





RESILIENT LITTORAL PLANTS FOR PONDS IN FLOODING ZONES

All the plants in this list showed a good survival rate after major hurricane Ian struck Southwest Florida in September of 2022.

PLANT NAME AND INFO	PICTURE
<p>Sand cordgrass, <i>Spartina bakeri</i> (aka <i>Sporobolus bakeri</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Native• Large clump-forming grass with uses as tall groundcover, specimen plant, or border plant. Nice along edges of ponds and water features. Tolerant of salty wind and may get some salt spray. Exposure to salt spray would be uncommon (major storms).	
<p>Herb-of-grace, water hyssop <i>Bacopa monnieri</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Native• This wetland groundcover can live underwater or in wet soil. It has pale bluish flowers. It has been reported to fare well in Sanibel Island after storm surge flooding from hurricane Ian.• Attracts low-flying butterflies including the white peacock butterfly.	

Marshhay cordgrass
Spartina patens (aka *Sporobolus pumilus*).

- Native
- Long-lived perennial. Use as a shoreline stabilization plant on sandy edges of ponds. Interesting foliage, Hurricane wind resistance.
- Birds and other animals eat the seeds.



Giant leather fern,
Acrostichum danaeifolium

- Native
- Specimen plant or mass background planting in moist areas. Could be used as a hedge. As this fern gets very tall. It is not appropriate as a groundcover. Tolerant of inundation with brackish water. Can tolerate significant and ongoing amounts of salty wind and salt spray without injury.
- Birds and mammals use it for cover.



Southern blue flag iris,
Iris virginica

- Native
- Southern blue flag iris is a lovely, delicate iris native to Lee County. Reaching a height of 2 to 2.5 feet clumps of bright green, somewhat droopy, strap shaped leaves are topped with light blue to violet flowers borne on naked stems in late spring. The falls are marked with white and can be crested with yellow frill.
- Attracts butterflies and other pollinators



Lizard's tail,
Saururus cernuus

- Native
- This wetland plant has erect, blade-shaped leaves and makes tall flowering stalks with white flowers. It grows in shallow water and can form dense patches making good groundcover.
- Provides food for ducks and other foraging birds. Attracts insects and hairstreaks. Dragonfly perch.



Yellowtop,
Flaveria-linearis

- Native
- Wildflower garden or tall-growing groundcover. Forms mounds that are typically wider than tall. Cut back to ground after flowering.
- Attracts butterflies and bees.



Marsh fleabane, sweetscent
Pluchea odorata

- Native
- This wetland wildflower grows 1 to 3 feet tall and makes clumps of small pink flowers. The pink flowers have a pleasant fragrance.
- Excellent butterfly plant. Also attracts bees and other pollinators.



Marsh fleabane,
Pluchea baccaris (formerly *P.*
rosea)

- Native
- This wetland wildflower grows 1-3 feet tall and makes clumps of small pink flowers.
- Attracts butterflies and bees.



Spiderlily, mangrove spiderlily,
perfumed spiderlily
Hymenocallis latifolia

- Native
- Showy blooms. Tolerant of occasional/brief inundation such as can occur in storm surges. Can tolerate significant and ongoing amounts of salty wind and salt spray without injury.
- Pollinated by sphynx moth.
- Attracts other insects.



String lily, swamp lily
Crinum americanum

- Native
- This lily grows well in wetlands and makes large white flowers. Tolerant of inundation with brackish water. This long-lived perennial is 1-2 ft tall by 1 ft wide.
- Pollinated by sphinx moths.
- Larval host for Spanish moth, aka convict caterpillar.



Golden canna, bandana-of-the-Everglades
Canna flaccida

- Native
- It is hardy and adaptable in South Florida soils. Reportedly survived Hurricane's Ian storm surge on Sanibel Island, which won them a place in this list.
- Self-fertile or self-pollinating, or can be facilitated by bats, bees, hummingbirds, or other small wildlife species.
- Larval host for Brazilian skipper butterfly.



Christmasberry,
Lycium carolinianum

- Native
- Evergreen unless drought-stressed. Blooms fall into winter; fruits in winter. Showy flowers and fruits, interesting foliage, and hurricane wind resistance. Tolerant of inundation with brackish water. Can tolerate significant and ongoing amounts of salty wind and salt spray.
- Fruits are eaten by birds and attracts hummingbirds. Nectar plant for butterflies and moths.



