

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



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Florida-Friendly
Landscaping™ PROGRAM



No Mow March

Let the Weeds Be!

Mark Tancig
October 2024

Introduction

Mark Tancig
UF/IFAS Extension Leon County
850-606-5200



leon.ifas.ufl.edu



@LeonCountyExtension



@uf_ifas_leoncountyextension

Eventbrite

leoncountyextension.eventbrite.com



Presentation Objectives

- Explain No Mow March Campaign
- Highlight Benefits of Less Mowing
- Review Common “Weeds”
- Provide Resources
- No Mow March Outcomes



The No Mow March Campaign

In the beginning...

Bolles, Elizabeth R

RE: Anyone interested in in a No Mow March for 2023?

3/29/2022

Mark,

I think this is a great idea. Let's talk about it for the next Horticulture Meeting too. Beth

Tancig, Mark

Anyone interested in in a No Mow March for 2023?

3/29/2022

Tancig, Mark

RE: In Wisconsin: Stowing Mowers, Pleasing Bees - The New York Times

3/29/2022

Tancig, Mark

No Mow March - 2023

3/29/2022

Christine Johnson

In Wisconsin: Stowing Mowers, Pleasing Bees - The New York Times

3/28/2022

[External Email]

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/28/travel/no-mow-may-wisconsin.html>

Just making sure you saw this article.

The No Mow March Campaign

In the beginning... NY Times article by Anne Readel

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/28/travel/no-mow-may-wisconsin.html>



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The No Mow March Campaign

Currently... UF/IFAS Horticulture Agents in Northwest District

<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/escambia/lawn-and-garden/no-mow-march/>



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GARDENING IN THE PANHANDLE

Articles during March will feature information about pollinators and plants, along with low maintenance lawn care techniques.

View our GIP Live! Zoom session featuring Pollinators on March 9 at



EVENTS

Check out our listing of specific county community events on pollinators, wildflowers, and plants.



POLLINATORS AND HOAS

Live in an Homeowners Association? Learn a few ways you can promote pollinators while following association lawn and landscape maintenance requirements.



YOUR POLLINATORS

Join our **No Mow group on iNaturalist** to upload photos and make observations about pollinators and plants in your landscape or neighborhood. When you upload a photo it will be entered into our contest for No Mow March themed prizes

The No Mow March Campaign

Currently... UF/IFAS Horticulture Agents in Northwest District

<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/escambia/lawn-and-garden/no-mow-march/>

No Mow March Pledge

This pledge is for those who would like to participate in the No Mow March campaign, organized by UF/IFAS Extension Agents of the Northwest District.

More information on the No Mow March Campaign can be found here - <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/escambia/lawn-and-garden/no-mow-march/>.

Please join our iNaturalist project to document your observations here - <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/no-mow-march>.

If you have questions, please contact your local UF/IFAS Extension office.

...



The No Mow March Campaign

Currently... UF/IFAS Horticulture Agents in Northwest District

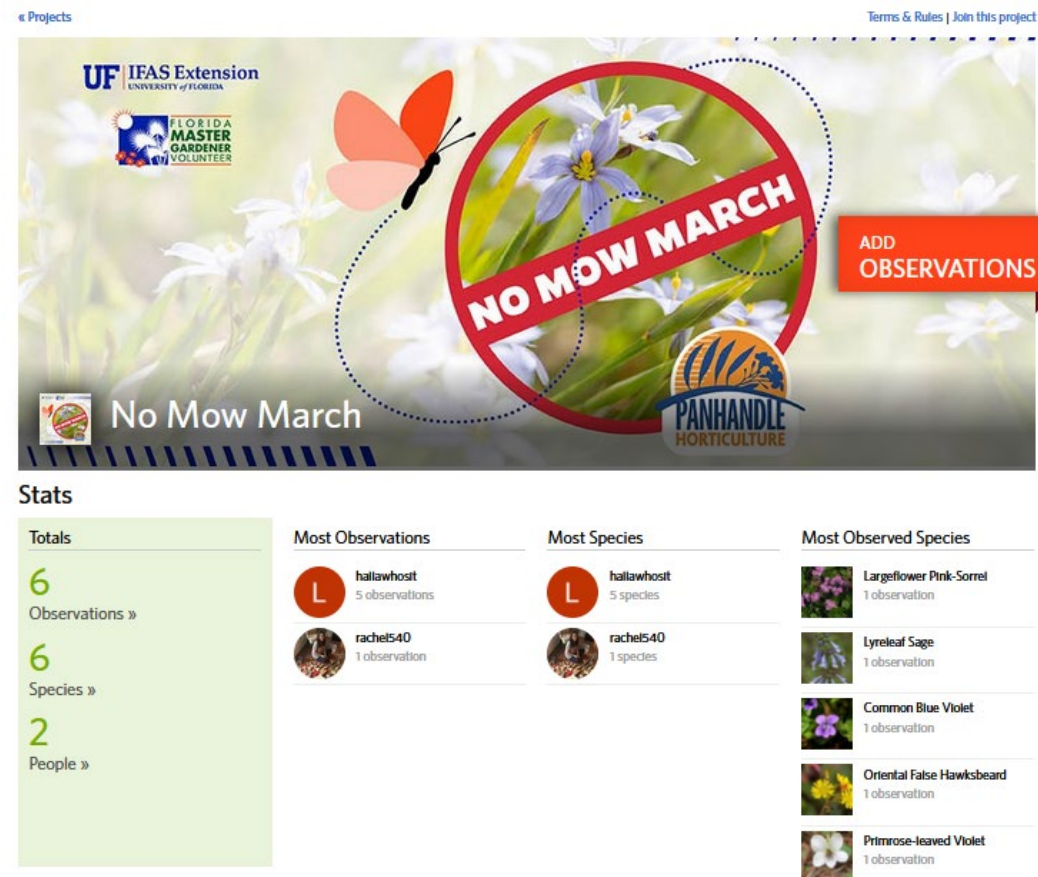
<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/escambia/lawn-and-garden/no-mow-march/>



CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC



The Benefits of Mowing Less

Why a No Mow March Campaign?

From NRC publication:

“In her hugely influential book, *Silent Spring* published more than 40 years ago, Rachel Carson recognized the central role of pollinators.”

“Ironically, despite its apparent lack of marquee appeal, pollinator decline is one form of global change that actually does have credible potential to alter the shape and structure of the terrestrial world.”

STATUS OF POLLINATORS IN NORTH AMERICA

Committee on the Status of Pollinators in North America

Board on Life Sciences
Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Division on Earth and Life Studies

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

The Benefits of Mowing Less

Why a No Mow March Campaign?

From NRC publication:

“About three-quarters of the more than 240,000 species of the world’s flowering plants rely on pollinators—insects, birds, bats, and other animals—to various degrees to carry pollen from the male to the female parts of flowers for reproduction.”

“Over and above its direct economic value to humans, pollination by animals provides essential maintenance of the structure and function of a wide range of natural communities in North America, and it enhances aesthetic, recreational, and cultural aspects of human activity.”

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From NRC publication:

Wild Pollinator Status Findings: “There is evidence of decline in the abundance of some pollinators, but the strength of this evidence varies among taxa. **Long-term population trends for several wild bee species (notably bumble bees) and some butterflies, bats, and hummingbirds are demonstrably downward.** For most pollinator species, however, the paucity of long-term population data and the incomplete knowledge of even basic taxonomy and ecology make definitive assessment of status exceedingly difficult.”

Wild Pollinator Causes of Decline Findings: “The causes of decline among wild pollinators vary by species but are generally difficult to assign definitively. Pathogens that have spilled over from commercially produced bumble bees for greenhouse pollination appear to have contributed to declines in some native bumble bees. **Other factors for which there is convincing evidence include habitat degradation and loss, particularly for some bats, bees, and butterflies.**”

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The Benefits of Mowing Less

Why a No Mow March Campaign?

From NRC publication:

“Landowners other than farmers and ranchers—such as homeowners and businesses—also could **contribute to the conservation of pollinators by planting wildflowers to provide floral resources for resident and migratory adult pollinators and by providing nesting sites for females.** Critical to the success of citizen-scientist programs, however, is **effective public outreach to raise awareness of pollinators’ ecological and economic contributions and to encourage public participation in conservation.**”

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The Benefits of Mowing Less

Why a No Mow March Campaign?

Many wildlife species are documented to be in decline and loss of habitat is often cited as one of the main causes of decline.

So, let's create habitat!



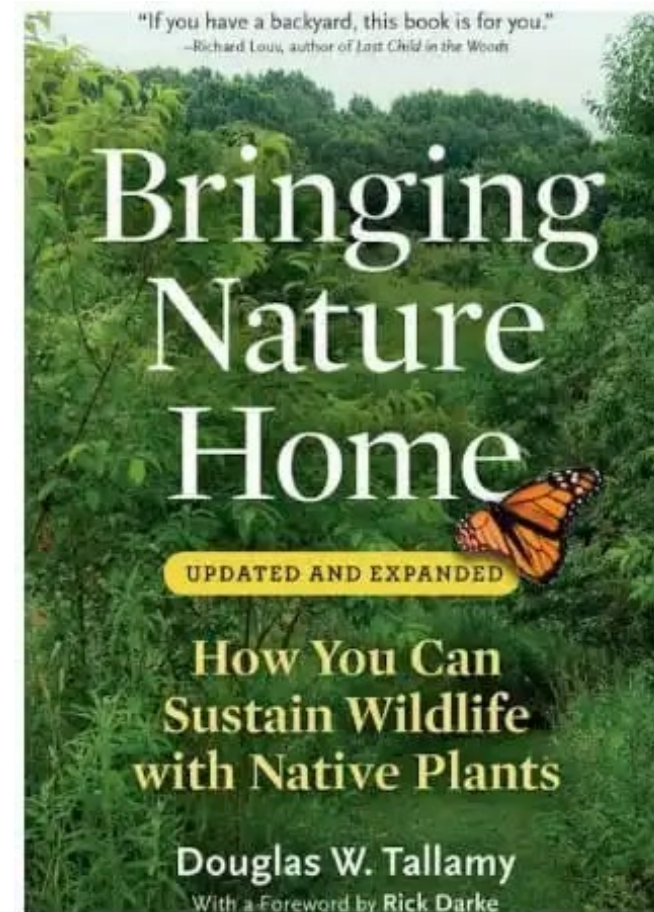
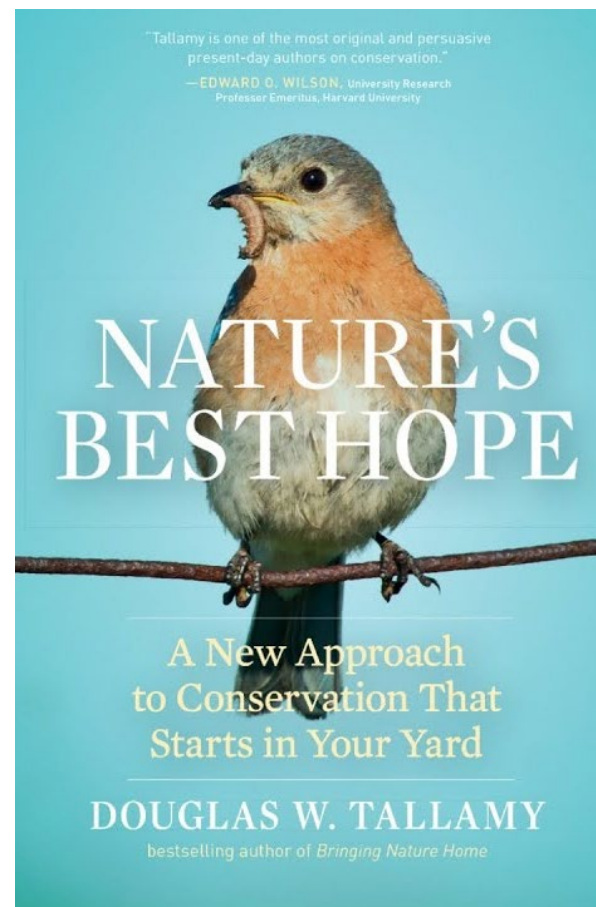
The Benefits of Mowing Less

