

Biscayne Medians Alternative 1B

Short length medians

- # 1, 7 and 21 – clear medians and install Bahia grass

Narrow, medium length medians

- #2 – clear median and install Flax Lilies at bullnoses, install Bahia grass in remainder of median
- #4 – leave palm and shrubs in place, clear remainder of median, install Bahia grass in remainder of median
- #5 – leave palm in place, clear remainder of median, install Muhly Grass in proximity to palm to mirror median #17, install Flax Lilies at bullnoses, install Bahia grass in remainder of median

Narrow, long length medians

- #3, 6, 8 – leave trees and shrubs in place, clear remainder of median, install Bahia grass in remainder of median

Medium length medians

- #11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20 – clear median and install Flax Lilies at bullnoses, assess for addition of trees, install a landscape bed of Coontie plants and Muhly grass, install Bahia grass in remainder of median
- #16 – leave palm in place, clear remainder of median, install Muhly Grass in proximity to palm to mirror median #17, install Flax Lilies at bullnoses, install Bahia grass in remainder of median
- #17 – leave palm and Muhly Grass in place, install Flax Lilies at bullnoses, install Bahia grass in remainder of median

Long length medians

- #9, 10 – leave trees and shrubs in place, clear remainder of median, install Flax Lilies at bullnoses, install Bahia grass in remainder of median
- #14 – leave trees, shrubs and Muhly Grass in place, clear remainder of median, install Flax Lilies at bullnoses, install Bahia grass in remainder of median

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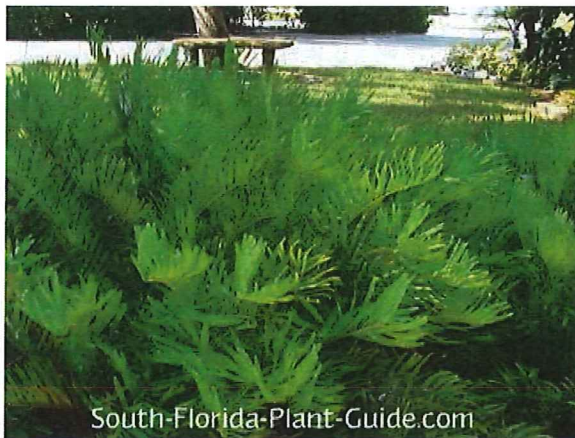
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Coontie

Zamia pumila

Coontie is a very hardy, slow-growing cycad that works well as a superb, low-maintenance shrub.



South-Florida-Plant-Guide.com

Sometimes called "Coontie Palm," this is not actually a palm but a palm-like cycad plant.

It's one tough cookie - perfect for dry areas, cold tolerant, not choosy as to light - yet it provides an appealing fine-textured look.

These are ideal plants to surround a mailbox, line a walkway, accent a tropical garden bed, or go almost anywhere you can think of.

The legendary cycads have been around for, well, nearly forever - and this beautiful cycad is one of the smallest. It's not as prickly as some other varieties so it's safe to plant near foot traffic areas.

(For info on cycads in general and other cycad varieties, see [Cycad Plants](#).)

Plant specs

This small "shrub" grows very slowly to 2-1/2 to 3 feet tall by 3 feet wide. It takes full sun to full shade.

Cold hardy anywhere in South Florida, this little cycad plant is drought-tolerant once established.

Plant care

These plants take very little care.

No soil amendments are needed when planting, and cutting off a dead leaf stem once in a while is all the trimming you'll need to do.

Fertilizer helps to keep the plant at its best, so fertilize with a high quality granular fertilizer 3 times a year - spring, summer and autumn.

Water regularly but with ample time for the plant to dry out between waterings - or at least give it water during dry spells.

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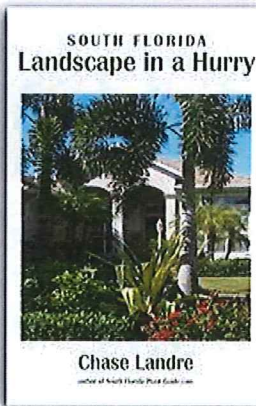
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We've put together plant groupings to help you visualize how various plants look together.

