

Plant Installation Tips

1. For best coverage, ground cover plants should be installed in a staggered pattern, as seen below. Use care when planting under trees to avoid damaging tree roots; leave at least three feet of unplanted area around the tree base.



2. If area to be planted has weeds and/or grass, carefully apply a weed killer such as glyphosate (Roundup), directly to the unwanted plants. *Be sure to follow label directions!* Wait for unwanted plants to die (takes two weeks or more), remove them, and grade area for planting. If the planting area is bare soil, proceed to next step.

3. Install plants as illustrated below. A wide hole no deeper than the root ball is best. Be sure that the top of the root ball is no deeper than the existing landscape's soil surface. Planting "high" (slightly above surrounding soil surface) is best, to allow for mulch.

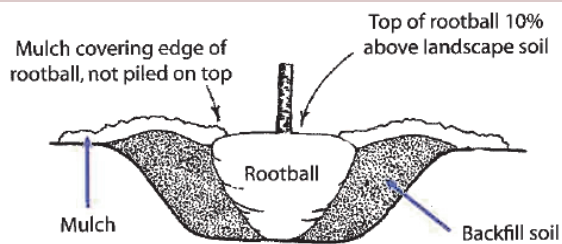


Illustration by Edward F. Gilman, Environmental Horticulture Department, IFAS, University of Florida.

4. Fill the space around the root ball with the soil from the original hole (no soil amendments are necessary unless a soil test indicates otherwise). Gently firm the soil; do not pack the soil.

5. Water thoroughly while planting to remove air pockets in the planting area.

6. Apply a 3 to 4 inch layer of organic mulch, keeping the mulch 3 inches away from plant stems. Recommended mulches include:

- Pine Bark
- Pine Straw
- Recycled Yard Waste Mulch
- Eucalyptus Bark
- Melaleuca Mulch

7. Water thoroughly to establish plants, using the following recommended schedule:

<i>Watering Schedule: new drought-tolerant plants up to 1 gallon in size</i>
Week 1= water daily
Week 2= water every 2 days
Week 3= hand water twice a week
Week 4= water once a week, more when plants wilt from dryness

Some Local Plant Nurseries in Southern Pinellas County (subject to change)

Banyan Scapes Inc.
932 49th St. So.,
Gulfport 727-323-5484

Carroll's Garden Center
4950 38th Ave. No.,
St. Petersburg 727-527-5418

Country Club Nursery
9850 Starkey Rd.,
Largo 727-397-4438

Dolin's Garden Center
801 62nd Ave. No.,
St. Petersburg 727-525-3434

Gulf Coast Garden Center
4355 Haines Rd.,
St. Petersburg 727-522-3074

Hazel's Garden & Nursery
5063 Dartmouth Ave. No.,
St. Petersburg 727-321-4599

Jene's Tropical Fruit Trees
6831 Central Ave.,
St. Petersburg 727-344-1668

Kathy's Korner Nursery / Tree Farm
3118 62nd Ave. No., St. Petersburg
727-525-9640

Seminole Nurseries
6230 102nd Ave. No.,
Pinellas Park 727-545-9619

Twigs & Leaves
2131 Central Avenue
St. Petersburg 727-822-5400

Wilcox Nursery
12501 Indian Rocks Rd.,
Largo 727-595-2073

Willow Tree Nursery
4401 49th St. No., St. Petersburg
727-522-2594

DISCLAIMER. This publication is a guide for residents desiring to know more about drought tolerant ground covers and proper plant installation practices. Contact the horticulture department of your local county's Extension office for additional information. Persons involved in the creation, production, or delivery of this information shall not be liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, or incidental damages (including property damage, damages for loss of business profits, business interruption, etc.) arising out of the use of this information, or any omission in or inaccuracy of any information.

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Drought Tolerant Ground Covers for Your Landscape



"Converting from a traditional turf landscape to a water efficient landscape through proper choice of plants and careful design can reduce outdoor water use by 20 to 50 percent."
EPA WaterSense, 2009

Why Use Drought-Tolerant Ground Covers?

- Lower maintenance than most lawns
- Reduced air pollution - no mowing!
- Assists with percolation of rain water through the soil
- Better options exist for shaded areas than turfgrass
- Filters fertilizer & other chemicals, minimizing pollution of local waterways
- Minimizes erosion by holding soil
- Attractive flowers and leaves
- Reduces heat reflection



NOTE: ❖ indicates a Florida Native Plant

Blue Pacific Juniper



Juniperus 'Blue Pacific'. Spacing 2'. High salt tolerance. Full to part sun. *Keep crown clear of debris.

Liriope



Liriope spp. Spacing 18". Good salt tolerance. Full sun to shade. *Keep crown clear of debris.

Lantana ❖ some



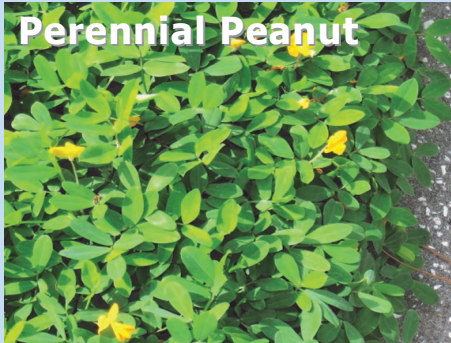
Lantana spp. Spacing 3'. High salt tolerance. Full sun. *Many native and exotic species exist.

Blue Daze



Evolvulus glomeratus. Spacing 1'. High salt tolerance. Part sun. *Keep crown clear of debris.

Perennial Peanut



Arachis glabrata. Spacing 1'. Full sun. High salt tolerance. *Trim along walks; takes time to root.

Dwarf Jasmine



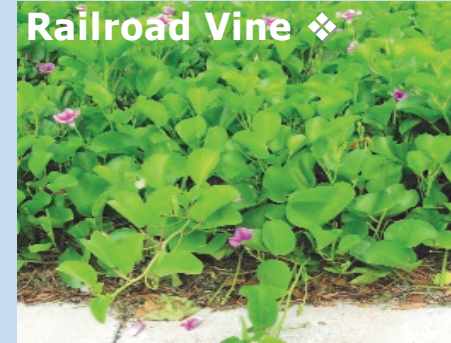
Trachelospermum asiaticum. Full sun to shade. Good salt tolerance. Spacing 18". *Takes time to root.

Sunshine Mimosa ❖



Mimosa strigillosa. Spacing 3'. Poor salt tolerance. Full sun. *Trim from walks and roadways.

Railroad Vine ❖



Ipomea pes-caprae. Spacing 2'. High salt tolerance. Full sun. *Trim stems to promote branching.

Dwarf Oyster Plant



Rhoeo spathacea 'Nana'. Good salt tolerance. Spacing 18". Full sun to shade. *Keep crown clear.

Beach Sunflower ❖



Helianthus debilis. Spacing 4'. High salt tolerance. Full to part sun. *Re-seeds itself.

Matchweed/Frogfruit ❖



Phyla nodiflora. Spacing 2'. Poor salt tolerance. Full to part sun. *Trim from walks and roadways.

Coontie ❖



Zamia floridana. Spacing 4'. High salt tolerance. Full sun to shade. *Keep crown clear of debris.

❖ Why Try Natives? ❖

- Adapted to the local weather conditions, including extremes
- Adapted to the soil conditions of a given area
- Usually have few pest problems
- Decreased maintenance, when used and established correctly
- The best choice for attracting native wildlife

Resources for Florida Native Plants:

- Florida Native Plant Society, local chapter: pinellas.fnpschapters.org
- Florida Association of Native Nurseries: www.afnn.org