Why a No Mow March Campaign?

Many wildlife species are documented to be in decline, so how can we help?

Consider your yard as a wildlife refuge.

See Doug Tallamy, University of Delaware
Professor of Ag and Natural Resources in the
Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology.



The Benefits of Mowing Less

What does wildlife need?



Food



Water



Shelter



Space to raise
young

The Benefits of Mowing Less

Why a No Mow March Campaign? Create landscapes that act as refuge for wildlife



The Benefits of Mowing Less

Why a No Mow March Campaign?

New urban landscape research is highlighting practices that can encourage wildlife utilization of our managed landscapes.

“Our results highlight a “lazy lawnmower” approach to providing bee habitat. Mowing less frequently is practical, economical, and a timesaving alternative to lawn replacement or even planting pollinator gardens. Given the pervasiveness of lawns coupled with habitat loss, our findings provide immediate solutions for individual households to contribute to urban conservation.”

“We found the probability of occupancy of most species examined was substantially reduced in urban green spaces with sparse understory vegetation and few native plants. Our findings provide evidence that increasing understory cover and native plantings in urban green spaces can improve biodiversity outcomes.”

Journal of Applied Ecology



Journal of Applied Ecology 2017, 54, 1874–1883

doi: 10.1111/1365-2664.12876

Increasing biodiversity in urban green spaces through simple vegetation interventions

Caragh G. Threlfall^{*,1}, Luis Mata², Jessica A. Mackie³, Amy K. Hahs⁴, Nigel E. Stork³, Nicholas S. G. Williams^{1,4} and Stephen J. Livesley¹

Biological Conservation 221 (2018) 160–174



ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Biological Conservation

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/biocon



To mow or to mow less: Lawn mowing frequency affects bee abundance and diversity in suburban yards

Susannah B. Lerman^{a,b,*}, Alexandra R. Contosta^c, Joan Milam^b, Christofer Bang^d