Pond apple,
Annona glabra

- Native
- Pond Apple is a large shrub or small tree in wet areas. It makes a good screen in a sunny or part sun location. Foliage is shiny and quite attractive. Can tolerate significant and ongoing amounts of salty wind and salt spray without injury.
- Bird food source and nesting area. Fruit for mammals. Larval source for giant sphinx moth.



Paurotis palm, Everglades palm
Acoelorrhaphe wrightii

- Native
- Specimen tree that typically forms clumps of stems, the young fan-shaped fronds hide the principal stems. The lower fronds can be removed so that the trunks can be clearly seen. Sometimes used as a street tree. Tolerant of inundation with brackish water. Tolerant of salty wind and may get some salt spray. Exposure to salt spray should be uncommon (major storms).
- Fruits are spread by birds. Attracts bees.



Tickseed, Leavenworth's tickseed
Coreopsis leavenworthii

- Native
- An annual or short-lived perennial plant species in the family Asteraceae. Flowers all year. Can reseed.
- Attracts small butterflies. Source of nectar and pollen for honeybees, native bees, and wasps.
- *Coreopsis* is the State wildflower.



Seaside goldenrod,
Solidago sempervirens

- Native
- Flowers predominantly summer-fall. Tolerant of frequent or regular inundation. Moderate. Tolerant of salty wind and may get some salt spray. Exposure to salt spray would be uncommon (major storms).
- Nectar plant for monarch and other butterflies. Attracts many pollinators. A “powerhouse” plant.



Water Pimpernel,
Samolus ebracteatus

- Native
- Small plant (8-12 inches high) that adds diversity to the pond ecosystem. Water pimpernel is a perennial wildflower found in wet pinelands and prairies, and along freshwater and brackish swamp, marsh and stream edges. Flowers are small (about 1/4-inch in diameter) and dainty, with five white or pink-tinged petals. Blooms all year with peak flowering in spring.
- Bees and butterflies visit flowers.



Rose-of-Plymouth,
Sabatia stellaris

- Native
- Beautiful fast-growing flower about 1-2 feet in height. Full sun. Flowers all year with peak in summer. It grows on open sandy soils at the upper edges of salt and brackish marshes and ponds. Invasive plants pose a threat to the remaining populations.



Needle rush,
Juncus roemerianus

- Native
- This salt-loving "leafless" rush can cover large areas in coastal salt and brackish tidal marshes and is easily recognizable by its characteristic grayish green to blackish hues. Its "stem tips" are very sharp pointed and stout.
- Used by birds for nesting and food.



Sea-oxeye daisy
Borrchia frutescens

- Native
- This shrub grows up to 3 feet tall. It is not an aquatic plant but it can thrive in dry to moist soils. This evergreen blooms year round but primarily in spring-summer. It is tolerant of inundation with brackish water. It can tolerate significant and ongoing amounts of salty wind and salt spray without injury.
- Birds and small mammals use the seeds. It attracts many butterflies, bees and other pollinators.



Buttonwood,
Conocarpus erectus

- Native
- Specimen littoral tree with wavy trunks. Tolerant of frequent or regular inundation (usually areas with tidal inundation). Can tolerate significant and ongoing amounts of salty wind and salt spray without injury.
- Although referred to as the 4th mangrove, a certified mangrove trimmer is not required for maintenance.
- Nectar and larval host for moths and butterflies. Attracts bees.



Red mangrove,
Rhizophora mangle

- Native
- Very good for coastal stabilization. Can act as a specimen plant in coastal areas. This tree is noted for its prop roots. Can tolerate significant and ongoing amounts of salty wind and salt spray without injury.
- A certified mangrove trimmer will be required after planting for the maintenance of this plant.
- Mangroves provide good cover and habitat for many birds, fish, and other animals. Pollinated by wind and insects.



White mangrove,
Laguncularia racemose

- Native
- Can tolerate significant and ongoing amounts of salty wind and salt spray without injury.
- A certified mangrove trimmer will be required for the maintenance of this plant.
- Attracts butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