Because they take forever to grow and don't get very big anyway, plant about 2 feet apart (unless you've bought a larger pot size like 7 gallon, then plant 3 feet apart). Come out from the house about 2 feet.

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Landscape uses for coontie

- surrounding the trunks of palms or trees
- lining a drive or walkway
- foundation plant
- accent plant for a garden bed
- around a mailbox or light post
- bordering a patio or porch
- in a container for pool cage, patio or lanai
- as a small to mid-size hedge shrub

A.K.A. (also known as): Coontie Palm

GOOD SNOWBIRD PLANT? YES

COMPANION PLANT SUGGESTIONS: Place with other drought-tolerant plants such as [crown of thorns](#), [clusia guttifera](#), [agave](#), [bougainvillea](#), [Green Island ficus](#), and [orange bird of paradise](#).

Other shrubs you might like: [Xanadu Philodendron](#), [Carissa](#)

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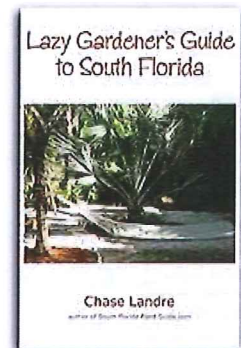


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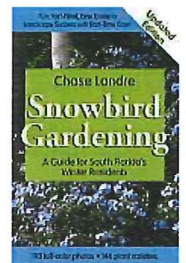
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Flax Lily

Flax lily, *Dianella tasmanica*, is a spreading perennial with flat, glossy green leaves. This grass-like foliage plant is often used as a groundcover, border plant, or even as an accent plant, to bring color and texture into the landscape. This fast-growing plant also works well in containers. Drought-tolerant flax lily requires little care in the landscape once it is established, making it ideal for the busy gardener.

Characteristics

Flax lily grows in clumps, and reaches a mature height and spread of between 1 and 3 feet. A variegated variety, *Dianella tasmanica* 'Variegata', is quite popular due to its white stripes, which provide additional visual interest to the landscape.

Despite its common name, flax lily is used primarily as a foliage plant, and doesn't have showy blossoms. Very small, light-blue flowers with prominent yellow stamens are produced from winter through spring. Flowers are occasionally followed by bright blue berries about the size of an olive.

Planting and Care

This plant does well in well-drained soil located in areas with either sun or part shade, making it ideal for areas with shifting levels of sunshine.

While flax lily can be killed back by frost, if your plant is well-established it will likely grow back from the roots once temperatures begin to warm back up. If you notice your established flax lilies have lots of dead leaves, or variegated leaves that have reverted to an all-green form, you can cut them down to the crown in late winter.

Divide flax lily in spring to provide more plants for your garden or to pass along to friends.

Flax lily is a great foliage plant for many Florida landscapes. For more information on growing flax lily in your garden, contact your local county Extension office. (<http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/>)

UF/IFAS Publications

Flax Lily presentation (<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsAZ/FlaxLily.pdf>) (PDF)

Also on Gardening Solutions

Foliage Plants (</plants/ornamentals/foliage-list.html>) (list)

Ornamental Grasses (</plants/ornamentals/ornamental-grasses.html>)

Other Sites

Dianella tasmanica, Flax Lily--Texas AgriLife Extension (<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/syllabi/608/Lists/Fourth%20Edition/Dianella%20tasmanica.pdf>) (PDF)



The variegated form of flax lily, in the UF/IFAS Straughn Center landscape



Muhly Grass

This versatile grass is a plant superstar, putting on a fabulous show each fall even if it receives little care during the year.

Characteristics

Muhly grass is naturally found in Florida's pine flatwoods, coastal uplands and even along its highways, but these days it's also a popular choice in home and commercial landscapes.

Known scientifically as *Muhlenbergia capillaris*, this easy-to-grow ornamental grass produces clumps that can reach 2 to 3 feet tall and up to 3 feet wide when mature.

In fall, muhly grass produces fluffy pink to purple flower stalks that can reach up to 5 feet tall and give the plant a distinctive and attractive appearance. A lovely white-flowering form is also available.