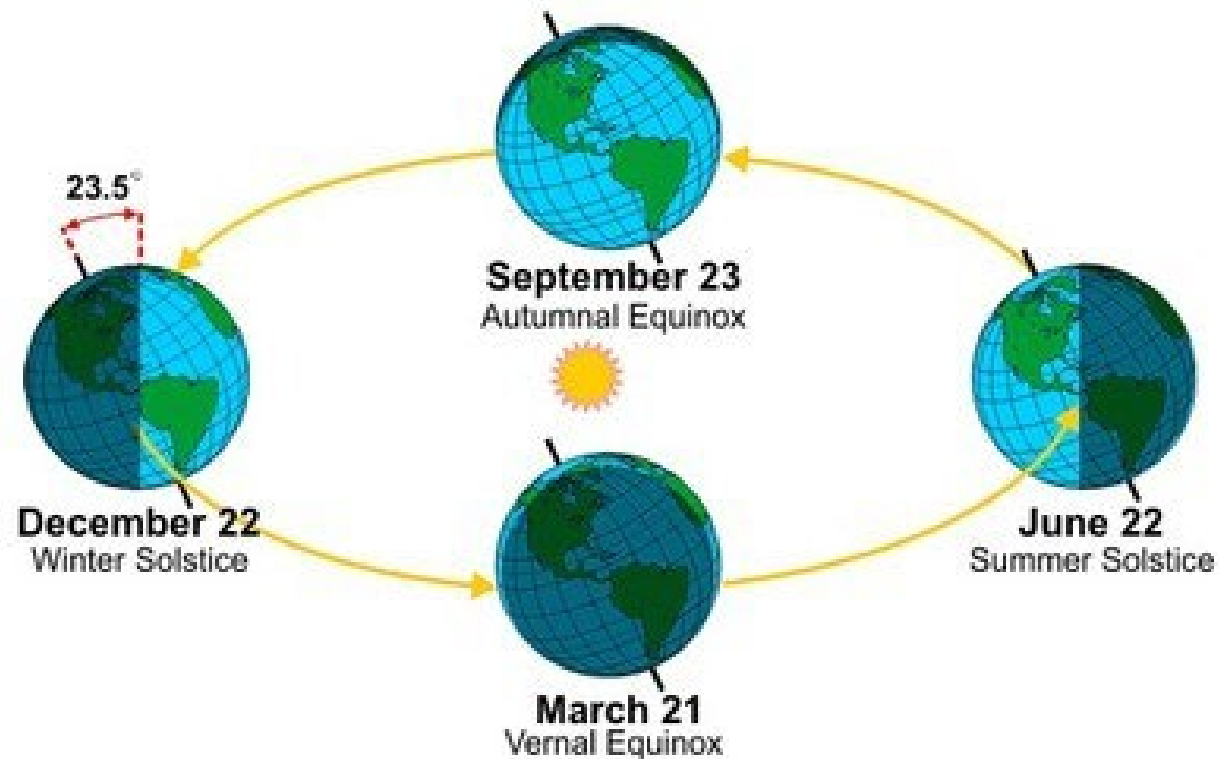
The Benefits of Mowing Less

Why a No Mow March Campaign?

Also, the seasons!

Early Spring is a time when insects are awakening, but there are few flowering plants.

Late winter/spring bloomers provide much needed resources to these insects.



Common “Weed” Identification

What is a weed?



Common “Weed” Identification

What is a weed?

- Plant out of place
- Plant that causes environmental or economic harm



Common “Weed” Identification

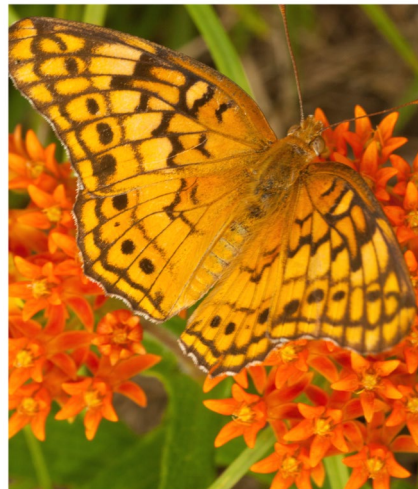
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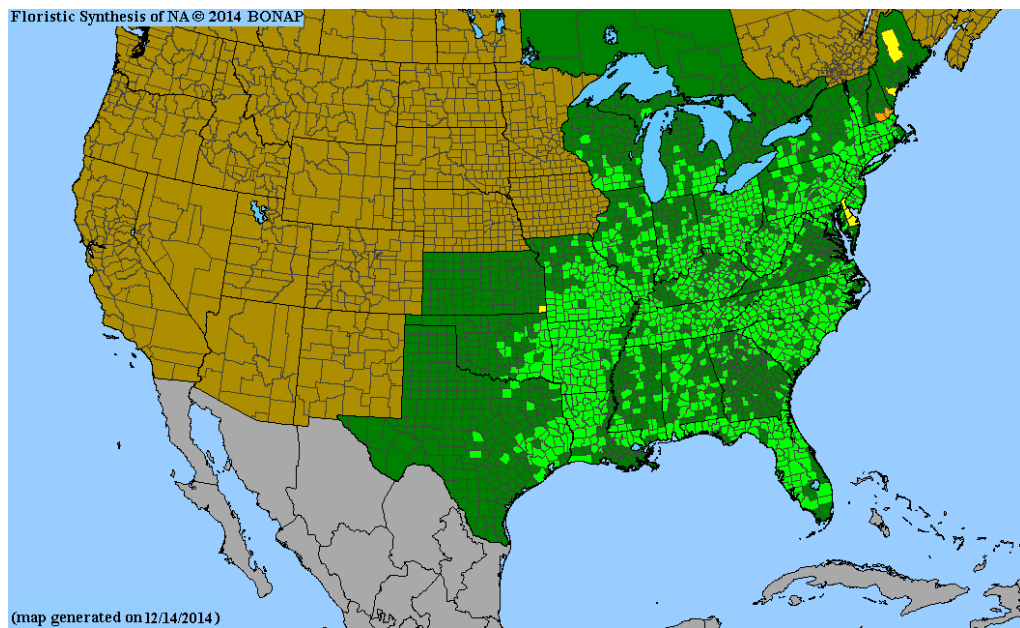


WILD VIOLET *Viola* spp.

Larval host for a variety of fritillary
butterflies including variegated
fritillary (pictured)



Jaret Daniels





LYRELEAF SAGE *Salvia lyrata*

SPRING FLOWERS

Blooms in the spring with light purple flowers.

