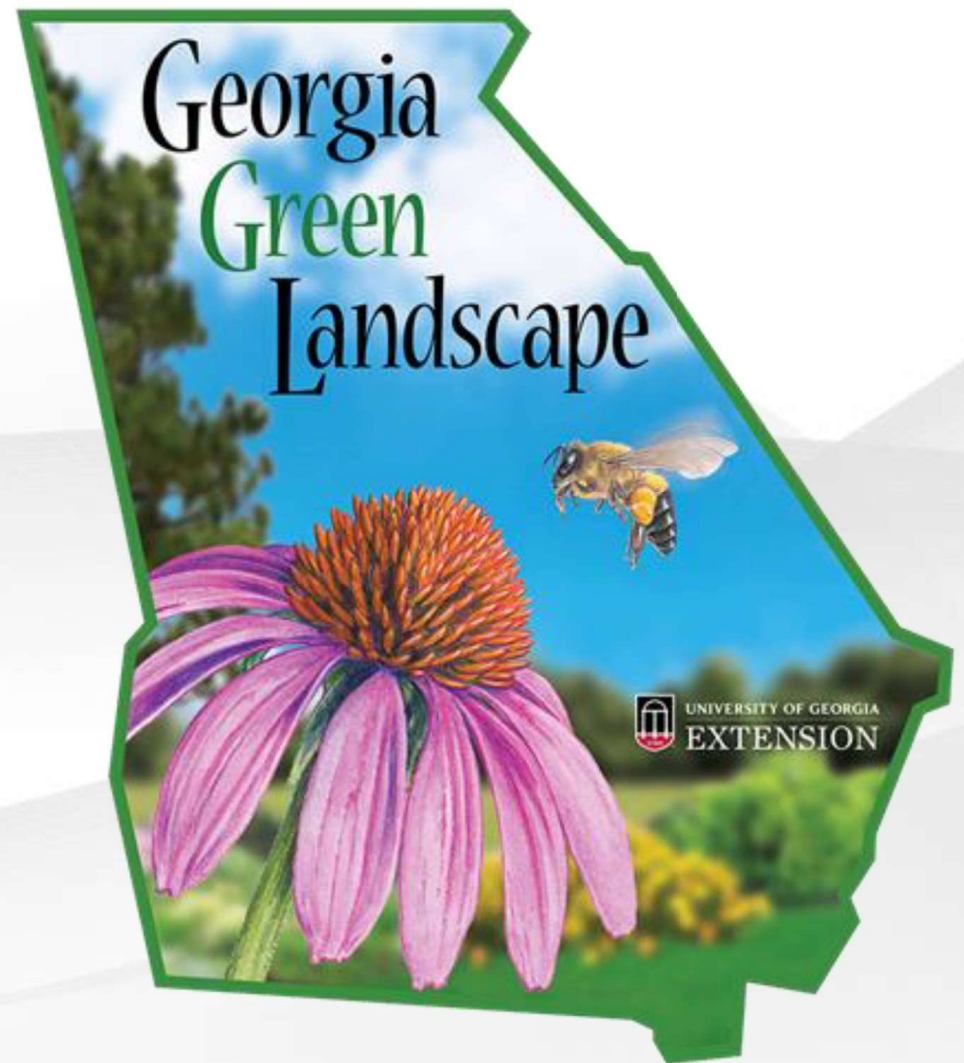



Native Plants and Low Maintenance Landscapes

Jessica Warren

Camden County Extension
Coordinator and Agriculture and
Natural Resources Agent





The following presentation is part of the University of Georgia Extension service Georgia Green Landscapes program funded by the Center for Urban Agriculture. These guidance series will help Georgia residents create certified sustainable Georgia Landscapes, protecting our natural resources for future generations.

What Makes a Landscape Low Maintenance?



- Minimal labor expended
 - Pulling weeds
 - Applying inputs
- Low to no inputs
 - Fertilizer
 - Pesticides
 - Store bought amendments and mulch
- Plants thrive easily
- Little to no irrigation needed

How Do I Create a Low Maintenance Landscape?