Garden designers often plant muhly grass in large groups for a stunning visual effect, especially when the flowers are backlit in the late afternoon.

Muhly grass looks good in the garden even after the flower stalks fade, thanks to its slender, dark green foliage.



Planting and Care

Muhly grass can be grown throughout Florida and is often used in borders or in mass plantings for a beautiful, drift-like effect. They should be spaced 24 to 36 inches apart.

Like most ornamental grasses, muhly grass will perform best if it's planted in a sunny area. Water new plants until they are established. After that, they'll have good drought tolerance.

Plants can be cut back to the ground in late winter before the spring flush of foliage appears. You can also give the plants an application of fertilizer as they begin to grow rapidly in spring.

As the plants age, they can be lifted in early spring and divided to create new plants.

For more information on muhly grass, contact your county Extension office (<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/find-your-local-office/>).

UF/IFAS Sites

Florida Plant ID: Muhly Grass (/mastergardener/outreach/plant_id/ornamentals/muhly_grass.shtml)

UF/IFAS Publications

Considerations for Selections and Use of Ornamental Grasses (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP233>)

Muhlenbergia capillaris Muhly Grass (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FP415>)

Muhlenbergia capillaris 'White Cloud' Fact Sheet (http://gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu/GCREC-Garden/docs/pdf/White_Muhly_Grass.pdf) (PDF)

Also on Gardening Solutions

Bamboo Muhly (</plants/ornamentals/bamboo-muhly.html>)

Gardening for Fall Color (</design/outdoor-living/gardening-for-fall-color.html>)

Ornamental Grasses (</plants/ornamentals/ornamental-grasses.html>)

Rain Gardens (</design/types-of-gardens/rain-gardens.html>)



Junipers

Junipers are incredibly versatile plants; there is a form for almost every landscape use. From hardy ground covers to salt-tolerant shrubs to large trees, these sun-loving plants can be of use in any Florida yard.

There are about forty species of juniper and many selections of each. Junipers range from dwarf types, which can be used as groundcovers, to large trees like red cedar. This range makes junipers a versatile choice in the landscape.

Junipers have excellent tolerance to salt spray and salty soils. Shore juniper is often used for seaside plantings, but other varieties could be chosen as well.

Another advantage to junipers is their excellent drought tolerance. But for all their flexibility, junipers definitely need at least half a day of full sun.

UF/IFAS Publications

Juniperus ashei: Ashe Juniper (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ST321>)

Juniperus chinensis 'Torulosa': 'Torulosa' Juniper (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ST322>)

Juniperus deppeana 'McFetter': McFetter Alligator Juniper (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ST323>)

Juniperus scopulorum: Rocky Mountain Juniper (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ST324>)

Juniperus scopulorum 'Tolleson's Green Weeping': 'Tolleson's Green Weeping' Rocky Mountain Juniper (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ST325>)



The broad, shrubby juniper contrasts nicely with the thin, upright holly.

Also on Gardening Solutions

Coastal Landscapes (</design/landscaping-for-specific-sites/coastal-landscape.html>)

Mediterranean Gardens (</design/types-of-gardens/mediterranean-gardens.html>)

Red Cedar (</plants/trees-and-shrubs/trees/red-cedar.html>)



Firebush

This native plant blooms for months, attracting both birds and butterflies, and is practically bullet-proof once established.

Characteristics

Firebush is a perennial or semi-woody shrub that is known scientifically as *Hamelia patens*. Gardeners love firebush because it produces flowers from late spring until the first frost, and the bright red flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies, including the zebra longwing and gulf fritillary butterflies. Song birds also like to feed on the berries.

The plant's mature size will depend on where it is grown. In South Florida it may reach fifteen feet tall, though it can easily be kept to five or eight feet tall. It works well in hedges, mixed borders, or as a stand-alone shrub. In North Florida, it will die back after the first freeze but will re-grow in the spring, making it what some people call a "root-hardy perennial."

It is also a great plant because it is heat and drought tolerant once established, can grow in a range of soils, and has no serious insect or disease problems.

