



PLANT WHAT WORKS

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Mark your calendars!

FNATS

All Native will be attending FNATS in Orlando on September 28-30. Be sure to stop by and check out our natives at booth # 2100!

OCTOBER SEMINAR

All Native will be hosting an educational seminar on native plant use in the landscape on October 6. Check out our website, www.allnativeflora.com, for details.

Native Knowledge

- Pine trees cleanse more air than a broad leaf tree due to the larger surface area of the pine needle.
- Native Americans used Coonties as a medicinal cure to absorb the poison from arrowhead wounds. They also used them as their primary source of starch. Early Florida settlers noted this use and by 1911, Coontie populations spanning from Ft. Lauderdale to Miami were nearly destroyed due to over processing the plant. The flour was used in manufacturing products such as baby food, chocolate, and spaghetti.

Tips for the landscape

- Don't be afraid to over water plants during transplanting and installation. Extra water during these times goes a long way to helping a plant establish itself.
- Mulching around trees can be a benefit as long as the mulching is not directly on the trunk. Mulching should begin from the outside edging of the root ball. This encourages roots to extend outward into the surrounding moist soil, thus establishing the tree

Talk to us!

If you have any questions or comments, or would like a topic to be discussed in our next newsletter send an email to sales@allnativeflora.com!

Eimile Whalen, Director of Sales & Marketing
Rodger Bilbrey, Nursery Manager

All Native's 25 Years in the Making



In 1981, Central Florida Native Flora (CFNF) was founded by Brightman Logan in response to a need for wetland plants for mitigation projects that were mandated by the Clean Water Act. Mr. Logan's background in ecology and interest in horticulture combined to form a Florida based nursery business that dealt exclusively with native plants. As the business began to grow, so did the various services that were being provided including restoration, landscaping, and consulting. Over time, CFNF provided these services for many award winning projects including the Florida Aquarium, Lowry Park Zoo, the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI), and the Tampa Bay Office Park.

In 2000, CFNF ceased its broad range approach and concen-

Rodger's Rants

Rodger Bilbrey, All Native's Nursery Manager

The problem with Florida Grades and Standards were that they were designed primarily to evaluate ornamental plants and do not take into consideration many of the variables of height, width, fullness, and growth habits that many natives possess. As such, counties have become so dependent on these grades and standards but they do not understand the natural growth habits of native material that they are grading. The unrealistic expectations of some native trees to reach a 3" caliper in a 30 or 45 gallon container is nearly impossible. Red-

trated all of it efforts solely to providing quality native plants for the fast growing native plant landscaping market. Development in Florida was on the rise and natural ecosystems were being destroyed and replaced with primarily exotic plant landscapes that typically required continual maintenance, heavy watering, and extensive use of fertilizers and pesticides to maintain them. With the misrepresentation that native plants were undesirable for landscaping, CFNF sought to provide quality plants that would provide lower maintenance, drought tolerance, reduced use of chemicals and aesthetic beauty.

With a company merger underway to join a tree farm and smaller plant material nursery, CFNF was working to create a new name for itself as All Native, LLC. The business plan was simple: provide superior quality plants, increase the volume of plant availability, educate those in the industry with native plant seminars, and become innovators of select plant material.

2005 marked the official name change from Central Florida Native Flora (CFNF) to All Na-

tive, LLC. All Native is the only all native nursery in the state of Florida with its own research and development site. With research, development, and innovation, All Native continues to select material, such as our very own Walter's Viburnum 'Withlacoochee'®, with new selections of trees and shrubs that are soon to follow.

With an experienced and dependable crew, All Native is able to maintain two locations; our tree farm in Dade City and our smaller plant material nursery in Wesley Chapel.