RESILIENT

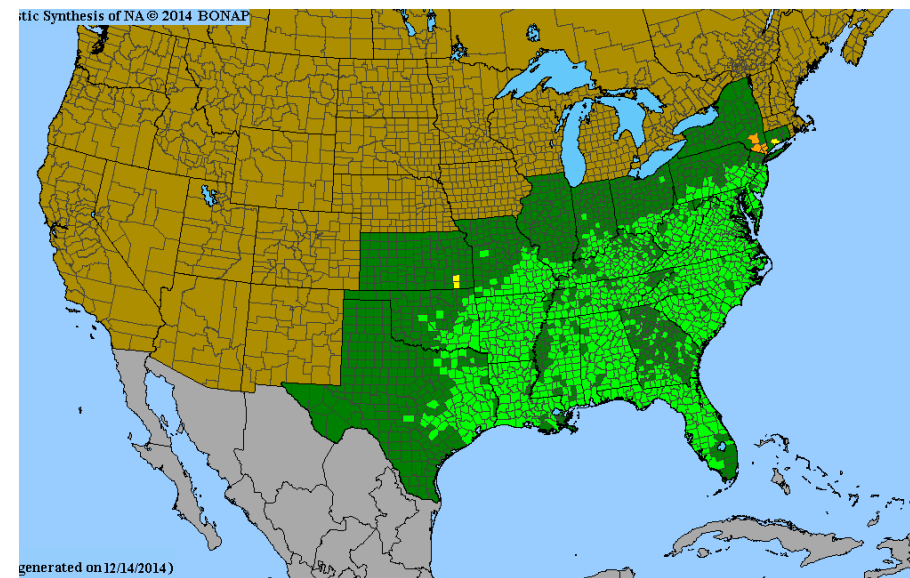
Adaptable to many soil and water conditions. Reseeds readily.

Leaf rosette short and not noticeable much of the year.



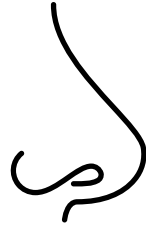
ATTRACT PREDATORS

Can be a good host for aphids, a popular meal for predators like ladybugs.



WILD GARLIC *Allium canadense*

All parts of the plant are edible. The key to ID in alliums is smell. It should smell like garlic!



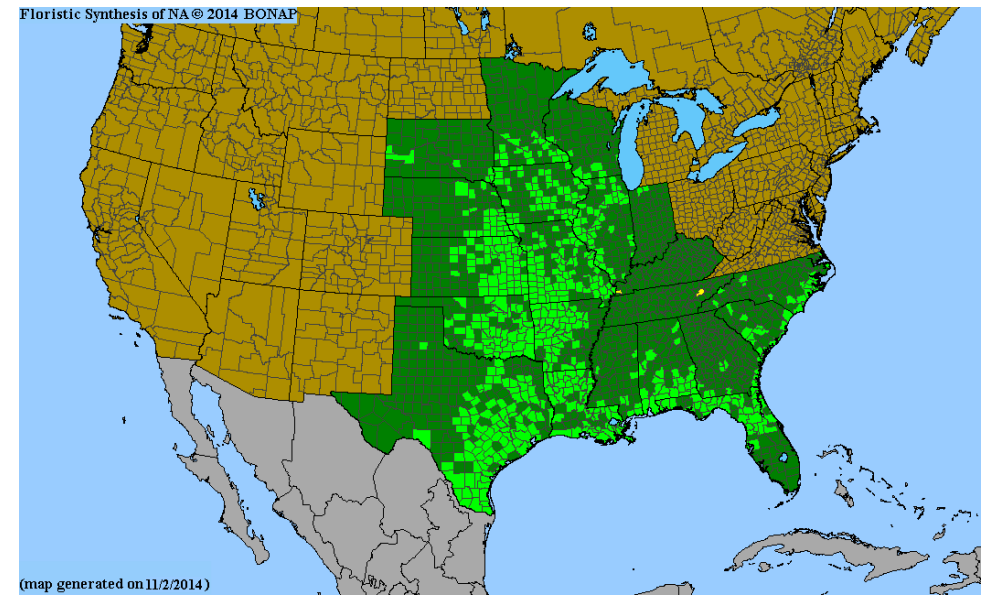
Can be prepared the same way as garlic, chives, or green onions.

Tends to die back in the summer but will come back late winter.