Dwarf firebush (*Hamelia patens* var. *glabra*) is a related plant that is shorter, produces lighter colored flowers, has smoother leaves, and is not native. Nurseries will sometimes sell these same plants under the name *Hamelia patens* 'Dwarf' or 'Compacta.' There is also a new cultivar called *H. patens* 'Firefly' that has leaves and flowers that are about half the normal size.

Planting and Care

Firebush can be planted in late spring or summer in USDA Zones 8-11. It will grow and flower best if planted in full sun, but it can also be planted in partial shade. Firebush is also moderately tolerant of salt spray, which can be helpful for gardeners in coastal areas.

Firebush can be planted in any well-drained soil and will do best if it is watered regularly until it is established.

Plants may need to be pruned to keep them to a desired height, especially in South Florida where they grow year round. Firebush is typically pruned no shorter than five or eight feet, since pruning too hard or too frequently may reduce blooming.

For more information on firebush, contact your county Extension office (<http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/index.html>).

UF/IFAS Publications

Hamelia patens Firebush, Scarlet Bush (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fp237>)



See more firebush photos on our Flickr site
(<http://www.flickr.com/search/?w=9093880@N03&q=firebush>)



Care of Outdoor Variegated Schefflera

Variegated schefflera (*Schefflera arboricola* "Variegata") is a dwarf version of the *Schefflera actinophylla*, or umbrella tree. The smaller dwarf schefflera is commonly grown as a container plant, but can be outdoors in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 10 and 11, and in lower zones if the temperatures are not less than 25 degrees Fahrenheit for an extended period of time. It has attractive foliage, with variegated green and yellow leaves.



Related Articles

- 1 Plant Care of a Schefflera
- 2 Care for a Schefflera Plant
- 3 Is Direct Sun on My Schefflera Plant Causing It to Become Yellow?
- 4 Prune Variegated Schefflera Arboricola

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Soil and Sun

Variegated schefflera is drought-tolerant, and like most drought-tolerant plants it isn't very tolerant of sitting in water. The shrub needs a well-draining soil. If your soil has poor drainage, amend the soil with sand, perlite or vermiculite to improve drainage. Another option is to plant the shrub in a raised bed with a well-draining soil mixture. Schefflera does well in a loamy soil, but will be fine in most soil types with compost or peat moss added. Schefflera is also tolerant of salty soil. You can plant the shrub in full sun to half shade, although it will look a little better in a slightly shady spot.

Water and Fertilizer

The logo for SFGATE HOME GUIDES, featuring a blue arrow pointing left, the word 'SFGATE' in blue, and 'HOME GUIDES' in blue.

Give the schefflera about an inch of water a week, and allow the top of the soil to dry between waterings. It is best to err on the side of dryness, but you can adjust your watering based on the plant. If the plant is getting too much water, the leaves will turn black and fall off. If it is not getting enough water, the leaves will curl. Fertilize the schefflera with a 3-1-2 ratio fertilizer according to the package instructions.

Size

Variegated schefflera is a dwarf version of the umbrella tree, so it doesn't get quite as tall. It can potentially grow up to 20 feet, but most are 8 to 15 feet tall and can be kept smaller through pruning. You can prune the schefflera similarly to other shrubs, as needed throughout the year. Use pruning shears to cut out any dead branches, and cut the ends of branches to maintain size and shape. Make cuts above a bud or leaf node to allow for new growth. The shrubs can spread 6 to 8 feet, so space them at least 6 feet apart.

Temperature

Dwarf schefflera is a tropical plant from Taiwan, so it does best in USDA zones 10 and 11. It can withstand temperatures of 25 to 30 degrees Fahrenheit for short periods of time. To protect the plant from the severest temperatures, especially if it is young and not yet established, cover it with a blanket the night before a frost or cold spell and remove the blanket in the morning when the danger has passed.

Coontie Plant In Bloom



Coontie Plant Not In Bloom



Flax Lily In Bloom



Flax Lily Not In Bloom



Dwarf Firebush In Bloom



Dwarf Firebush Not In Bloom



Gold Mound Duranta In Season And Out Of Season



Juniper In Season And Out Of Season



Pink Muhly Grass In Bloom



Pink Muhly Grass Not In Bloom



Schefflera In Season And Out Of Season



