



Incorporating Native Wildflowers into the Landscape

Adapted for presentation by:
Pam Brown, Extension Agent Emeritus
Garden Coach
Pampered Gardeners, LLC

Native Wildflowers are:

- Adapted to local soil conditions
- Adapted to local (typical) climate and climate extremes
 - Rainfall
 - Humidity
 - Temperatures
- Preferred by native wildlife through familiarity



What is a Wildflower?

“any flowering plant growing in a natural state” (*Taylor, 1998*)

- > 3,600 wildflowers in Florida
- 175 are endemic (only grow here)

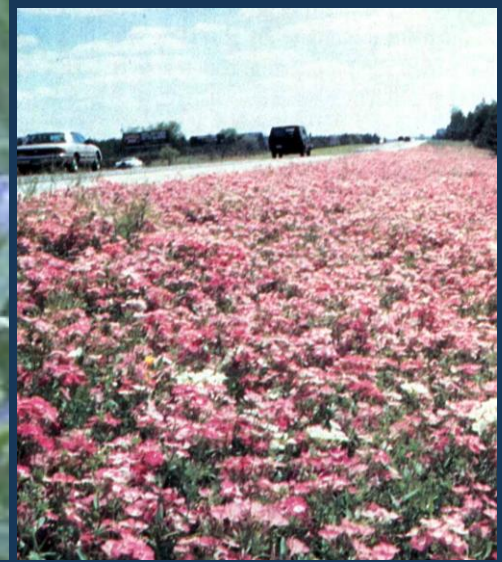


Where can wildflowers be found growing naturally?

In all of Florida's
natural ecosystems
and...



