Welcome to the Teaching Garden at the University of Florida, Plant City

The Teaching Garden is an arboretum and collection of gardens. Enter through the arboretum and walk down paths lined with native and flowering trees. Further on, themed garden beds showcase plants that perform well in Central Florida. While created as a teaching resource, a visit to the garden provides ideas and inspiration for anyone interested in gardening or landscaping.

Location & Visiting Hours

The UF/HCC Teaching Garden is located at 1200 North Park Road, Plant City, FL, 33563-1540. Visiting hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Guided tours are available by appointment. For further information, call 813-757 2286. A virtual tour of the garden and more information about the plants is available at our website at: http://gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu/pcc/teachinggarden.htm.

Driving Directions

From Tampa and west: I-4 East to Exit 22, then south (right) on Park Road to E. Cherry Street. Left on Cherry St., turn right at first driveway. Parking and the garden entrance will be on the left.

From Lakeland and east: I-4 West to Exit 22, then south (left) on Park Road to E. Cherry Street. Left on Cherry St., turn right at first driveway. Parking and the garden entrance will be on the left.

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

Most of the native grasses and groundcovers in the arboretum were provided by the NRCS, whose mission is to use native plants to help solve natural resource issues such as erosion and conservation.
1. Arboretum
Take a few minutes to explore the variety of shade and flowering trees in the arboretum.

2. Entry Gardens
This bed includes plants that bloom or have interesting textures or forms. Rest in the gazebo and enjoy the sound of trickling water.

3. Sun to Shade Garden
Plants in this area tolerate the differing light conditions found in most landscape settings. As the oak trees mature, the plants will adapt to shade.

4. Florida Native Plants
Native plants attract wildlife and help preserve Florida’s natural beauty.

5. Moss Arbor
Spanish moss provides shade for these tender plants.

6. Grass and Grass-like Plants
Grasses add architectural interest and are generally low maintenance plants. Notice the movement and sound as the grasses sway in the breeze.

7. Butterfly/Hummingbird Gardens
Nectar-rich plants that attract butterflies and hummingbirds are planted here, along with “host” plants that provide food for butterfly larvae.

8. Water-wise Garden
These durable and attractive plants tolerate full sun and are drought tolerant.

9. A “Fence” Garden
Ideas for landscaping along a fence are offered here.

10. Tropical Plants
Notice the colorful blooms and foliage of tropical favorites that thrive in this area of the garden.

11. Low Maintenance Roses
Twelve “old” and “modern” roses are planted here to rate their performance under low maintenance.

12. The Vinery
Vines provide a vertical dimension to the garden. Using vines with different blooming times insures color most of the year.

13. Perennial Gardens
A long border of student gardens contain layers of colorful perennials.

14. Vegetables
Alternative vegetable growing methods are demonstrated in this area.

In cooperation with the Southern Bulb Company, the Teaching Garden is evaluating the performance of certain bulbs not commonly grown in Florida.