Scrub (Atlantic Coastal Ridge)
Scrub is found on old dunes with deep fine sand soils that are very dry. This is a fire-dependent community that contains many rare plant species. It is also home to animals like the Florida scrub jay and the gopher tortoise.

Where to visit Scrub
- Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary (Brevard County)
- Walton Scrub (St. Lucie County)
- Jonathan Dickinson State Park (Martin County)
- Yamato Scrub Natural Area (Palm Beach County)
- Highlands Scrub Natural Area (Broward County)

Pine Flatwoods
Depending on how wet they are, pine flatwoods may be considered scrubby (dry), mesic (moist), or wet (standing water part of the year). Pine flatwoods depend on fire to keep the understory open and diverse.

Where to visit Pine Flatwoods
- St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park (Brevard and Indian River Counties)
- Savannas Preserve State Park (St. Lucie County)
- Jonathan Dickinson State Park (Martin County)
- Royal Palm Beach Pines Natural Area (Palm Beach County)

Pine Rocklands
Pine Rockland plants grow on thin soils over exposed limestone. Pine rocklands are a rare plant community with fewer than 4,000 acres remain outside of Everglades National Park. Pine rocklands are the most floristically diverse plant community in Florida.

Where to visit Pine Rocklands
- Long Pine Key, Everglades National Park (Miami-Dade County)
- National Key Deer Refuge (Monroe County)

Marshes and Wet Prairies
Marshes are wet most of the time, while wet prairies occur on slightly higher elevations that remain wet but not flooded. Many moisture-loving flowering plants grow in wet prairies.

Where to visit Marshes and Wet Prairies
- Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area (Indian River County)
- Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (Palm Beach County)
- Everglades National Park (Miami-Dade County)

Maritime Hammock
Maritime hammocks are hardwood forests growing on stable dunes along the coast. In the Southeast Region, tropical trees in maritime hammocks include gumbo limbo, seagrape and stoppers.

Where to visit Maritime Hammock
- Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge (Brevard County)
- Captain Forster Hammock Preserve (Indian River County)
- Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park (St. Lucie County)
- Maggy’s Hammock Park (Martin County)
Bring the beauty of native plants home
Southeast Florida has many beautiful native plant communities. In addition to visiting them, you can bring a bit of natural Florida to your home landscape by planting natives. Here are some easy to grow natives you can enjoy at home. Make sure to choose plants that suit your particular location. These plants will grow well together and are readily available at native plant nurseries in your region.

Beach Dune
Frontal dunes are closest to the water and have plants like sea oats and railroad vine that help hold sand in place. The coastal strand occurs further back, where taller plants like saw palmetto, sea grape, and prickly pear cactus grow. Dune plants are salt tolerant.

Where to visit Beach Dunes
- Barrier Island Sanctuary (Brevard County)
- St. Lucie Inlet State Park (Martin County)
- Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park (Broward County)
- TBD (Palm Beach)
- TBD (Miami-Dade County)

Mangrove Forests
Mangroves grow in areas inundated by tides. Mangrove forest species include red, white, and black mangrove and buttonwood. Red mangrove has distinctive prop roots and grows closest to the water. Mangrove forests protect the coast from waves, storms and flooding.

Where to visit Mangrove Forests
- Thousand Islands Conservation Area (Brevard County)
- Lagoon Greenway (Indian River County)
- Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park (St. Lucie County)
- St. Lucie Inlet State Park (Martin County)
- Florida Keys Wildlife and Environmental Area (Monroe County)

Easy to grow native plants for home landscapes in the Southeast Region

Shady hammock
Canopy trees: Live oak; paradise tree (1), gumbo limbo (2)
Understory: Marlberry (3), Spanish stopper; shiny-leaved wild coffee (4)
Low growing plants: Florida peperomia and coontie (5); southern shield fern (6)

Sunny pollinator garden
Shrubs: Jamaica caper (1); American beautyberry (2); Simpson’s stopper (3); firebush (4); fiddlewood
Low growing plants: Beach verbena, dune sunflower; gaillardia and dotted horsemint (5); tropical sage (6)

Pine flatwoods garden
Canopy trees: South Florida slash pine (1)
Understory: Wax myrtle; saw palmetto (2); gallberry (3); American beautyberry
Low growing plants: Coontie (4); lovegrass (5); wiregrass; tickseed (6)