

A Guide to Gardening on Jekyll Island



Prepared by the
Garden Club of Jekyll Island

2024



We dedicate this Plant Guide to those who have enthusiastically placed new plantings in their yard or garden, only to discover the next morning they had mysteriously disappeared. OH DEER!

Over the years we've learned a lot about what grows well on Jekyll Island, and what does not. Our big challenges include sandy soil, hot climate, and nuisance wildlife like deer and armadillo. We hope to help you achieve success with your own yard and garden by sharing what we know.

For many Jekyll gardeners, deer are the biggest concern. While no plant is entirely deer-resistant (they love new growth on most any plant!), we've included in this Guide varieties that deer tend to avoid because of the plant's scent, prickly leaves, or bitter taste.

It's also important to know how much sunlight a plant might need. There's a lot of deep shade under our beautiful Live Oak trees, while the sun is blazing hot in other areas. Before selecting plants, take time to look at the light conditions in your yard. Then check out "The Basics" section of this Guide for information on levels of sunlight required by various plants.

Then there are the invasive plants: non-natives that can quickly overtake an area, crowding out the natives. When that happens, native plants start to die off, along with the animals that depend on them. Please check out "The Basics" section for invasive plants to avoid.

No matter what topic interests you, we hope you find this Guide to be helpful and inspiring.

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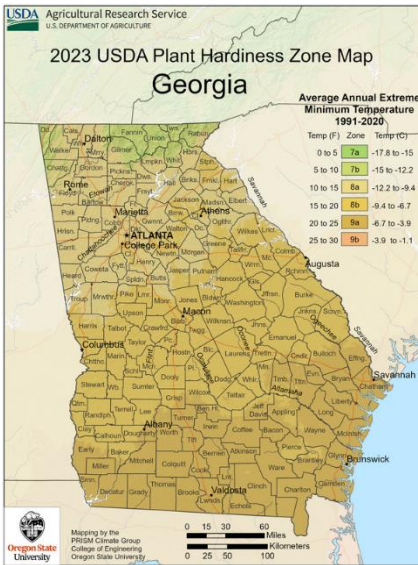
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The Basics

In the zone

The USDA's Plant Hardiness Zone Map (PHZM) divides North America into 13 zones based on average minimum temperatures. Knowing what your planting zone is can help you make informed decisions about which type of plants to buy, as well as when to plant them.



Jekyll Island is in Plant Hardiness Zone 9A. The average first freeze for us is December 15, and the average last freeze date is March 1. It rarely goes below 25°F, and some years it doesn't freeze at all.

View a larger map [HERE](#).

Sunlight requirements

Remember to think locally when it comes to gardening. Use plant label recommendations for sunlight requirements as a guide, but tailor them to suit the specific conditions in our area. Don't forget that afternoon sun is harsher than morning sun. Over time, you'll have a better understanding of how much sun exposure your plants need in your own yard.

Here's a general guide:

FULL SUN	6 or more hours of direct sun
PART SUN	3-6 hours of direct sun
PART SHADE	3-6 hours of sun, but plants need protection during the hottest part of the day
SHADE	Less than 3 hours of morning sun. Filtered light under a tree canopy is a good setting for full shade plants

Amend the soil

Jekyll Island's sandy soil does have some benefits, for instance, it's easy to dig and there's less risk of root rot for plants. The downside, though, is that sandy soil doesn't retain water or nutrients for very long. So, if you want your plants to grow, it's important to add organic material to the soil, such as compost, leaves, or well-aged animal manure. The added organic material acts like a sponge retaining moisture in the soil and making it available to plant roots for a longer period. If you use fertilizer, make sure it's the "slow release" kind.

You should also know that with Jekyll Island's warm climate, the organic material tends to break down faster than normal. That means it's necessary to replenish the soil amendments more frequently, at least once a year. The best way to amend soil in an existing garden is by top-dressing the bed with an inch or two of compost.