... in developed areas as well



**Where do wildflowers belong in
my landscape?**

Wherever they will fit



CH

Know Your Site

Soil

pH
sand, silt, clay,
organic matter
content

Light

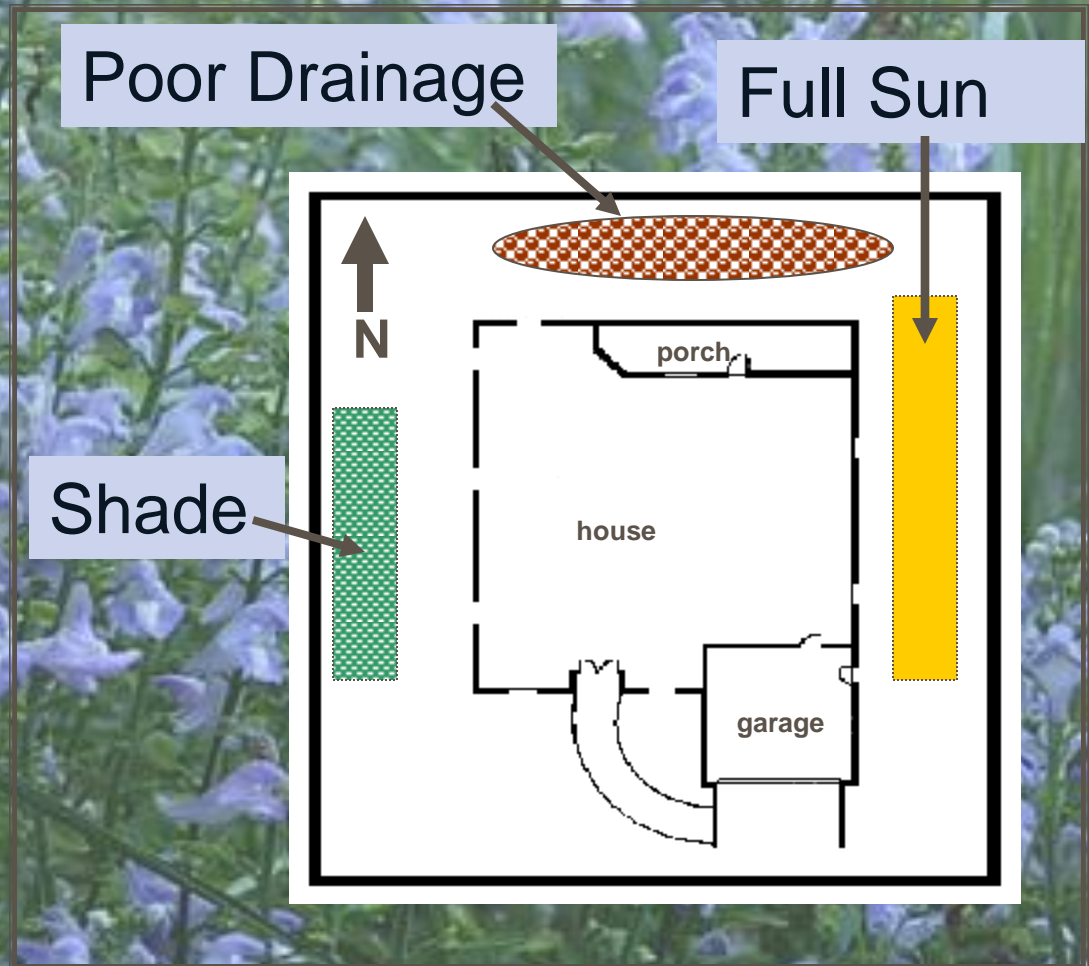
sun or shade

Drainage

wet
dry
drainage patterns

Structures

utilities
sidewalks /
driveways



Know Your Plants

- Mature size - height and width
- Light requirement - sun or shade
- Soil moisture - wet or dry
- Tolerance to salt
- Pest susceptibility



The Strategy

Right Plant,
Right Place!

Need to match
plants to
site conditions:

- pH, sunlight,
- drainage, etc.

--Less water
--Less pesticides
--Less fertilizer
--LESS WORK!

How do I use native wildflowers in my landscape?

... to enhance a dull or monotonous garden area



..... as a border plant



..... to add color and diversity
to a planting area

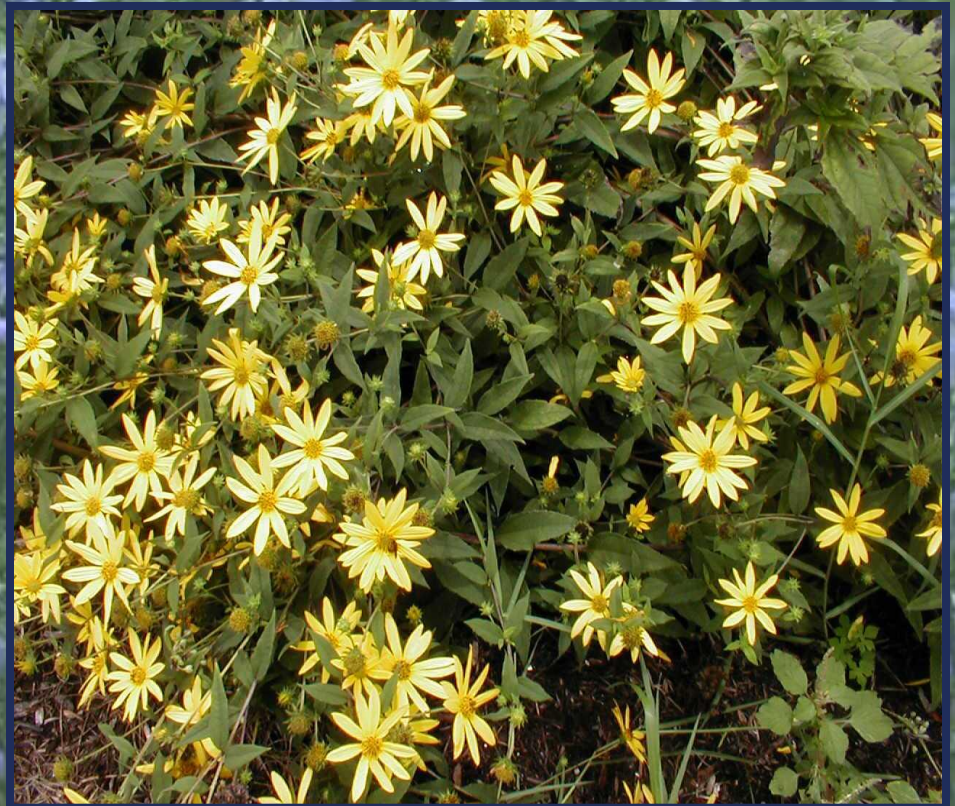


.....to provide a succession of
flowering seasons



What can I expect from wildflowers in my landscape?