SMALLFLOWER FUMEWORT
Corydalis micrantha subsp. *australis*





FLORIDA BETONY *Stachys floridana*

SUMMER BREAK

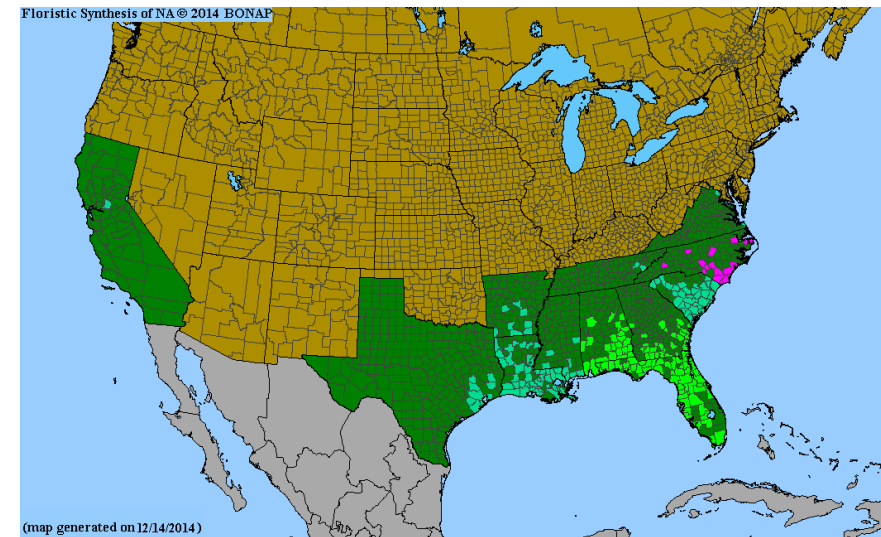
Plants go dormant in the summer.

RATTLESNAKE ROOT

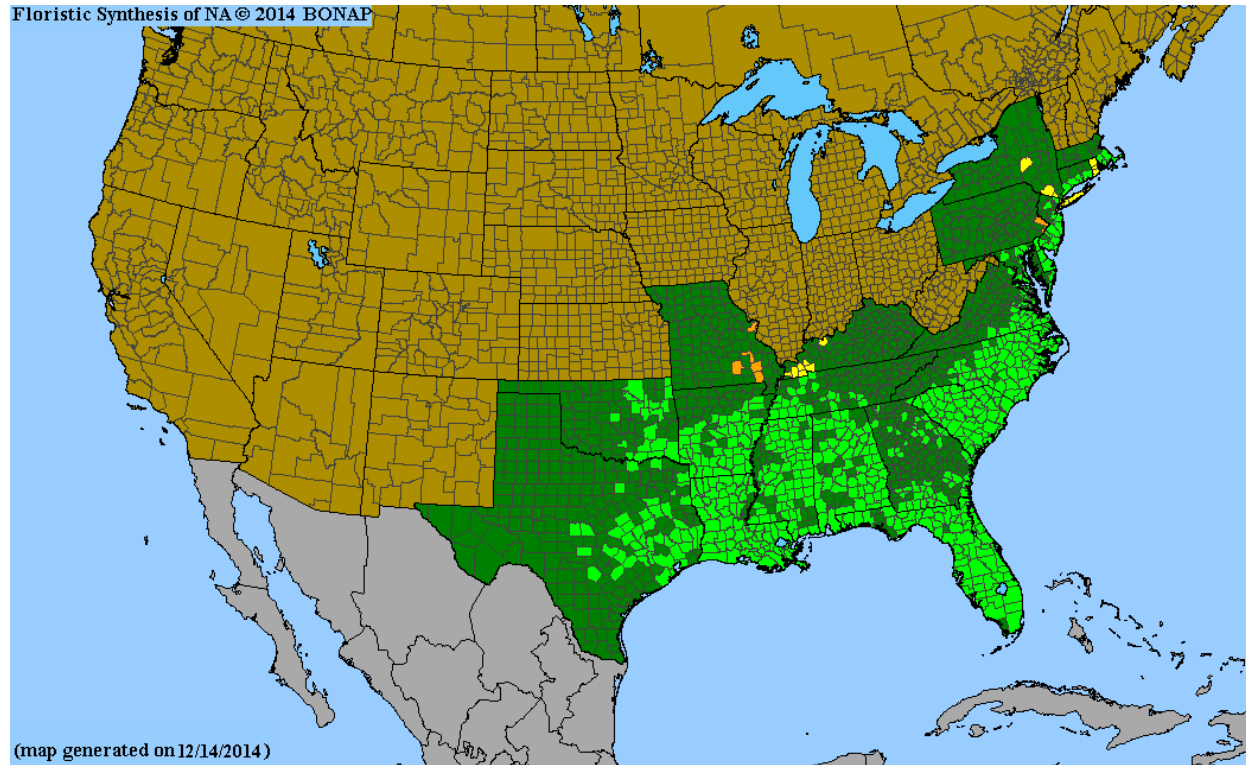
Edible tubers, similar to radish in flavor and texture, are best harvested as the weather turns from spring to summer.



Photo by emilyknoe (CC BY-NC)

