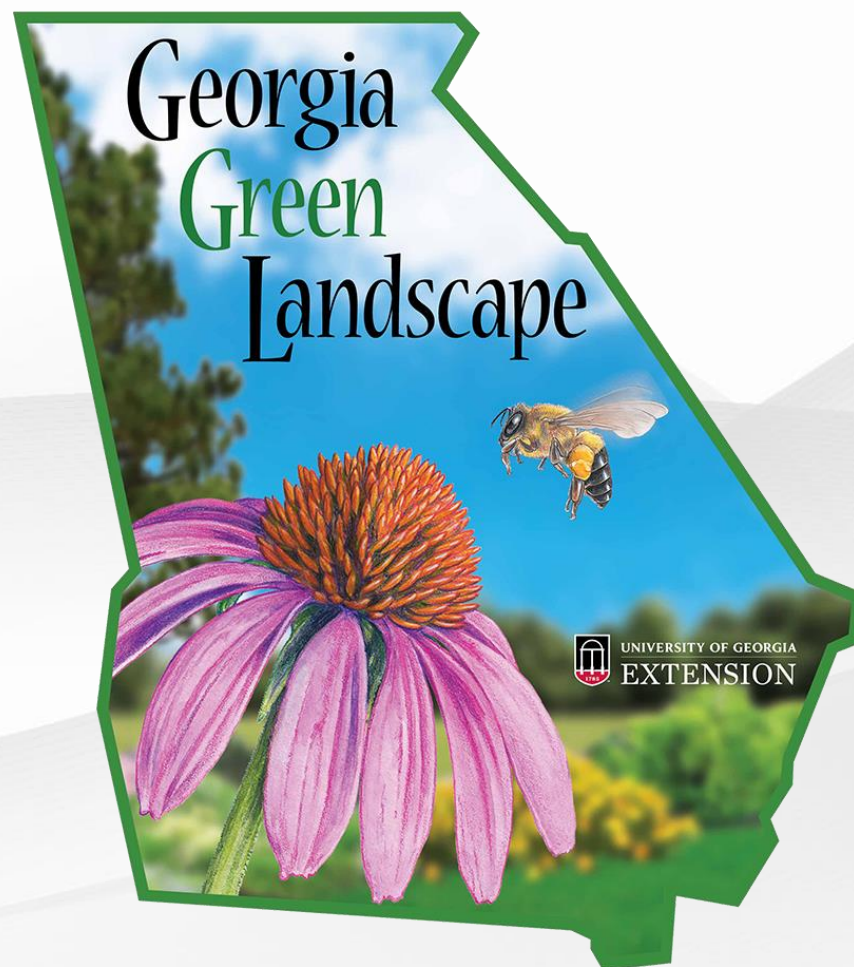



# Native Plants and Low Maintenance Landscapes (Coastal)

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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.



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# What Makes a Landscape Low Maintenance?

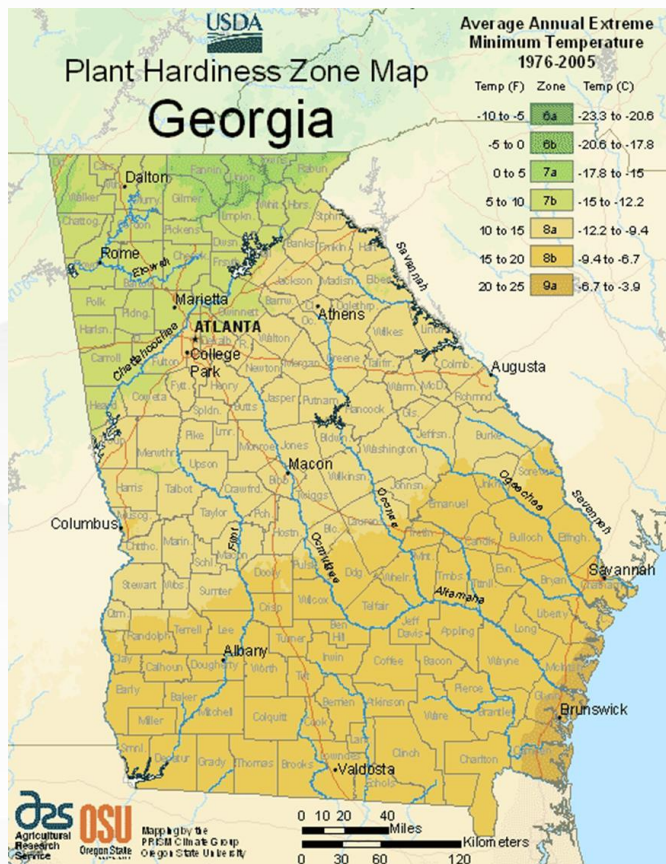


- Minimal labor expended
  - Pulling weeds
  - Applying inputs
- Low to no inputs
  - Fertilizer
  - Pesticides
  - Store bought amendments and mulch
- Plants thrive easily
- Little to no irrigation needed





# 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



- Preserves natural ecosystem
- Provides wildlife and pollinator habitat
- Provides best nutrition to pollinators and wildlife
- Adapted to:
  - Poor coastal soils
  - High heat
  - High humidity
  - Coastal storms
  - Mild winters
  - Sand/salt exposure
  - Soils/drainage
  - Predators, insects, diseases, pests of an area
- There are more than 100 distinct environments of plant communities in Georgia
- Plants grow where they do because they have finely adjusted to local environment
- Many native pollinators, beneficial insects and wildlife can only feed on and/or complete their life cycles on native plants that they have evolved with over time