...most plants flower only during certain times of the year



..... some wildflowers are perennials & some are annuals



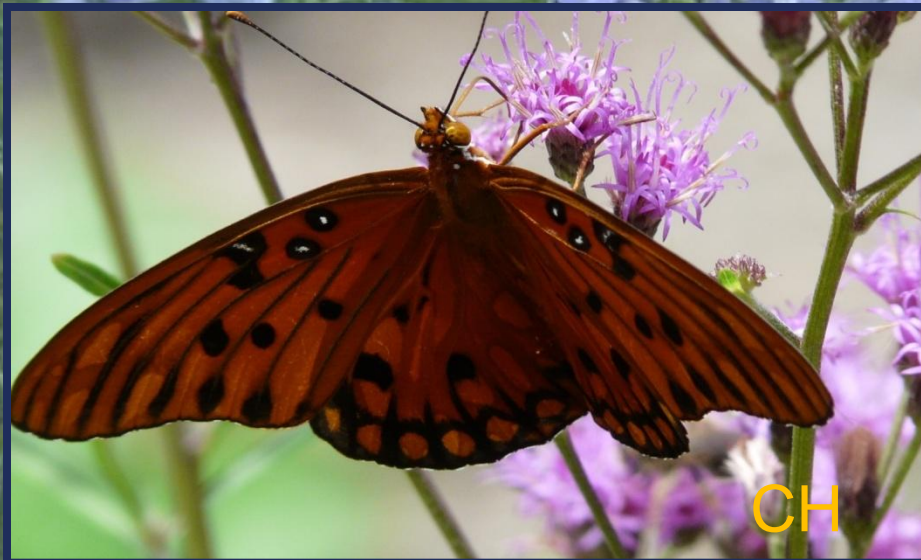
.....some can
replace grass





AFNN

..... butterflies,
hummingbirds,
and other nectar
feeders are
familiar with
native wildflowers



..... many wildflowers are free-seeding

- some seeds need bare ground to sprout

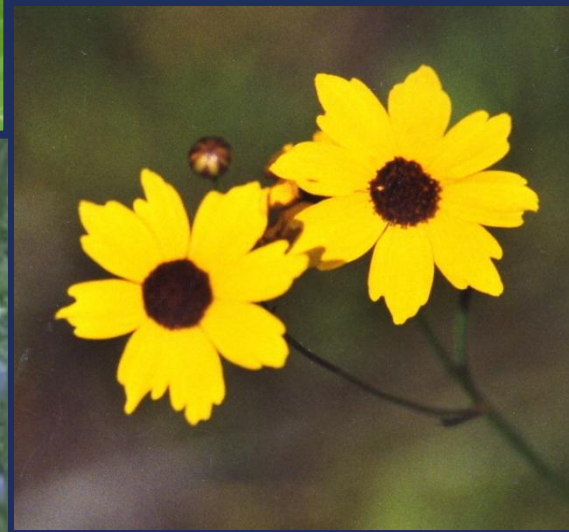
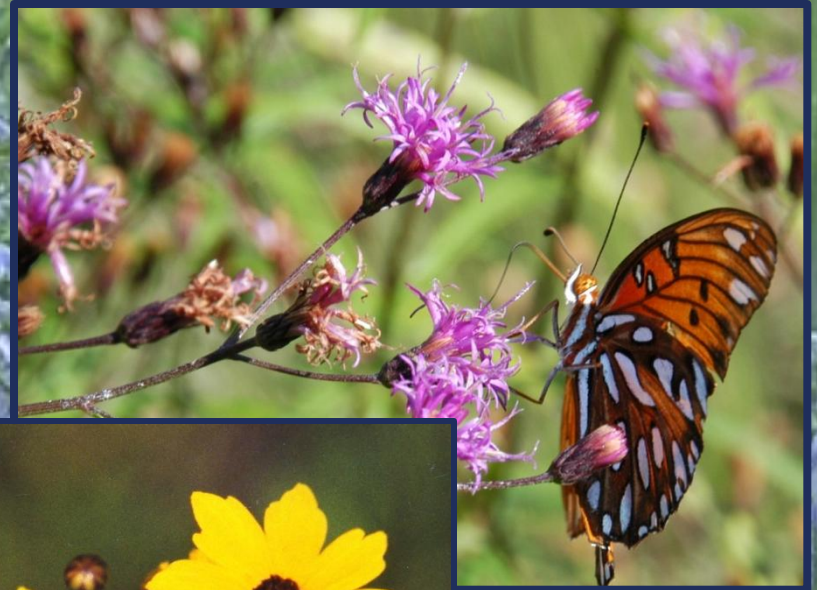


