

Grow me in your native garden, I look beautiful with lush purple grasses in the fall. I grow very fast!



Purple Lovegrass

Herbarium Zines
Issue #1

NATIVE PLANTS
OF
SOUTH FLORIDA

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Why am I important:
I'm great at soil erosion control and weed control. I am drought resistant and I can help restore plant community. Birds and other wildlife consume my seeds.

Scientific Name:
Eragrostis spectabilis

Soil preference:
Sandy, acid to alkaline

Plant Communities:
Sandhill, pine flatwoods, coastal uplands

SOURCES

Photos

Istock: Tamara528 (Sea grape)
Chuck Sexton, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC) (Florida privet)
Shutterstock: N.Stertz (Purple lovegrass)

Information

Wunderlin, R. P., & Kish, G. R. (2013). Native Florida plants for drought- and salt-tolerant landscaping. Pineapple Press, Inc.
<https://greg.app/florida-privet-overview/>
<https://usnvc.org/about/plant-communities-and-vegetation-classification/>
<https://www.fnps.org/plant/eragrostis-spectabilis>

What is a plant community?

A "plant community" are a group of plants that can co-exist in a similar environment. To define these communities ecologists look at the structure, form, and species composition.

My lifespan is 20 - 30 years! I'm a great choice if you are looking for privacy in your yard. I'm a natural privacy screen.



Florida Privet

Seagrape



I produce fruit that is edible, although not very tasty. You can make wine and jelly with this fruit. My sap was used for tanning and dyeing.

Why am I important:
I provide nesting and shelter. My nectar and fruit feed insects, birds, and small mammals. My flowers attract the hairstreak butterfly leading to pollination.

Scientific Name:
Forestiera segregata

Soil preference:
Sandy to organic

Plant Communities:
Dunes, costal strand, maritime forests

Scientific Name:
Coccoloba uvifera

Soil preference:
Sandy to organic rich

Plant Communities:
Dunes, costal strand, maritime forests

Why am I important:
I am a natural windbreaker to strong gusts coming from the ocean. This can help protect from hurricane damage. I provide shelter and food to birds and mammals. My flowers feed honey bees!