

## The Connect to Protect Network:

### Maintaining curb appeal with pine rockland plants



Due to the extreme rarity of Miami's native pine rockland flora and fauna, CTPN encourages Miami residents to plant native pine rockland plants around their homes, schools, and businesses. However, we understand that, especially with your home, "curb appeal" is almost always a consideration, and not all residents wish to create a "wild" or "natural" looking garden. Although examples of pine rockland plants in formal landscaping are few and far between, it can be done!

Connect to Protect has compiled some Dos and Don'ts for incorporating more native pine rockland plants into your landscaping without sacrificing curb appeal:

- **DON'T** feel that you have to get rid of all non-natives if you don't want to. If you love frangipani or hibiscus, consider framing it with more subtle native foliage such as necklace pod, firebush, or Florida privet. Some native plants are better than none!
- **DO** use natives for hedges. Many of our small native trees make wonderful hedges that are disease-resistant, easy to maintain, and attractive. Trees native to rockland hammocks such as Jamaica caper, myrtle-of-the-river, crabwood, and others make excellent hedge rows.
- **DO** have a plan. Model your yard after a planting you like, or get advice from experts in horticulture and/or design.
- **DO** retain some lawn (or mulched areas) if it is important to you or to your neighborhood. For example, strips of lawn leading up to a front door may be a compromise between a typical lawn and a natural one. Patches of lawn or mulch can also define eye-pleasing paths, edges, or seating areas.
- **DO** keep structure in mind. Group plants by form (herbs/shrubs/trees) to create structural interest. Or, as expert Doug Tallamy suggests<sup>1</sup>, create "rooms"
- **DO** remember the cardinal rule of putting the right plant in the right place. To learn about a species' needs, visit the "[Natives for your Neighborhood](#)" website of The Institute for Regional Conservation.
- **DO** visit a native plant nursery and talk to the vendors. There is nothing like seeing a plant in person and talking to the experts.

Some of our favorite pine rockland plants with plenty of curb appeal are shown below. Visit us online for tips on where to find native plants: [www.fairchildgarden.org/science-conservation/connect-to-protect-network](http://www.fairchildgarden.org/science-conservation/connect-to-protect-network)  
Photos with an asterisk (\*) are from the IRC's Natives for your Neighborhood website.



**Beautyberry**  
(*Callicarpa americana*)



**Privet senna \***  
(*Senna ligustrina*)



**Prickly pear**  
(*Opuntia humifusa*)



**Firebush \***  
(*Hamelia patens*)



**Yellowtop \***  
(*Flaveria linearis*)



**Blazingstar**  
(*Liatris* spp.)



**Coontie**  
(*Zamia pumila*)



**Florida gama grass**  
(*Tripsacum floridanum*)



**Silver palm**  
(*Coccothrinax argenteata*)

<sup>1</sup> Tallamy, DW. 2009. Bringing Nature Home. Timber Press.

<sup>2</sup> Burghardt, KT, DW Tallamy and WG Shriver. 2008. Impact of native plants on bird and butterfly biodiversity in suburban landscapes. Conservation Biology 23(1):219-224.