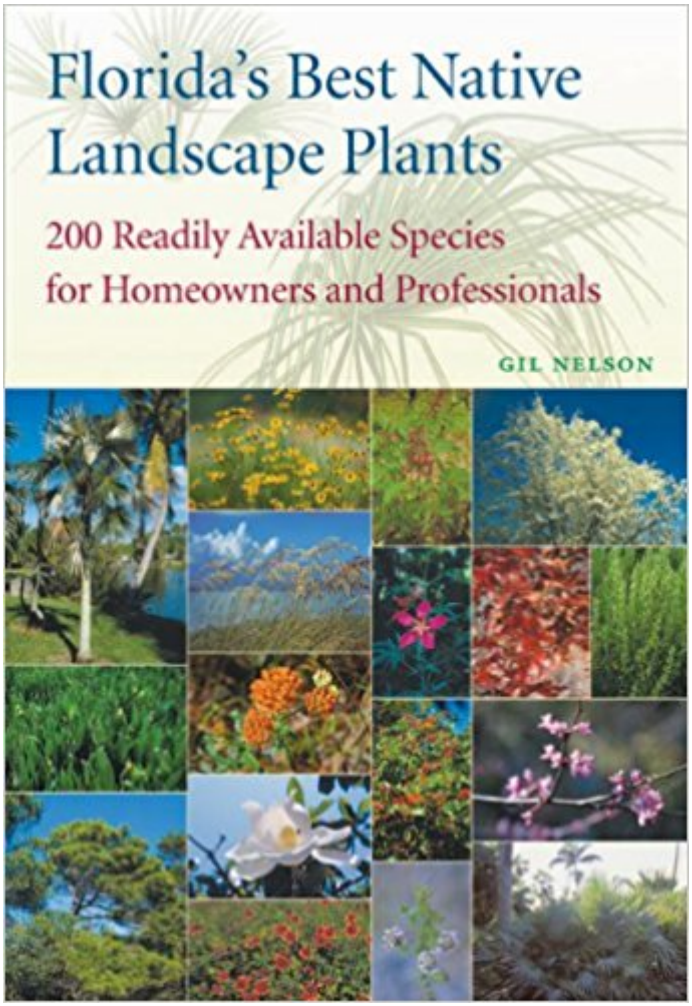
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Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants: 200 Readily Available Species For Homeowners And Professionals



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Synopsis

"This beautifully illustrated book is loaded with practical information that professionals and homeowners will find very useful."--Jeffrey G. Norcini, University of Florida"Gil Nelson's book provides a very good selective overview of native plants readily available in the nursery trade that can be used in landscaping and the best ways to utilize them."--Richard P. Wunderlin, author of Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida and Flora of Florida, Volume 1Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants is an illustrated guide for landscape designers, home gardeners, and restoration professionals. Published in cooperation with the Association of Florida Native Plant Nurseries and the Florida Department of Transportation, it provides technical information on the design and maintenance of native plants that are readily available from the state's native plant nurseries for use in Florida gardening and landscaping. The 200 species were selected for their availability and for their general hardiness, popularity, and ease of use in both commercial and residential landscapes. All are easily found in the native plant trade and will perform well in both home and commercial landscapes.Ã Â Each species profile details size and form, uses for landscaping and/or gardening, best features, range and distribution, physical appearance, culture, best companion plants, allergenic properties, cultivars, and similar species. Each account is illustrated with one or more color photos, over 700 in all, and 180 of them are further illustrated with an original watercolor. An introductory section introduces readers to the importance and benefits of using native plants in landscaping.Ã Â Both federal and state guidelines mandate the incorporation of regional native plants in public site design to the maximum extent possible. Gil Nelson's book provides information for those charged with selecting easy-to-obtain native species for use in state and local parks and along our highwaysÃ¢â ¬â •and assists planners and designers, architects, and homeowners in making educated decisions about native plant selection and use.Gil Nelson is a writer, naturalist, and educator who lives and works in Tallahassee, Florida. He is the author of Ferns of Florida, Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida, Trees of Florida, Exploring Wild Northwest Florida, and Exploring Wild North Florida and coauthor of the National Audubon Society Field Guide to Florida, the National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Southeast, and Florida Wetland Plants.

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Customer Reviews

"Gil Nelson’s book provides a very good selective overview of native plants readily available in the nursery trade that can be used in landscaping and the best ways to utilize them."

As a Northern imigrant gardener to the South Florida eco-system I have found Nelson’s "Florida’s Best Native Landscape Plants" a useful place to meet and get to know the Florida Natives for the following reasons.1. He has narrowed the list to 200 of the most useful plants in Landscaping.2. It is a reference book rather than a text book--using a useful format to describe each plant. The inclusion of a category for companion plants is very helpful in getting the right plant in the right place.3. He presents a useful summary of the wisdom of using native plants--A point that seems so obvious to me but most imigrant gardeners and almost all plant suppliers and nursuries resist.4. The layout of devoting 2 facing pages to each plant and including a close up view, a mid-range view and a full plant photo along with very well done illustrations is unique and very helpful.What would I have liked that isn’t there?1. Foremost the biggest shortcoming is not providing a common name index. I support his decision to arrange by botanical name, and to include common name--but in this day of easily assembled indexing I find it a major shortcoming not to have included the common name index. The result is I need another book to find many of the plants--It is a combersome way to meet the natives--usually introduced by common or nick names. Apart from this shortcoming I would rate it a shiny five star.Less significantly:2. Most of the pictures appear to be taken in a non-homescape or landscape setting and many are not of professional quality2. The format did not include or really allow space for more information on how to care for and use the plant.I find it a useful but insufficient guide to "meeting the Florida natives."

I can never have too many books about planting in Florida. This one is a keeper.

Perfect for my northern florida lake house gardening adventure.

My copy of this book is copyright 2003, and it has a Species by Common Name Index. Maybe it is a later printing. Great book for learning the most commonly available native plants suitable for landscaping in both south and north Florida.

Love the illustrations along with the photos....adds a layer of identifiability when seeing plants in the field.

Probably the best general reference for Florida Native Plants currently available.

Excellent to use as a guide book if you want to garden with natives and have them in your yard

Great native plant book

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