

Discover Forest Wildlife

"In wildness is the preservation of the world"
-Henry David Thoreau

In nature, plants and animals live in a balanced symbiotic relationship each needing the other to survive. In a forest, this happens naturally, but this can be mimicked elsewhere. In order to attract a certain animal, all you have to do is plant the right plant.

Florida native plants that attract wildlife:

(1) Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) - A vital food source for several varieties of butterfly, including Tiger Swallowtails and Monarchs, whose caterpillars feed solely on the Milkweed plant.

(1a.) Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)
(1b.) Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucas*)

(2) Firebush (*Hamelia patens*) - Serving as a shelter for butterflies, the Firebush is also a food source for other wildlife, including the Ruby Throated Hummingbird.

(2a.) Ruby Throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)

(3) Passionvine (*Passiflora incarnata*) - The toxic nature of the vine's nectar makes the butterfly poisonous to any predators. This is a system of defense for the Zebra Butterfly and Gulf Fritillary.

(3a.) Zebra Butterfly (*Heliconius charitonius*)
(3b.) Gulf Fritillary (*Augralis vanillae incarnata*)

Other Florida native plants:

(4) Florida Privet (*Forestiera segregata*)

(5) Yellow Necklacedpod (*Sophora tomentosa*)

(6) Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

(7) Lantana (*Lantana involucrata*)

(8) Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia pulchella*)

(9) Simpson Stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*)

(10) Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)

(11) Shield Fern (*Thelypteris* spp.)