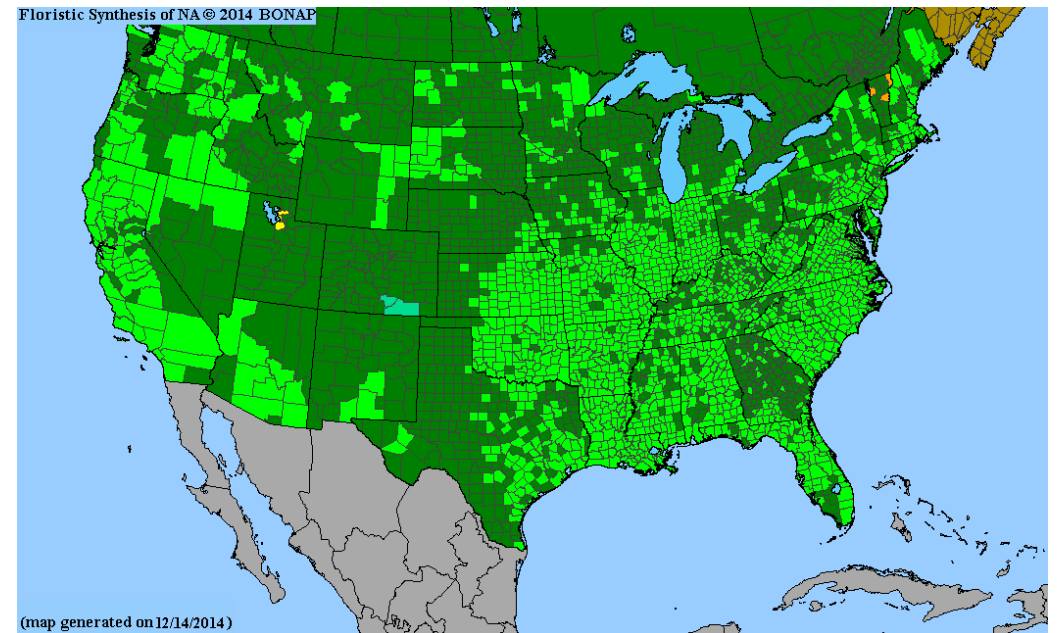


MOCK BISHOPS WEED *PTILIMNIUM CAPILLACEUM*





CAROLINA CRANE'S BILL
GERANIUM CAROLINIANUM

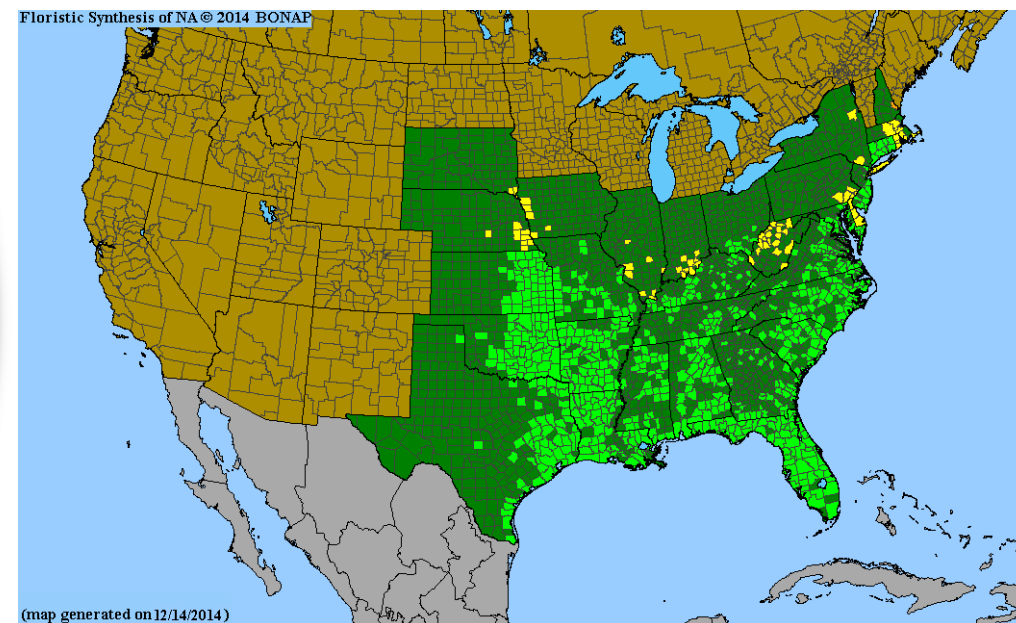




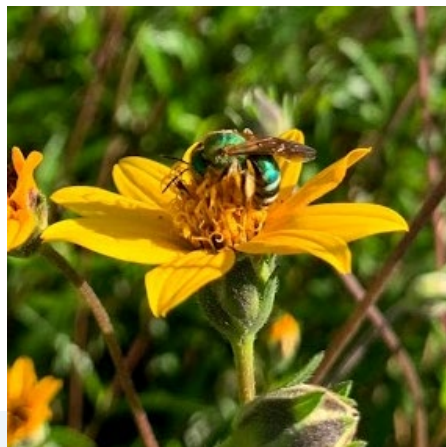
SPRING LADIES' TRESSES

Spiranthes vernalis

NATIVE ORCHID



POLLINATORS YOU MIGHT SEE



SWEAT BEES

One of 300+ native bee species in Florida!



CATERPILLARS

Plant a variety of larval host plants for different species.



BUTTERFLIES/MOTHS

Plant a variety nectar plants to feed adults.



WASPS

Wasps are important pollinators too! Give them space to work.

Additional Resources

No Mow March website - <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/escambia/lawn-and-garden/no-mow-march/>



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Additional Resources

UF/IFAS has many resources to help with plant selection!



<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Additional Resources

FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™ PLANT GUIDE



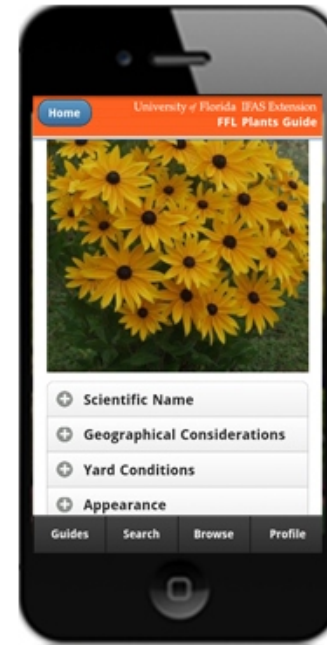
Find the right plant for the right place... get details and photos of over 400 Florida-friendly plants.