To further improve the soil, you can mulch around plants with materials like bark nuggets, wood chips, leaves, straw, or hay. These materials insulate the soil from heat, retain moisture, and eventually break down to add nutrients to the ground.

Invasive plants to avoid

- Air yam
- Asparagus fern
- Beach vitex
- Brazilian pepper tree
- Brazilian vervain
- Callery ("Bradford") pear
- Camphor tree
- Chinaberry tree
- Chinese privet
- Chinese tallow tree
- Chinese yam
- Cogon grass 'Japanese blood grass'
- Common reed
- Coral ardisia
- English ivy
- French tamarisk
- Golden bamboo
- Japanese climbing fern
- Japanese honeysuckle
- Japanese privet
- Japanese/Chinese wisteria
- Jimson weed
- Kudzu
- Lantana (seed bearing varieties)
- Mexican petunia
- Mimosa
- Non-native lespedeza
- Old world climbing fern
- Pindo palm
- Princess tree
- Rattlebox
- Russian thistle
- Sawtooth oak
- Sweet autumn clematis
- Sword fern
- Tree of heaven
- Trifoliolate Orange
- Tung oil tree
- White mulberry

Source: [Jekyll Island Landscape and Tree Ordinances](#)

Plants to Consider

Most of the plants in this section are deer-resistant and drought-tolerant, and will thrive in your yard if the conditions are right in terms of sun, water, and soil.

Trees, however, are a bit different because you don't have to worry as much about deer resistance. Select trees that don't branch low and protect them with wire cages for a few years until the tree is taller than the deer. This applies to all citrus trees. If needed, you can remove the branches that deer can reach.

In this section, you'll find:

- Flowering favorites
- Privacy and screening
- Awesome evergreens
- Made in the shade
- Sun lovers
- Going native

Flowering favorites

Discover more about each of these plants by searching on their botanical names.

Trees

- Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) - shown
- Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)
- Indian Hawthorn (*Raphiolepis indica*)



Shrubs

- Formosa Azalea (*Rhododendron indica*) - shown
- Camellia (*Camellia japonica*)
- Lorepetalum (*Loropetalum chinense*)



Perennials

- Salvia (*Salvia splendens*) - shown
- Spiderwort (*Spiderwort Tradescantia*)
- Hellebores (*Helleborus foetidus*)



Privacy and screening



Transform your outdoor space into a peaceful haven with the help of hedges. Not only do they offer privacy and a serene view but they also act as a natural sound barrier, blocking out unwanted noise.

Sweet Viburnum (*Viburnum odoratissimum*) is a good choice because it's fast-growing and deer resistant. Native plants like Wax Myrtle, Sweetbay Magnolia, Yaupon Holly, or Carolina Laurel Cherry can also make excellent hedges.

Awesome evergreens

Besides adding year-round color, evergreen plants can provide structure to your garden and act as a great backdrop for other plants. You will appreciate them even more during winter months when your deciduous plants lose all their leaves. There is a wide variety of evergreen plants available, including shrubs, grasses, ferns, and flowering perennials. Here are a few that have not been mentioned elsewhere in this Guide.

Trees

- Tea Olive (*Osmanthus fragrans*) - shown
- Savannah Holly (*Ilex attenuate*)
- Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
- Arizona Cypress (*Hesperocyparis arizonica*)



Shrubs

- Rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*) - shown
- Cleyera (*Cleyera japonica*)



Perennials

- Lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantina*) - shown
- Lenten Rose (*Helleborus*)



Made in the shade

Shade-loving plants typically need rich, moist soils, which is the opposite of what we have on Jekyll Island. But you can amend your soil, and once that is done, you'll have it made in the shade.