Tracey Roberts, All Native's Office Manager, began in 1999 and has been instrumental in the organization of business affairs. Rodger Bilbrey joined CFNF in 2002 as the nursery manager, overseeing production and well as propagation and research. With a background in plant production since 1978, his knowledge and capabilities continue to be an asset to the company. Eimile Whalen, Director of Sales and Marketing, began with the company in 2005 and is working on future marketing opportunities and expanding relations with new and existing customers.

bud is a primary example. Redbud in a 45 gallon container will typically reach a maximum caliper of 2.5-2.75". By the time the tree reaches the required 3", it becomes root bound, therefore not meeting Florida Grades and Standards and ultimately resulting in the diminished quality of the tree. What needs to be understood is that if a tree is not exactly on caliper or height, it does not mean the tree lacks quality or that it is not healthy. Many times natural growth habits will never conform to what grades and standards ask for. Generally, trees that are grown according to Florida Grades and Standards are placed into parks, parking lots, and home sites and

once planted in the landscape they become neglected. There is a plan in effect that calls for a 25 year trimming process to be done by an arborist to maintain these trees according to Florida Grades and Standards. Once neglected, a tree that was planted, having been grown under Florida Grades and Standards, will return to its natural growth habit. If cities and counties require that it meet these criteria, why not follow through? My question is how many cities, counties, and state entities actually have the funds to do this or will implement this? To be perfectly honest, it defeats the purpose.

Underutilized Plants in the Landscape

When driving through new developments you can't help but notice that the plants used in the landscape look the same everywhere you go. Each development has the same "cookie cutter" look due to overuse of the same plant species. With so many options to choose from and different looks that can be achieved, why not create some diversity?



Winged Elm

A substitution for breaking the Live Oak trend is using the Winged Elm. The Winged Elm offers a perfect solution as a neat and clean shade tree for use in yards, roadsides, and parking lots. The Winged Elm is fast growing, tolerant of many soil condi-

tions, and features unique "wings" on the branches which adds visual interest to any landscape.

Another routinely used landscape plant are Ligustrums. What is overlooked about this plant is that it typically dies as a result of over cutting. This is due to its repeated maintenance as a hedge, ultimately causing the plant to build calluses at the height where it is continuously trimmed. The Walter's Viburnum 'Withlacochee'® eliminates this problem as it is self-pruning and can be maintained as a hedge with as little as three trimmings per year. The superior features of the 'Withlacochee'® include a darker green color, maroon leaves in the winter, showy



'Withlacochee'®

white blooms in the spring, and noticeable uniformity. When looking for smaller material, the Walter's Viburnum 'Riefler's Densa' works well in place of the all too common Indian Hawthorne. The 'Densa' is known for its heavy blooms in the spring and



Sunshine Mimosa

dense growing habit. Blooms will appear again in the winter, although not as heavy.

Many landscapes also regularly call for Asiatic Jasmine to be used as groundcover. Instead, Sunshine Mimosa makes an excellent substitution with its showy flower heads, attractive foliage and ability to grow in full sun and dry conditions.

A Bit of Native Comparison

Loblolly Bay

Gordonia lasianthus

- Large tree that can grow up to 30-60 feet with a spread of 20-30 feet
- Adaptable to most soils and performs best in sunny areas.
- Flowers are a creamy white color the are 3-4 inches wide
- Showy flowers do not produce a fragrance
- Leaves are dark green and leathery with serrated edges, ranging in size from 2-5 inches
- Unique and identifiable features are the older leaves that turn red in the winter
- Useful as a canopy, understory, or specimen tree
- Prefers moist, acid, fertile soil, and full sun to part shade
- Well known for extended blooming season that lasts throughout the summer



Sweetbay Magnolia

Magnolia virginiana

- Large tree that can grow 25-60 feet
- Creamy white flowers are fragrant and showy and measure 3-4 inches across
- Leaves are a darker green and have a silver-colored appearance on the underside hence their nickname 'Silver Bay'
- Leaves have a long and elliptic shape and measure 3-6 inches long.
- Great choice for wet situations such as retention ponds and wet roadsides but cannot be inundated
- Prefers wet, acid soils, but will adapt to well drained soils if kept moist.
- Works best in full sun but performs well in filtered shade.
- Peak blooms are from April to May with sporadic blooming through July.



All Native
Plant what works

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