

For Immediate Release

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This year the Florida Wildflower Foundation completed spring, summer and fall surveys of naturally occurring wildflowers along the five-county St. Johns to the Sea Loop trail (Putnam, Volusia, Brevard, Flagler and St. Johns counties), which will soon become the state's first Wildflower Trail.

In 2010, the Foundation plans to survey other wildflower-profuse areas in the Panhandle and in North, Central and South Florida in 2010. The surveys will identify showy areas of native wildflowers in order to document species and suggest management practices. This research also will help us promote Florida's native wildflowers as economic and intrinsic community assets.

First, though, we need assistance to find wildflower-profuse sites throughout the state. Here's how you can help:

1. Send the approximate locations of any showy stands of **roadside** or **trailside** (paved bike or foot path) native wildflowers you've seen in Florida during spring, summer and/or fall.
2. Include the scientific name of the plant species if you know it (the common name is fine). If you don't know it, describe the flowering plants' characteristics (i.e., color, height, growth habit, etc.).
3. Include the road's name, as well as a nearby intersection or another landmark that will help us locate the site.
4. Include the region (as defined by the geographic areas outlined below) and the city and/or county in which the site occurs.
5. Mention the approximate date of the sighting. If the date is unknown, please include the season.
6. Describe the habitat in general terms (i.e., wet ditch, sand dune, pine forest, etc.).
7. If you know of **public lands** (state, national, city and county parks; water management district holdings, etc.) that have great native wildflower displays, please share their names, locations, species seen and the dates of blooming.
8. If your garden or civic club has **planted roadside or trailside native wildflowers**, please send the planting's location and species list.
9. Submit digital photos of your sighting if you have them.

Information should be emailed to wildflower.research@gmail.com by Dec. 1.

Geographic areas by county

Panhandle: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Jackson, Washington, Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Gadsden, Liberty, Franklin, Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson.

North Florida: Madison, Hamilton, Columbia, Baker, Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Flagler, Putnam, Clay, Marion, Alachua, Levy, Bradford, Union, Gilchrist, Dixie, Lafayette, Suwannee, Taylor.

Central Florida: Citrus, Sumter, Lake, Volusia, Seminole, Brevard, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Pasco, Hillsborough, Hernando, Sumter, Citrus, Manatee, Hardee, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Indian River, De Soto, Sarasota.

South Florida: Charlotte, Glades, Martin, Lee, Hendry, Palm Beach, Collier, Broward, Dade, Monroe.