Lady Fern
(*Athyrium filix-femina*)



White Butterfly Ginger Lily
(*Hedychium coronarium*)



Tractor Seat Plant
(*Farfugium japonicum*)



Caladiums
(*Caladium x hortulanum* 'Carolyn Whorton')

Sun lovers

If you have a yard that gets plenty of sunshine, you have a lot of great options when it comes to choosing what to plant. From trees and shrubs to perennials, there are many plants that thrive in sunny conditions. Here are some great examples.



Oleander
Nerium oleander



Muhly grass
Muhlenbergia capillaris



Trumpet Honeysuckle
Lonicera sempervirens



Fringe Tree
Chionanthus virginicus

Going native

It's important to acknowledge the significance of Jekyll Island's native plants. These plants are naturally adapted to our environment and require minimal maintenance, making them a great choice. Here are a few native plant favorites.



Wax myrtle
Morella cerifera



Saw Palmetto
Serenoa repens



Dune Sunflower
Helianthus debilis



Indian Blanket
Gaillardia pulchella

Find more Coastal Georgia Native Plants [HERE](#).

Island Resources

The Jekyll Island Greenhouse

The Jekyll Island Greenhouse offers an array of plants from vibrant flowers to lush foliage...

<https://www.jekyllisland.com/shopping/jekyll-island-greenhouse/>

Jekyll Island Community Garden

One of the oldest community gardens in the Golden Isles is on Jekyll Island. Begun nearly 50 years ago, the Jekyll Island Community Garden plots are located next to the Jekyll Island Authority's greenhouses. There are approximately 15-20 plots of varying sizes available for use. If all plots are occupied, a waiting list is created.

For more information, send an email to:

Jekyllislandcommunitygarden@gmail.com

Jekyll Island Landscape and Tree Ordinances

A lot of important information is in Chapter 10, Article 1: Landscaping and Tree Protection. For instance, in **Section 10-3 – Permit requirements**, a permit is needed before removing a tree, cutting branches greater than 2 inches in diameter, or installing a fence.

https://library.municode.com/ga/jekyll_island_authority/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodemd=COOR_CH10ENNAR_E_ARTILATPRR

Club Member Favorites


This final section of the Guide features 25 of our Garden Club member favorites. All are deer resistant, and the majority are drought tolerant. Perhaps they'll become some of your favorites, too!

Plant Type	Plant Name	Drought tolerant	Sunlight
Bulb	Spring Snowflake	No	PS
Grass	Muhly Grass	Yes	FS
Herb	Mexican Oregano	Yes	FS
Herb	Society Garlic	Yes	FS
Palm	Lady Palm	Yes	PS
Palm	Sabal Palm	Yes*	FS
Perennial	Black Eyed Susan	Yes	FS, PS
Perennial	Clivia	Yes	PS, SH
Perennial	Agapanthus	Yes*	FS, PS
Perennial	African Iris	Yes*	FS, PS, SH
Perennial	Salvia	Yes	FS
Perennial	Texas Spider Lily	Yes	PS, SH
Shrub	Simpson's Stopper	Yes	FS, PS
Shrub	Gardenia	Yes*	FS, PS
Shrub	Bottlebrush	Yes	FS, PS
Shrub	Fire Bush	Yes	FS
Shrub	Oleander	Yes*	FS, PS
Shrub	Plumbago	Yes	FS
Succulent	Snake Plant	Yes	PS, SH
Tree	Crape Myrtle	Yes*	FS
Tree	Yaupon Holly	Yes	FS PS
Tropical	Bird of Paradise	Yes	PS
Tropical	Elephant Ears	Yes	FS, PS, SH
Vine	Confederate Jasmine	Yes	FS, SH
Vine	Spurred Butterfly Pea	Yes	FS, PS

*Once established


Sunlight: FS (Full Sun), PS (Part Sun), SH (Shade)

African Iris

Botanical Name	<i>Dictes vegata</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	3 ft plus	
Zones	8-10	
Bloom period	Spring, Summer, Fall	
Foliage color	Green	
Flower color	White, yellow	
Problem Solvers	Deer resistant; drought tolerant once established.	
Use	For landscaping all around the house. Often, all clumps bloom at the same time.	
Care instructions	Water and fertilizer help improve blooming more often and more buds.	