- Plant native
- Natural mulch and ground cover
- Establish strong roots
- Right plant, right place
 - Sun
 - Soil moisture/drainage
 - Salt tolerance
 - Spacing
 - Heat tolerance

Plant Native



Sundral Lupine

Adapted to:

- Poor coastal soils
- High heat
- High humidity
- Coastal storms
- Mild winters
- Sand/salt exposure
- Predators/insects/diseases /pests of an area

Salt Tolerant Natives

Herbaceous

Dune sunflower – high salt spray & low soil salinity tolerance

Spotted beebalm – moderate salt spray

Blanket flower – high salt spray tolerance

Coral bean – high salt spray tolerance & low soil salinity tolerance

Muhly grass – high salt spray tolerance



Salt Tolerant Natives

Herbaceous

Seaside Goldenrod – salt spray & soil

Sand cordgrass – brackish to freshwater & moderate salt spray

Salt marsh cordgrass – salt spray & irregular inundations to 35 ppt

Sea Oats – salt spray & brief inundations of salt water

Beach morning glory – high salt spray & soil salinity (not wet)

Railroad vine - high salt spray & moderate soil salinity (not wet)



Seaside goldenrod



Sand cordgrass



Sea Oats

Salt Tolerant Natives Shrubs

Saw palmetto – moderate salt spray tolerance

Coontie – high salt spray tolerance & low soil salinity tolerance

Eastern prickly pear – moderate salt spray tolerance & low soil salinity tolerance

Beauty berry – moderate salt spray tolerance & low soil salinity tolerance

Adam's needle – spray & moderate soil salinity (not wet)



Eastern prickly pear



Coontie



Beauty berry

Salt Tolerant Natives Shrubs

Seashore Mallow – saline and brackish tolerant & salt spray

Yaupon Holly – moderate soil salinity & salt spray tolerant

Wax myrtle – high salt spray & moderate soil salinity tolerance

Swamp rosemallow – moderate soil salinity & spray?

Gulf croton – low salt water tolerance & moderate salt spray

Sea oxeye daisy – high salt spray tolerance & brackish water inundation



Salt Tolerant Natives Trees

Coastal cedar – high salt spray & moderate soil salinity tolerance

Hercules' club – moderate salt spray

Live Oak – high salt spray tolerance & moderate soil salinity tolerance

Southern Magnolia – moderate salt spray & soil salinity tolerance

Cabbage palm – high salt spray & low soil salinity tolerance



Coastal Cedar



Live Oak

Moisture Loving Natives

Herbaceous

Atamasco Lily
Blue-eyed Grass
Cardinal Flower
Swamp Sunflower
Yellow Canna
Southern Blue Flag Iris
Ironweed
Native Hibiscuses
Autumn Fern
Cinnamon Fern
Royal Fern
Virginia Chainfern
River Oats
Bushy Bluestem