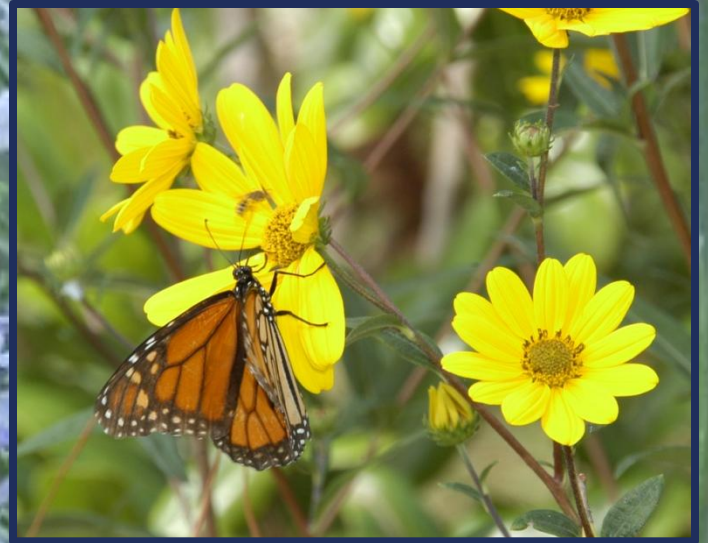
DON'T PULL THAT WEED!

Experiment - some
'weeds' turn out to be
beautiful wildflowers.



Common Wildflowers to use in Landscapes:







Biggest Challenge....

....where to find plants or seeds

Native Plant Nurseries:

- Twigs & Leaves – St. Petersburg
- Wilcox Nursery – Largo
- Hawthorn Hill Native Wildflower and Rare Plant Nursery - 727-470-9130
- Restless Natives Nursery – Tarpon Springs
813-716-2348

Cypress Acres Nursery – David Barnard
dbarnard5@tampabay.rr.com

- Florida Wildflower Foundation - <http://flawildflowers.org/>
 - AFNN – Association of Florida Native Nurseries
- Native Plant Society plant sales

In Summary....

Right Plant/Right Place

- Research native wildflowers
- Match the plant's potential with site conditions and your needs
- Experiment!
- Be Patient!



Credits:

Original presentation created by Jean Field
UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension

Many wildflower photographs by Craig Huegel
and Wilma Holley



Selected References

- Florida Department of Transportation. *Wildflowers in Florida*. (1998). FDOT Environmental Management Office.
- Murphy, T.R. (Ed.) *Weeds of Southern Turfgrass*. University of Florida IFAS
- Norcini, J. Establishment of Native Wildflower Plantings by Seeds. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP22700.pdf>
- Taylor, W.K. *Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities*. (1998). University Press of Florida.
- Taylor, W.K. *The Guide to Florida Wildflowers*. (1992). Taylor Publishing Company.



CH



CH

Questions??



CH