COMPREHENSIVE DATA FROM EXPERT SOURCES

- Light, soil, water requirements, and much more.
- Plant characteristics such as shape, color, and size.
- Beautiful color photographs of trees, shrubs, palms, groundcovers, vines, ferns, annuals, perennials and ornamental grasses.

QUICK AND CONVENIENT SEARCHING

- App can be downloaded for **iOS** or **Android**, or used with any **internet browser**.
- Search by plant name, type, shape, light requirements, native status, and more.
- Filter to show only plants for your zone.
- Print or download details for your selected plants



*This free app is available for **iOS** and **Android**, or can be used with any **internet browser**.*



<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/apps/plant-guide/>

Additional Resources



<https://www.flawildflowers.org/>



No Mow March Outcomes

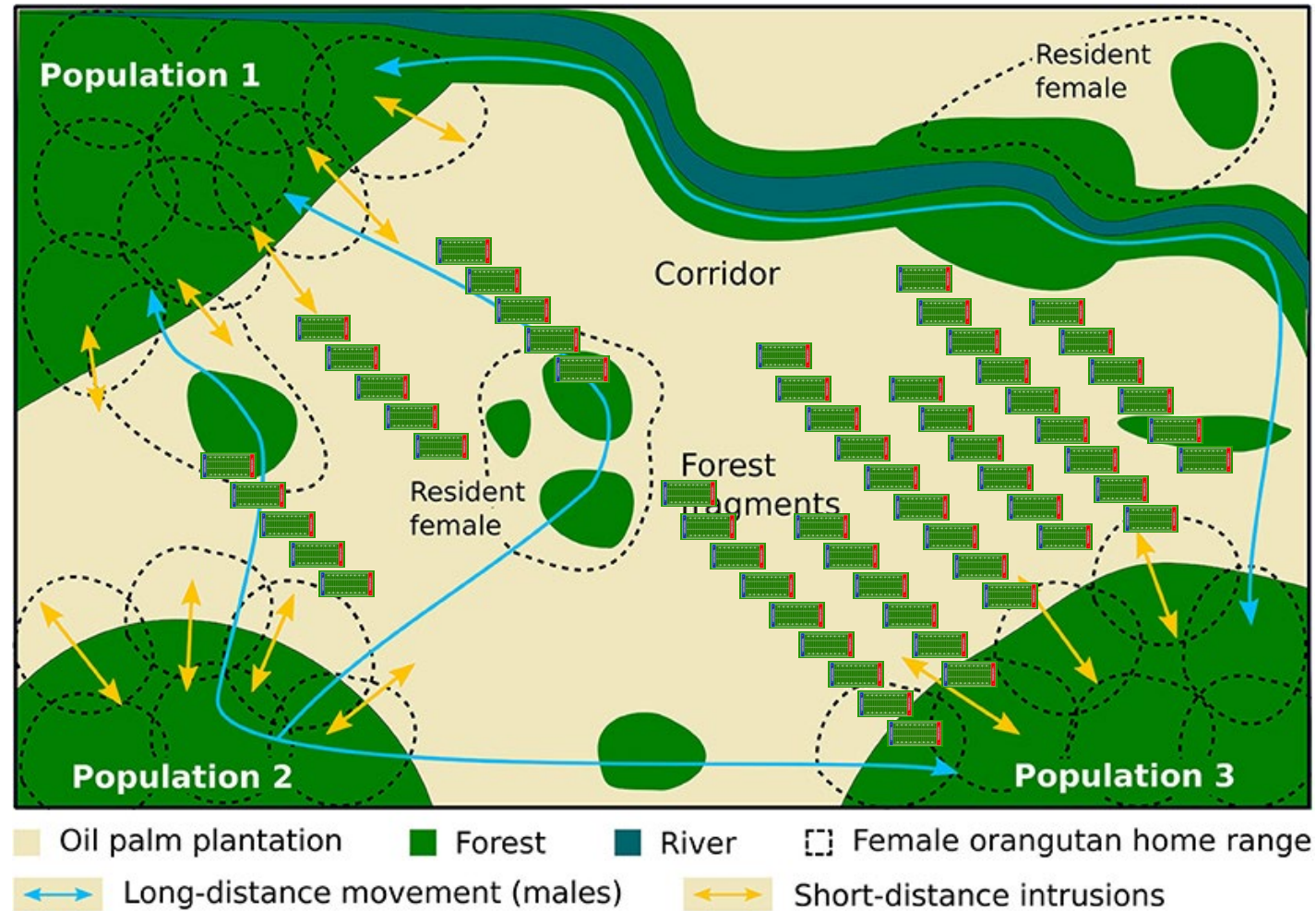
Each landscape adds up!

168 Landscapes

137 Acres =

5,967,720 square feet =

103 football fields



No Mow March Outcomes

Inspire Plant Curiosity!

15 Observers

123 Observations

55 Species



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