Contributed by Nita Malbasa

Agapanthus

Botanical Name	<i>Agapanthus praecox</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	Flower stems are up to 3.5 feet tall coming from the center of the plant with leaves surrounding the bloom stalk. Leaf span is approximately 20 inches.	
Zones	9-11	
Bloom period	June-August	
Foliage color	Medium green, 19" long x 1" wide	
Flower color	Showy blue, lavender, or white balls	
Problem Solvers	May be deer resistant; drought tolerant once established.	
Use	Use as a back border, a focal plant, or in a group.	
Care instructions	Little care is required after plants are established. Plant in fall or winter, as close together as 2 inches apart.	


Contributed by Caryl Rice

Bird of Paradise

Botanical Name	<i>Strelitzia alba</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flower <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tropical <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	12 to 15 ft tall	
Zones	10-11	
Bloom period	Late winter – early spring	
Foliage color	Light green	
Flower color	White	
Problem Solvers	If left unprotected in temperatures below 35 degrees, it will die back to the ground, but will grow back as temperatures warm.	
Use	May be planted directly into the ground or in a container.	
Care instructions	This is a tropical and tender perennial. It will survive in our planting zone, but at temperatures below 35 degrees, potted plants must be brought inside and in-ground plants must be protected.	


Contributed by Natalie Wilbur

Black-eyed Susan

Botanical Name	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	1-3 feet tall	
Zones	3-9	
Bloom period	Mid-summer to early fall	
Foliage color	Green	
Flower color	Bright yellow	
Problem Solvers	Drought tolerant. Attracts a variety of pollinators including butterflies and bumble bees.	
Use	Long bloom period; bird friendly seeds; cut flowers. They play a crucial role in supporting wildlife habitats by providing food and shelter to insects and small animals.	
Care instructions	Easy maintenance. They are quite hardy and adaptable to different soil types. Deadheading spent flowers will encourage continuous blooming. Cutting back plant in late fall will help promote new growth the following spring.	


Contributed by JoAnn Buisson

Bottlebrush

Botanical Name	<i>Melaleuca citrina</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	Shrub 15 ft wide x 15 ft tall; Tree 25 ft tall	
Zones	8B – 11B	
Bloom period	Spring	
Foliage color	Green	
Flower color	Bright crimson	
Problem Solvers	Deer resistant. Drought tolerant. Ideal for coastal areas.	
Use	Specimen tree or hedge. Medicinal properties and therapeutic use. Attracts hummingbirds and bees. Dwarf variety available: 3 ft tall x 5 ft wide.	
Care instructions	Requires little maintenance. Fast growing. Avoid overwatering. Disease: root and crown rot, attacking fungus. Soil: loamy, sandy, clay, well drained.	


Contributed by Mary Merrow

Clivia

Botanical Name	<i>Amaryllidaceae</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	Varies	
Zones	9B – 11 outside; fine indoors	
Bloom period	March and sometimes summer	
Foliage color	Green	
Flower color	Orange (most common), red, yellow	
Problem Solvers	Deer resistant. Very little care required. Slow growing and long living.	
Use	Grows well in shade but tolerates some sun. Individual show or groups.	
Care instructions	Does not mind some neglect (benign neglect). Allow soil to dry between deep watering. Grows in a pot both indoors and outdoors, as well as in the ground. Prefers to be root bound before dividing.	


Contributed by Cathy Miller

Confederate Jasmine

Botanical Name	<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part shade	
Mature size	20 feet	
Zones	7-10	
Bloom period	Spring to Early Summer	
Foliage color	Dark green	
Flower color	White	
Problem Solvers	Deer resistant; drought tolerant; disease and pest free.	
Use	Grow as shrub or vine on trellis or fence.	
Care instructions	Easy care; low maintenance; fast growing.	