# 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)





# 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



Seashore mallow



Sea oxeye daisy



Wax myrtle



Yaupon  
holly



Swamp rosemallow

# 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  
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**

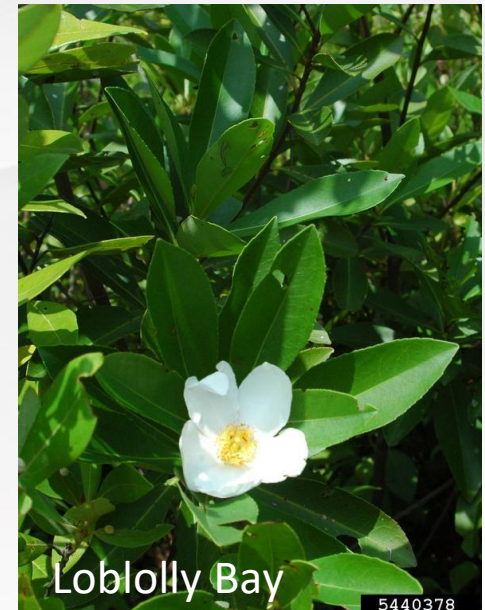
**Loblolly Bay**

**Red Maple**

**Sweetbay Magnolia**

**Water Tupelo**

**Silverbell**



# Shade Tolerant Natives

## Herbaceous

Atamasco Lily

Azure Sage

Beebalm

Frostweed

Green Dragon

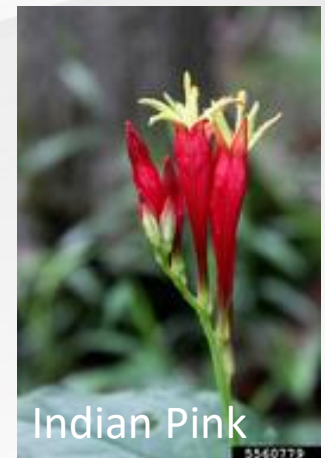
Indian Pink

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

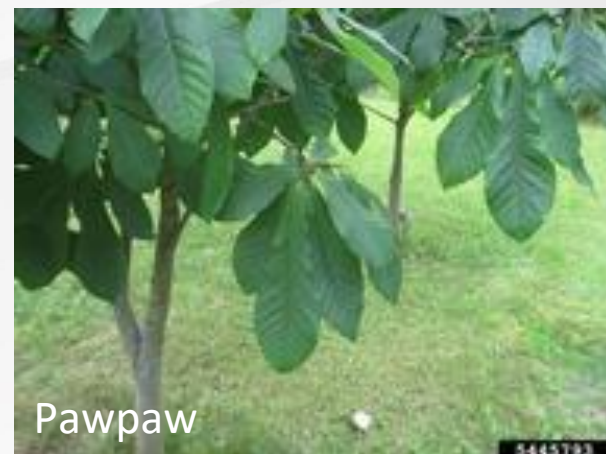
Witchhazel

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





# Tough and Resilient Natives

Passion vine

Butterfly pea

New Jersey Tea

Sandhills milkweed

Georgia basil

Tickseed

Coontie

Dwarf Palm



Butterfly pea



Passion vine



Georgia Basil



Tickseed



New Jersey

# 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



	Full Sun		Attracts Butterflies
	Part Shade		Larval host plant
	Full Shade		Attractive to bees
	Dry Soils		Seed / fruit food for birds
	Moist Soils		Attracts hummingbirds
	Wet Soils		Deer normally do not eat plant
	Prune to maintain shape / dead head. Or to remove seed to prevent spread.		Deer will eat this plant

- 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](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.

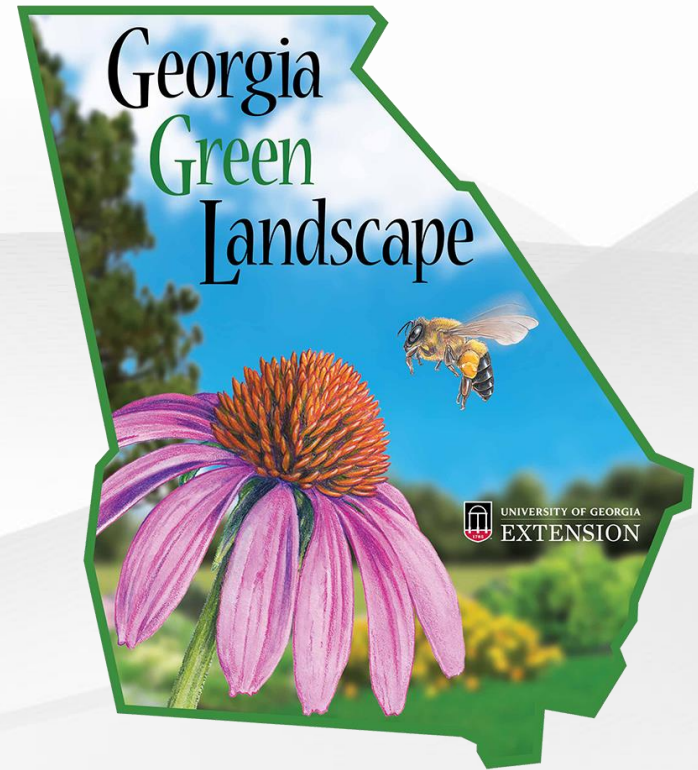


# Questions?

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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.



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