

Indian Hawthorn



Once a staple in new Gainesville landscaping, Indian Hawthorn has fallen out of favor due to a leaf spot fungal disease that leaves them looking sparse and unsightly. This plant is still commonly used in new commercial landscapes.

MAINTENANCE: Selectively prune lightly, shear infrequently to maintain size. The fungus infects young, tender leaves more readily than older leaves, so try to keep your pruning to a minimum to prevent frequent flushes of fresh leaves.

Coontie Fern



This Florida plant is the only cycad native to North America. The coontie looks like a small fern, and is typically one to three feet tall. It has stiff, glossy, featherlike leaves attached to a thick, short, underground stem. Because of its high drought tolerance and moderate salt tolerance, the coontie is an excellent choice for the coastal landscape. And it's cold-hardy, too. Coonties can be planted in sun or shade.

MAINTENANCE: Trim lower fronds to maintain shape and size. Remove any dead/dying fronds.

Anise (ann-is)



Florida native, anise grows well in sun or shade, but thins out in the shade. Florida anise appreciates rich soil and ample moisture but will easily survive harsher conditions. It is an easy-to-grow, pest-free shrub. Once established it will need watering only during long periods of drought and pruning once a year to maintain its shrub form. It can be pruned and trained into a small, multi-trunked or single-trunked tree.

MAINTENANCE: Shear to maintain desired shape and size.

Pittosporum



Most often seen in its variegated variety, pittosporum is also sometimes seen with dark green leaves. Fast growing, this can be a high maintenance shrub. Clusters of creamy white flowers with a fragrance similar to orange blossoms appear in spring, but they are rarely seen on shrubs because they are frequently pruned off with the regular trimming required to keep the plant in check.

MAINTENANCE: Shear to maintain desired shape and size.

Podocarpus



Podocarpus is very popular as a dense screen or hedge. However, Podocarpus can reach 40 to 50 feet in height when not sheared and is quite attractive as a tree with the lower branches removed, revealing the light brown, peeling bark. If space permits, leave the lower limbs on the tree for an almost spruce-like appearance. The tree grows in an open manner with large spaces between the branches creating a pleasing, irregular oval silhouette in middle and old age.

MAINTENANCE: Shear to desired size and shape.

Mondo grass



This hardy plant, often seen as a ground cover in the dwarf variety is resistant to pests, disease and can be planted in full sun to deep shade. Drought tolerant and very sturdy, this plant will do best in Gainesville with some shade, and is very low maintenance.

MAINTENANCE: Remove dead, if overgrown, dig out clumps to thin.

LM Lead in Training (LM TLIT) – Plant Identification
Aztec grass



Eye-catching grass-like perennial with green and silver variegated foliage. A tough and easy to grow edging for pathways and borders. Adds texture and color contrast in mixed beds or containers. Plant in mass for great effect.

MAINTENANCE: Remove dead by hand raking out. Thin by removing unwanted stalks.

Camelia



Native to Asia, the first camellia plants were brought to America in 1797 and grown in New England greenhouses. Over the last 200 years, they have proven to be dependable additions to the southern landscape, where they grow and bloom with minimal care. There are numerous species of Camellia, but the types commonly grown as landscape shrubs in Florida are *Camellia japonica*, *Camellia sasanqua*, and hybrids of these.

MAINTENANCE: Trim after bloom, tip trim if needed throughout year.

LM Lead in Training (LM TLIT) – Plant Identification
Fashion Azalea



The fashion azalea blooms throughout the year, unlike the formosa azalea which blooms only once per year. Fashion azaleas are also smaller and more compact.

MAINTENANCE: Trim as needed throughout the year to maintain desired shape and size. Thinning cuts are preferable to shearing for this plant.

Nandina



One the left is the Nandina Compacta, the non-invasive variety growing in popularity, and on the right is the more often seen nandina domestica, which is on the invasive plant species list.

MAINTENANCE: Thinning cuts at varying heights to promote growth throughout out plant.