Moisture Loving Natives Shrubs

Bottlebrush Buckeye

Button Bush

Dahoon Holly

Elderberry

Summer Sweet

Swamp Azalea

Sweetspire

Sweetshrub

Titi

Viburnum



Moisture Loving Natives Trees

Bald Cypress

Buckwheat Tree

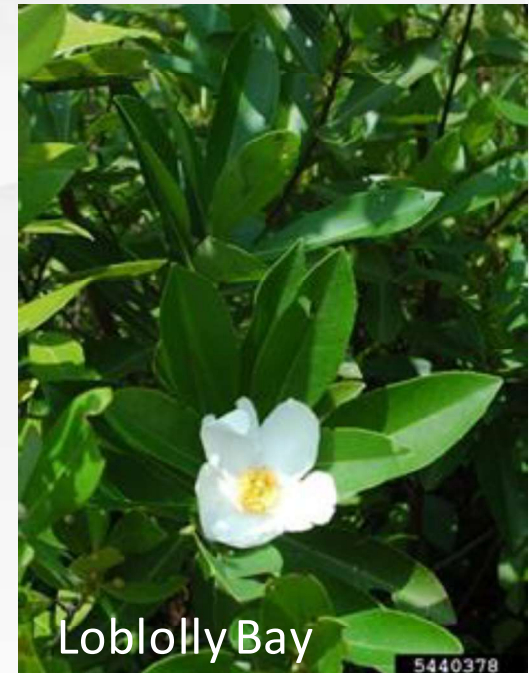
Loblolly Bay

Red Maple

Sweetbay Magnolia

Water Tupelo

Silverbell



Shade Tolerant Natives

Herbaceous

Atamasco Lily

Azure Sage

Beebalm

Frostweed

Germander

Green Dragon

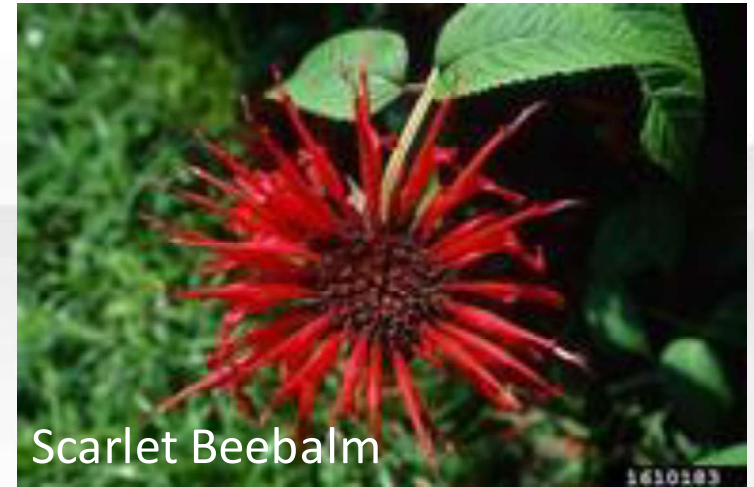
Indian Pink

Lobelia

Red Columbine

White Snakeroot

Wingstem



Shade Tolerant Natives Shrubs

American Beautyberry

American Olive

Bottlebrush Buckeye

Devil's Walkingstick

Native Azaleas

Oakleaf Hydrangea

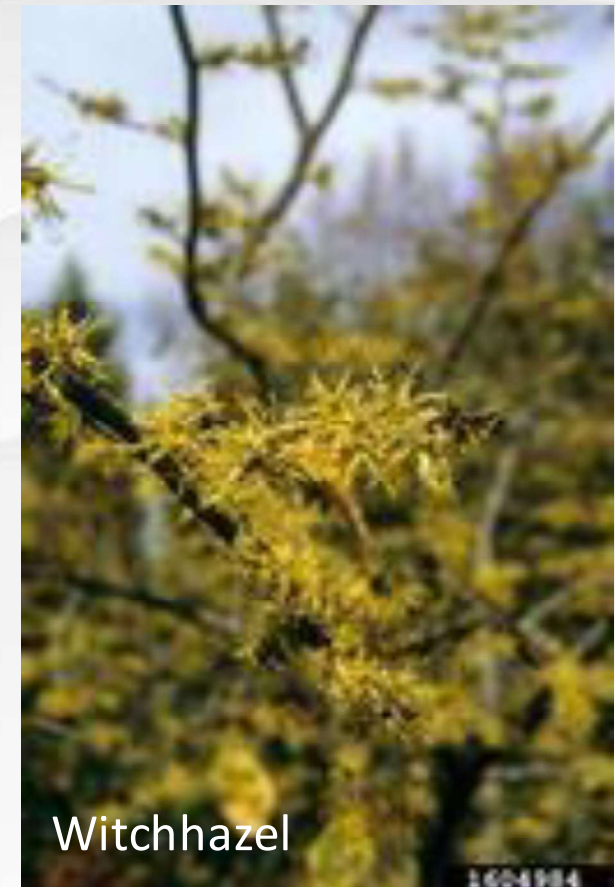
Red Anise

Sparkleberry Bush

Staggerbush

Witchhazel

Yaupon Holly



Shade Tolerant Natives Trees

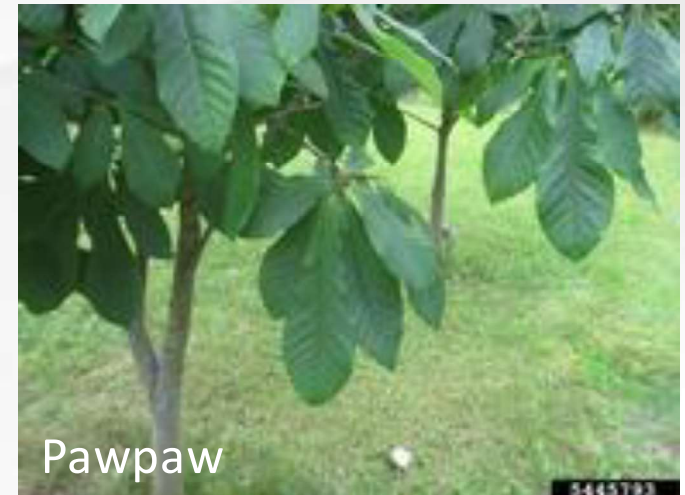
American Holly
American Hornbeam
American Silverbells
Black Gum
Buckwheat Tree
Cabbage Palm
Dahoon Holly
Eastern Redbud
Red Buckeye
Pawpaw
Possum-haw
Sweetbay Magnolia



