

CATEGORY: FLORIDA GARDENING & PLANTS

Florida Wildlife and Insect Identification | Gardening for Wildlife

Many resources are available for Florida wildlife and insect identification. Many are free and downloadable, available online. The University of Florida, the land-grant university in the state, has published many of these. Gardening for wildlife, always an important topic and of interest to Florida residents and visitors, focuses on sustaining wildlife within healthy habitats be they butterflies, bees, snakes, insects or reptiles.

Refer to Florida Gardening & Plants category in the Resource Hub and its sections on Florida Gardening Resources – Overview, Edible Gardening in Florida, Ethnobotany, Ornamental Landscaping, and Safe Plants Lists/Poisonous Plants.

Wildlife and Insect Identification

[**Florida Butterfly Caterpillars & Host Plants**](#) – Printable field guide

[**Florida Wildflowers & Butterflies**](#) – Printable field guide

[**Florida’s Bee Species of Greatest Conservation Need**](#) – ID guide and factsheet

[**Florida snake ID guide**](#) – Online, interactive resource

[**Florida amphibian & reptile ID**](#) – Online picture guides, frog call audio

[**Venomous Snakes of Florida**](#) – Online pictures and facts

[**Recognizing Florida’s Venomous Snakes**](#) - Factsheet

[**Hummingbirds of Florida**](#) - Factsheet

[**Florida wildlife field guides**](#) – Printable field guides for spiders, pollinators, birds

[**University of Florida IFAS County Extension office Plant Clinics**](#) - Insect, animal, plant identification assistance

[**University of Florida Insect ID Lab**](#) – Send in samples for identification

[**iNaturalist app**](#) – Identifies plants and animals; log sightings; find out what lives in your location

[**Brilliant Butterflies: A Guide to Spotting, Observing and Sharing Sightings on iNaturalist**](#) - Factsheet

Printed Guides Available for Purchase:

Bartlett, RD. & Bartlett, P. (2003). **Florida’s snakes: A guide to their identification and habits.** University Press of Florida

Florida butterflies & pollinators – A folding pocket guide to familiar species. Waterford Press.

Identification guide to the frogs of Florida SP468. [University of Florida](#)

Gardening for Wildlife

[**Butterfly Gardening in Florida**](#) - Factsheet

[**Landscaping Backyards for Wildlife: Top Ten Tips for Success**](#) - Factsheet

Gardening with wildlife articles

Native Plants for Pollinators & Beneficial Insects: Florida – Xerces Society plant list

Books

Daniels, J. (2022). *Your Florida guide to butterfly gardening: A guide for the deep south, (2nd ed.)*. University Press of Florida.

Daniels, J. (2024). *Caterpillars of North America*. Adventure Publications.

Fleming Hayes, R. (n.d.). *Pollinator friendly gardening*. Voyageur Press.

Hammer, R.L. (2015). *Attracting hummingbirds and butterflies in tropical Florida*. University Press of Florida.

Huegel, C. (2010). *Native plant landscaping for Florida wildlife*. University Press of Florida.

Mader, E., Shepherd, M., Vaughan, M., & Black, S. (2011). *Attracting native pollinators* (Xerces Society Guide). Storey Publishing.

Written & compiled by Jessica Sullivan, Lesley Fleming, Morgan Whitaker Smith, Susan Morgan, & Siang Yu Tham Feb. 2022; revised in 2025 & 2026 by Jessica Sullivan, Lesley Fleming & Joanna Brown.