Contributed by Shelly Gardner

Crepe Myrtle

Botanical Name	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>		
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial		
Plant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen		
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> High
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun	<input type="checkbox"/> Part sun	<input type="checkbox"/> Shade
Mature size	3-20 ft		
Zones	6-9		
Bloom period	Summer		
Foliage color	Dark green; Red and yellow in fall.		
Flower color	Red, pink, lavender, white.		
Problem Solvers	Long lived; low maintenance; withstands drought; deer resistant.		
Use	Anything from foundation shrub to specimen tree		
Care instructions	Use general fertilizer and fungicide for powdery mildew or leaf spot.		


Contributed by Judy Hartley

Elephant Ear

Botanical Name	<i>Colocasia</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tropical <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	3-5 ft tall; 4 ft wide	
Zones	7-11	
Bloom period	Spring	
Foliage color	Large green leathery leaves	
Flower color	Yellow and white spathe	
Problem Solvers	Easy to propagate and share tubers/corms. Multiple plants come up from same root or tuber. Deer resistant.	
Use	Specimen and focal plant. Does well in pots and water features.	
Care instructions	Deep freeze will hurt the leaves and stems will become mushy. Plant will return even if large trunk looks rotten. Push it over, re-bury it and wait for new shoots. Sap can irritate the skin. Very little maintenance.	


Contributed by Michelle Anderson

Fire Bush

Botanical Name	<i>Hamelia patens</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	Up to 6' wide and 8' tall	
Zones	8-11	
Bloom period	Late Spring through late Fall	
Foliage color	Mid green - deciduous if we have a frost	
Flower color	Flame colored	
Problem Solvers	Deer resistant; drought and heat resistant. Attracts pollinators especially butterflies and hummingbirds. Fast grower - dies back to the ground with frost but grows 8-10' the next year.	
Use	Specimen, in a border, or hedge - but know it is deciduous most Jekyll winters.	
Care instructions	Low maintenance. Drought tolerant once established. Pest and disease resistant. Do not plant in soggy ground. It may sucker so give it space. Flowers best if not cut back too hard in winter.	


Contributed by Margaret Else

Gardenia

Botanical Name	<i>Gardenia jasminoides</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	3x8 ft tall and wide	
Zones	8-11	
Bloom period	Spring, summer, sometimes fall	
Foliage color	Shiny, leathery dark green leaves	
Flower color	White, cream, yellow	
Problem Solvers	Deer resistant. Thrives in warm, humid weather.	
Use	Hedge or free-standing specimen. Not good as an indoor plant or planted near a concrete wall or foundation.	
Care instructions	Acidic soil, organic matter, fertilize every 2-4 weeks during bloom period. Cut off faded flowers to encourage continuous blooming.	


Contributed by Christie Kinsey

Lady Palm

Botanical Name	<i>Rhaps excelsa</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	Usually 6-8 feet; can be up to 12 feet	
Zones	9-11 if outdoors	
Bloom period	n/a	
Foliage color	Dark green	
Flower color	n/a	
Problem Solvers	Moderate drought tolerance; heat resistant; deer resistant.	
Use	Great ornamental shrub.	
Care instructions	Provide consistent moisture. Fertilize every 2-3 months with balanced, water-soluble fertilizer. Prune away any yellow or brown fronds.	


Contributed by Andie Newell

Mexican Oregano (Rosemary Mint)

Botanical Name	<i>Poliomintha longiflora</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade
Mature size	2-3 ft tall	
Zones	8-10	
Bloom period	Spring to fall	
Foliage color	Shiny green	
Flower color	Lavender	
Problem Solvers	Deer resistant; drought tolerant. Loves hot/humid climate.	
Use	Good for flavoring meats and tea. Attracts hummingbirds. Keeps mosquitos at bay.	
Care instructions	Can freeze north of Zone 8. Does not tolerate much shade. Dry out soil between waterings.	