Red Buckeye



Eastern Redbud



Pawpaw

Tough and Resilient Natives

Passion vine

Butterfly pea

New Jersey Tea

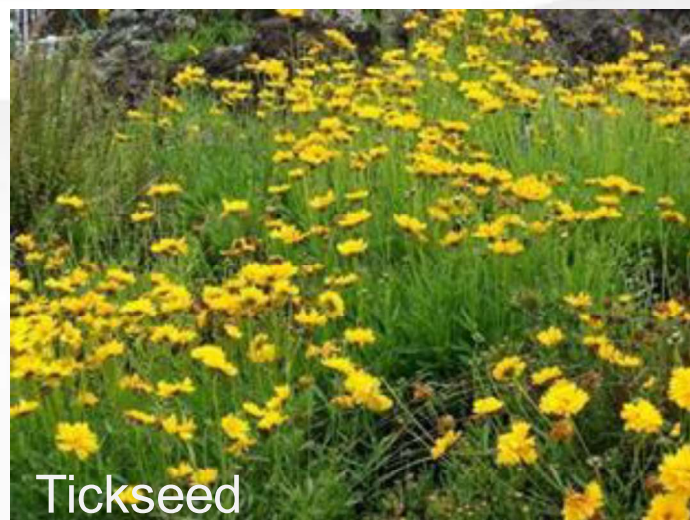
Sandhills milkweed

Georgia basil

Tickseed

Coontie

Dwarf Palm



Natural Mulch and Ground Cover



Leaves and natural fallen debris provide free mulch that:

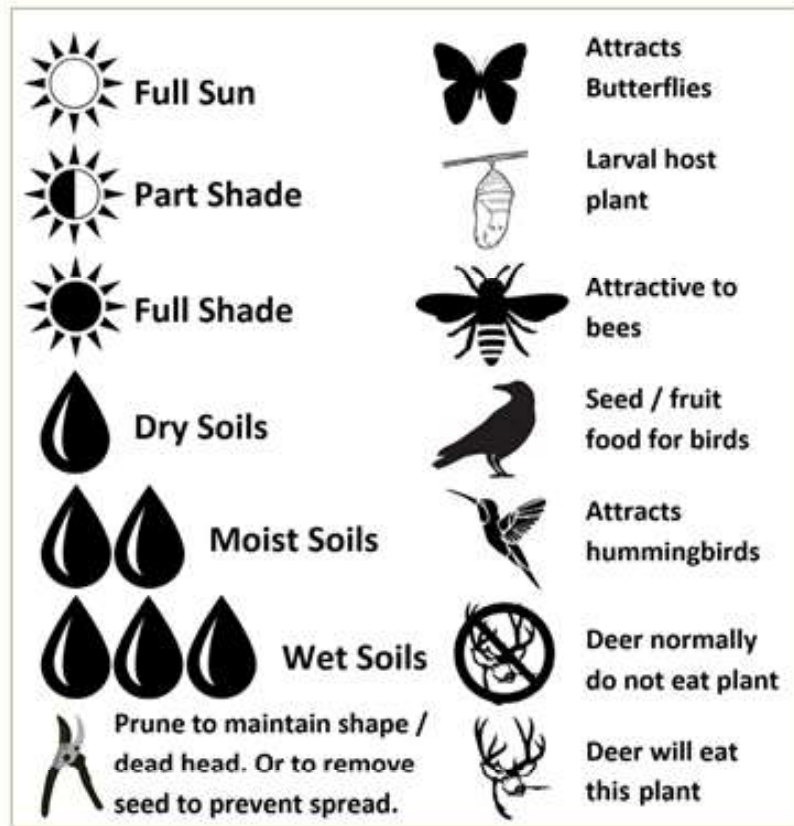
- Retains soil moisture
- Feeds soil and improves soil structure as it decomposes
- Offers naturally appropriate nutrition to native plants
- Reduces erosion and crusting of soils
- Offers habitat to pollinators and beneficial insects

Establish Strong Roots



- Water deeply and infrequently once established – only if there hasn't been rainfall in 7-10 days
- Watch for signs of drought stress before watering
- Plant correctly

Right Plant, Right Place



- Plant for the size a plant will become and space appropriately
- Plant in groups of three or more
- Follow label for sun and moisture requirements
- Select plants for this plant zone and heat tolerance

Resources

- Coastal WildScapes: Vendor lists, plant sales, native plant lists, educational activities
<https://www.coastalwildscapes.org/>
- Fire Adaptive Landscaping Book: Plant lists for different goals and environmental situations, recommendations of native plants to replace invasives
https://www.coastalwildscapes.org/resources/Documents/Education%20TAB/Plant%20Info/Firewise_entire-book.pdf
- Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant Native Plant Search Engine: Search for native plants by the exact requirements of your site
<https://gacoast.uga.edu/outreach/resources-outreach/native-plant-search-engine/>

Certification Checklist Items:

- Plant native plants adapted to your climate and natural pests.
- Put the right plant in the right place! Consider sun, soil moisture, salt tolerance, spacing, and temperature. Plant in groups of three.
- Use natural mulch and ground cover. Leaves, pine straw, and woody debris.
- Establish strong roots. Plant correctly, use native plants, and water deeply and infrequently.

