

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Ideas: Top 5 Drought-Resistant Vines

Florida-Friendly Landscaping

So what exactly is Florida-Friendly Landscaping? It is an integrated approach to landscaping developed by the University of Florida that allows homeowners to design, install, and maintain attractive and environmentally friendly landscapes.

The 9 principles of Florida-friendly landscaping are:

- Choosing the right plant for the right place
- Fertilizing appropriately
- Attracting wildlife
- Recycling yard waste
- Protecting the waterfront
- Watering efficiently
- Using mulch in plant beds
- Managing yard pests responsibly
- Reducing storm water runoff

Vines

A vine is a plant with long stems (woody or herbaceous) which depends on other plants or surfaces for support. Vines get that support by means of tendrils, by twining around another object, by attaching themselves with aerial rootlets, or merely by sprawling over a more rigid plant.

Vines can function in the landscape in many ways. When grown on arbors, they provide "doorways" to homes or transition points from one area of the landscape to another. Vines can be used to soften and add interest to fences, walls and other hard spaces. Vines can be used as living walls that provide privacy and/or screen unsightly views. Narrow plant beds are the perfect spot to "vertically garden" with a vine. Finally, vines provide protective cover and nesting areas for birds, and many flowering vines are rich nectar sources for butterflies and hummingbirds. The following are some particularly tough, colorful, and drought-resistant vines for Central Florida landscapes.

Florida-Friendly Vines

<p>Cross vine (<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>) Optimal Light: Sun Mature Height: varies Light Range: Full/Part Sun Mature Spread: varies Soil Moisture: Well-drained Soil Texture: Any Salt Tolerance: Low Florida Native: Yes Florida Region: N,C,S Hardiness Zone: 6-11 Color: Winter - Spring</p>		<p>Cross vine is a fast-growing native Florida vine. The showy flowers appear in late winter and early spring. They are trumpet-shaped, reddish-orange, and 2"-3" long. Cross vine is one of the first flowers to greet returning hummingbirds in early spring. Cross vine will flourish under a wide variety of conditions, and spread by root sprouting if not managed. Plant together with a trumpet vine, and the hummingbirds will have flame colored tubular flowers from which to feed from early spring throughout the summer.</p>
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Trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*)

Optimal Light: Sun
Mature Height: 40 ft
Light Range: Full/Part Sun
Mature Spread: varies
Soil Moisture: Well-drained
Soil Texture: Any
Salt Tolerance: Low
Florida Native: Yes
Florida Region: N,C,S
Hardiness Zone: 6-10
Color: Summer-Fall



The trumpet creeper is a deciduous woody vine that will grow to 40 feet. The vine's aerial roots that occur along the stems attach tightly to surfaces. Showy clusters of orange to red trumpet-shaped flowers first appear in summer and are produced continuously until early fall. This vine is best used in woodland gardens and natural areas where it has space to grow. It will quickly cover fences and other structures and keeping it in bounds may require some effort -- especially in fertile soils.

Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)

Optimal Light: Sun
Mature Height: varies
Light Range: Sun – Part Sun
Mature Spread: varies
Soil Moisture: Well-drained
Soil Texture: Any
Salt Tolerance: Low
Florida Native: Yes
Florida Region: N,C,S
Hardiness Zone: 4-10
Color: Year-round



Coral honeysuckle is a twining or trailing woody vine that is evergreen or semi-deciduous in mild climates. The flowers are tubular, 2" long, bright orange on the outside and yellow on the inside. Numerous cultivars are available commercially. Coral honeysuckle is easy to grow, and its flashy flowers will attract ruby-throated hummingbirds and butterflies all summer long. Prune in the winter to increase flowering.

Flame vine (*Pyrostegia venusta*)

Optimal Light: Sun
Mature Height: varies
Light Range: Full Sun
Mature Spread: varies
Soil Moisture: Well-drained
Soil Texture: Any
Salt Tolerance: Low
Florida Native: No
Florida Region: C,S
Hardiness Zone: 9-11
Color: Winter-Spring



Flame vine is a vigorous, fast-growing, evergreen woody vine that blooms in winter and spring with spectacular reddish-orange flowers. Flame vine tolerates acidic to alkaline soils. Prune severely after flowering to encourage branching and more flowers next time. The spectacular blooms attract the first returning hummingbirds. Use flame vine to cover an arbor or trellis at the front gate.

Bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea spectabilis*)

Optimal Light: Sun
Mature Height: 10ft-20ft
Light Range: Full/Part Sun
Mature Spread: 6ft-8ft
Soil Moisture: Well-drained
Soil Texture: Any
Salt Tolerance: High
Florida Native: No
Florida Region: C,S
Hardiness Zone: 9-11
Color: Year-round



Bougainvilleas are thorny, woody, vines growing as much as 20' tall. The flower of the plant is small and white, but each cluster of flowers is surrounded by three or six brightly colored bracts. Bougainvilleas are rapid growing and grow best in moist, fertile soil. They grow best in full sun and with frequent fertilization, but the plant requires little water to flower. Bloom cycles are typically four to six weeks.