Contributed by Susie Corbett

Muhly Grass

Botanical Name	<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Ferb <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun	<input type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade
Mature size	Up to 3 ft wide x 2-5 ft tall	
Zones	9A, 10 – 11; native to GA and FL	
Bloom period	Autumn	
Foliage color	Green	
Flower color	Pink or purple plumes	
Problem Solvers	Deer resistant; drought tolerant; tolerant of salty soil; fast growing.	
Use	Showy; late season color.	
Care instructions	Low maintenance; cut back in late winter; apply fertilizer sparingly in the spring.	


Contributed by Sarah Tallu Schuyler

Oleander

Botanical Name	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	7-20 ft tall	
Zones	8B-10	
Bloom period	Early summer - autumn	
Foliage color	Dark green	
Flower color	White, pink, or red (white is shown)	
Problem Solvers	Poisonous, and its toxicity renders it deer resistant. Its large size makes for a good windbreak.	
Use	Grows vigorously in warm sub-tropical regions. Used as an ornamental plant in parks, roadsides, and private gardens. Makes a great hedge.	
Care instructions	Prune mature shrubs in autumn. Tolerates poor soils, intense heat, salt spray, and sustained drought.	


Contributed by Lynn Van Iderstyne

Plumbago

Botanical Name	<i>Plumbaginaceau</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	Up to 6 ft high x 8 ft wide	
Zones	9-11	
Bloom period	Spring to Fall	
Foliage color	2" green leaves	
Flower color	Blue	
Problem Solvers	Drought tolerant. Can sustain colder temperatures. Fast growing and spreads. Low maintenance that requires little to no pruning.	
Use	Can use in gardens or planters. Great for pollinator gardens.	
Care instructions	Plant in well-drained soil. Prune to keep neat and maximize flowers. Tops could burn during freezing temps but roots should be ok with moist soil and a mulch blanket.	


Contributed by Linda Wunder

Sabal Palm, aka, Cabbage Palm

Botanical Name	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	50-70 ft tall	
Zones	8-13	
Bloom period	April through August	
Foliage color	Green	
Flower color	White	
Problem Solvers	They are pest and disease resistant and they adapt to varying conditions.	
Use	They are ideal for use in the landscape because care is minimal. The fleshy cabbage-shaped terminal bud is edible by humans (heart of palm).	
Care instructions	Sabal Palms are relatively care free and very hardy, even tolerating temperatures as low as 15°F. It's best to remove dead fronds, flower stalks and fruit stalks. This can reduce the amount of fruit drops. Fertilize with a Palm Tree specific fertilizer 3 times per year.	


Contributed by Wendy Cook

Salvia

Botanical Name	<i>Blue Salvia Mystic Spires</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	Up to 3 ft	
Zones	5-9	
Bloom period	Early spring through late fall	
Foliage color	Mid green	
Flower color	Dark blue – many other red and blue salvias available.	
Problem Solvers	Very deer resistant, drought tolerant, pest resistant. Attracts pollinators and hummingbirds. Often sold as an annual but usually perennial on Jekyll.	
Use	Will grow almost anywhere where there is sun.	
Care instructions	Low maintenance. Deadheading unnecessary, but tidy it up occasionally.	


Contributed by the Club

Simpson's Stopper

Botanical Name	<i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i>		
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial		
Plant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evergreen		
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> High
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part sun	<input type="checkbox"/> Shade
Mature size	15 ft wide x 20 ft tall		
Zones	8B - 11		
Bloom period	Spring		
Foliage color	Leaves are bright green and leathery		
Flower color	White		
Problem Solvers	Deer resistant. Drought tolerant.		
Use	Use as a specimen, border, or hedge. Dwarf variety is available (3 ft x 5 ft)		
Care instructions	Requires little maintenance. Slow growing. Drought tolerant once established; let dry out between waterings. Has few insects or disease problems.		


