	2-3 ft	E	
Prairie Iris	<i>Iris savannarum</i>					8A-10B	2-3 ft	E	
Blue-flag Iris	<i>Iris virginica</i>					8A-9A	2-3 ft	E	
Virginia willow	<i>Itea virginica</i>					8A-10B	3-8 ft	S/E	
Virginia saltmarsh mallow	<i>Kosteletzyka virginica</i>					8A-11	3-6 ft	S	
Carolina redroot	<i>Lachnanthes caroliana</i>					8A-11	1-4 ft	S/E	
Cardinalflower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>					8A-10B	2-5 ft	S/E	
Christmasberry	<i>Lycium carolinianum</i>					8A-11	3-10 ft	S/E	
American lotus	<i>Nelumbo lutea</i>					8A-10B	n/a	F	
Spatterdock	<i>Nuphar advena</i>					8A-11	n/a	F	
Yellow waterlily	<i>Nymphaea mexicana</i>					8B-11	n/a	F	
Fragrant white waterlily	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>					8A-11	n/a	F	
Golden club	<i>Orontium aquaticum</i>					8A-10B	1-2 ft	S/E	
Golden ragwort	<i>Packera aurea</i>					8A-9B	2-3 ft	S	
Butterweed	<i>Packera glabella</i>					8A-10B	2-3 ft	S	
Arrow arum	<i>Peltandra</i> spp.					8A-11	2-3 ft	E	
Eastern false dragonhead	<i>Physostegia purpurea</i>					8A-11	1-2 ft	S	
Pickeralweed	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>					8A-10B	2-4 ft	E	
Pale meadowbeauty	<i>Rhexia mariana</i>					8A-11	2-3 ft	S	
Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria</i> spp.					8A-11	1-4 ft	E	
Lizard's tail	<i>Saururus cernuus</i>					8A-11	1-3 ft	E	
Canadian germander	<i>Teucrium canadense</i>					8A-11	2-4 ft	S/E	
Alligator flag	<i>Thalia geniculata</i>					8B-11	6-9 ft	E	

For a more extensive list of shade-tolerant plants, visit [www.FlaWildflowers.org/brochure/aquatic-wildflowers](http://www.FlaWildflowers.org/brochure/aquatic-wildflowers).

To identify which **hardiness zone** you live in, go to [PlantHardiness.ars.usda.gov](http://PlantHardiness.ars.usda.gov).

**Light** Full sun Partial sun/shade Full shade **Bloom season** Winter Spring Summer Fall **Soil moisture** Dry Moist Wet

**Pollinator/Bird use** Larval host Butterflies Bees, other pollinators Birds Hummingbirds **Shoreline zone** [S] Shoreline [E] Emergent [F] Floating