

Native Vines, Grasses and Forbs

Acadiana Native Plant Project

www.greauxnative.org

List produced by Lawrence Rozas, PhD



Instead of That		Plant This	
Names	Why Not	Names	Why
VINES			
Chinese Wisteria (<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>); Japanese Wisteria (<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>)	Non-native vines introduced into the U.S. from China in 1816 and Japan in 1830; highly invasive in 19 U.S. states; both displace native plants by covering them and limiting light availability; also can kill trees and shrubs by girdling them; aggressive growth also may damage buildings	American Wisteria (<i>Wisteria frutescens</i>)	Native deciduous vine with fragrant blue, purple, or white flowers that bloom April - August. Not aggressive like the non-native species. Provides support for native pollinators and caterpillars.
Japanese Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera japonica</i>)	Aggressive invasive vine introduced into the U.S. from Asia in 1806. Girdle small trees by twining around them and forming dense mats that block light to plants below	Coral Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>)	Native vine that produces beautiful red and yellow flowers during summer; tolerant of most soil types and part shade; flowers used as nectar source by hummingbirds; plant also supports native caterpillars, pollinators, and other birds
		Passion Vine "Maypop" (<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>)	Native, tendril-climbing vine; tolerant of most soil types; complex, pink - lavender flowers produced mid-summer to fall; flowers best in full sun; host plant for caterpillars of Gulf Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary, and Zebra butterflies
English Ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>)	Non-native introduced into U.S. from Europe; Invasive throughout Southeastern U.S.; Vines climb into trees and block light below, which may eventually kill them	Crossvine (<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>)	Native evergreen vine that blooms in the early spring; attractive red and yellow flowers that produce nectar used by hummingbirds; plants also support native caterpillars, pollinators, mammals, and other birds
HERBACEOUS PLANTS			
Yellow Flag Iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>)	Non-native introduced to the U.S. from Asia, North Africa or Western Europe; an aggressive invasive, forms large clonal colonies that replace native species including native irises; plants contain glycosids, which are toxic to grazing animals; species is spread by rhizomes and seeds	Louisiana Native Irises (Abbeville = <i>Iris nelsonii</i> , Blue flag = <i>I. giganteaerulea</i> , Copper = <i>I. fulva</i> , Dixie = <i>I. hexagona</i> , ZigZag = <i>I. brevicaulis</i>)	Our native irises are an excellent choice for your landscape; they bloom in March and April in a variety of colors, depending on species; found naturally in marsh, swamp, and other wetlands, but can be grown in raised beds or naturalized landscapes if provided water during dry conditions; support native caterpillars and birds; <i>I. fulva</i> produces nectar used by hummingbirds

GRASSES

<p>Pampas Grass (<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>)</p>	<p>Introduced as an ornamental from South American, this grass forms dense clumps that can reach a height of 10'. Once established it is difficult to remove. Seeds are dispersed by wind up to 20 miles from the parent plant. Pampas grass is a particularly aggressive invader of natural areas in Hawaii and California, but also has escaped cultivation throughout the southeastern U.S. from North Carolina to Texas.</p>	<p>Gulf Muhly Grass (<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>)</p>	<p>Clump-forming grass (18" - 24") that prefers well-drained soils and sun to part shade exposure. The plant is transformed in fall by attractive frilly pink to purple seeds.</p>
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