Contributed by Susan Rodgers

Snake Plant

Botanical Name	<i>Dracaena trifasciata</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Succulent <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	3-6 feet tall x 2-2.5 inches wide	
Zones	9-11	
Bloom period	Spring, when outdoors	
Foliage color	Green	
Flower color	White	
Problem Solvers	Deer resistant and drought tolerant. Withstands low light and low Jekyll Island temperatures when planted in wind protected areas.	
Use	Use in a border or for height in a pot. This plant is also called "Mother-In-Law's Tongue".	
Care instructions	This plant can burn easily in direct sunlight or die through over-watering. Water when the plant is dry; plant in well-drained soil.	


Contributed by Teri Patrick

Society Garlic

Botanical Name	<i>Tulbaghia violacea</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	1-2 ft stems	
Zones	9-11	
Bloom period	Spring/summer	
Foliage color	Bluish green	
Flower color	Lavender	
Problem Solvers	I wanted low growing foliage adjacent to the sidewalk, so I planted liriopse. The next day it appeared someone had run over my new plantings with a mower. Deer! Society Garlic was recommended, and it's been thriving for years.	
Use	Border plant or bed filler.	
Care instructions	Requires very little care, except for removal of dead leaves.	


Contributed by Stephanie Hooks

Spring Snowflake

Botanical Name	<i>Leucojum vernum</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium
Sunlight	<input type="checkbox"/> Full sun	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part sun
Mature size	8-10 inches tall	
Zones	3-9	
Bloom period	Late winter; Early spring	
Foliage color	Elongated strap-shaped glossy green leaves	
Flower color	White, with green spots on the petals	
Problem Solvers	Deer and rabbit resistant. Does well in boggy areas.	
Use	Beds and borders; gravel and rock gardens; great "pass-along" plant.	
Care instructions	Grows from bulbs; thrives in southern soil; aggressive grower.	


Contributed by Marlee Price

Spurred Butterfly Pea

Botanical Name	<i>Centrosema virginianum</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flower <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	5 – 6 ft tall	
Zones	9 – 11; coastal	
Bloom period	Late Summer	
Foliage color	Green	
Flower color	Lavender	
Problem Solvers	Can be allowed to sprawl over the ground as an effective ground cover. Drought tolerant.	
Use	Root system is useful in stabilizing soils and controlling erosion. This plant is a great pollinator, but it is not deer resistant.	
Care instructions	Easy. Requires little maintenance. Grows well in pots or landscape.	

Contributed by Joanne Martin

Texas Spiderlily

Botanical Name	<i>Hymenocallis liriosme</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	Up to 3 ft tall	
Zones	8-10	
Bloom period	Summer	
Foliage color	Deep, vibrant green	
Flower color	White	
Problem Solvers	Very exotic; spreads well; showstopper.	
Use	Back of border; filler.	
Care instructions	Virtually no care. Appreciates an extra drink in the summer. Not deer resistant.	

Contributed by Susan Williams

Yaupon Holly

Botanical Name	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	
Lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial	
Plant type	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower <input type="checkbox"/> Vine <input type="checkbox"/> Herb <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Fern <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	
Sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full sun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part sun <input type="checkbox"/> Shade	
Mature size	12-45 feet, but usually no higher than 25	
Zones	7A – 9B	
Bloom period	April-May	
Foliage color	Dark green.	
Flower color	White; females have decorative red berries.	
Problem Solvers	Moderately deer resistant; tolerates drought extremely well once established.	
Use	Ornamental tree or shrub; hedge. The young leaves and twigs contain caffeine and may be used to make a tea.	
Care instructions	Can be sheared into hedges or carefully pruned for a tree shape. Shape annually for best results.	

Contributed by the Club

About Us

The Garden Club of Jekyll Island brings together individuals who love gardening for the purpose of education, conservation, beautification, and service to the community. It was organized in December 2022 and is federated with the Garden Club of Georgia.