Questions?

georgiagreen@uga.edu

[https://site.extension.uga.edu/
georgiagreen/](https://site.extension.uga.edu/georgiagreen/)

Special thanks to Eamonn Leonard of GA DNR Nongame for sharing pictures and verbiage, and special thanks to Coastal WildScapes for their plant lists and resources.

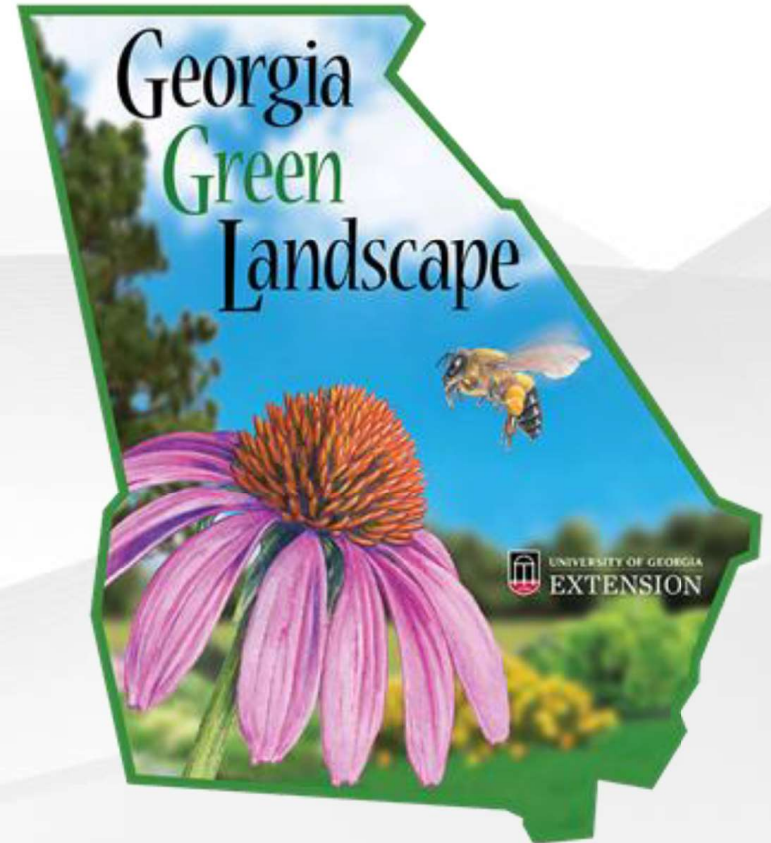


Photo Credits:

- Landscape photo: Elizabeth Benton, UGA
- Sundial Lupine: Jessica Warren, UGA Extension – Camden County
- Blue-eyed Grass: [Troy Evans, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Bugwood.org](#)
- Ironweed: [Peter Dziuk, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org](#)
- Swamp Sunflower: [David Stephens, Bugwood.org](#)
- Dahoon Holly: [John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org](#)
- Sweetspire: [John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org](#)
- Bottlebrush Buckeye: [Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org](#)
- Sweetshrub: [Dow Gardens, Dow Gardens, Bugwood.org](#)
- Silverbell: [Nancy Loewenstein, Auburn University, Bugwood.org](#)
- Red Maple: [Wendy VanDyk Evans, Bugwood.org](#)
- Loblolly Bay: [Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org](#)
- Red Columbine: [Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org](#)
- Scarlet Beebalm: [John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org](#)
- Germander: [Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org](#)
- Indian Pink: [Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org](#)
- Red Anise: [John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org](#)
- Oakleaf Hydrangea: [Ansel Oommen, Bugwood.org](#)
- Witchhazel: [John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org](#)
- Red Buckeye: [James H. Miller & Ted Bodner, Southern Weed Science Society, Bugwood.org](#)
- Eastern Redbud: [Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org](#)
- Pawpaw: [Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org](#)
- All other photos credited on slide or courtesy of Eamonn Leonard