
FYI



FRONT YARD INITIATIVE

Plant List

About the Urban Conservancy

Since 2001, the **Urban Conservancy** (UC) has catalyzed equitable practices and policies related to land use and the local economy through education, research and advocacy. We promote sustainable solutions to New Orleans' distinct land use needs through community, K-12, and neighborhood-level engagement. We work with partners to devise systems (of thought, of engineering, of urban design) that wisely manage the water that falls on our sinking, flood-prone, coastal city and educate the public about ways they can help in efforts to increase New Orleans' long-term resilience.

Our Projects

The **Front Yard Initiative** (FYI) is the UC's paving removal incentive program designed to improve New Orleans' safety, stormwater management, and aesthetics while growing the green sector.

Building Active Stewardship in New Orleans (BASIN) is the UC's program for school-aged children to introduce them to the vocabulary, concepts, and skills required to promote the wise stewardship of our urban built environment and participate in our growing network of green sector professionals.

StayLocal (SL) is Greater New Orleans' independent business alliance. SL Creates an environment for local businesses to thrive through research, education, and advocacy. UC also hosts a 6CE hour workshop, *Opportunities for Contractors in Stormwater Management*, as well as educational forums.

The Front Yard Initiative (FYI) Plant List is built on a broad base of community knowledge and is intended as a resource for all New Orleans residents.



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WELCOME

Dear FYIers,

We created this plant list as a guide to help **Front Yard Initiative (FYI)** participants choose plants best suited for their 'gray to green' projects. We saw guide after green infrastructure guide recommending that projects use native plants, but didn't offer any suggestions. We knew that if we wanted to see more native plants included in our FYI projects, we'd have to make the list ourselves. By driving demand for native plants, we're able to promote the wise stewardship of the urban built environment, a key part of the Urban Conservancy's mission.

New Orleans is known for its distinctive architecture. You look around and know exactly where you are, and New Orleanians are happy to contribute to that sense of place with their brightly painted shotgun houses, ornate cast iron fences, and other unique design details. We take pride in our individuality. Shouldn't residents be given the option to communicate this sense of place through their choice of landscaping as well?

The trouble is, you can't get many of these native options at big box stores; their selection is dictated by national trends, and their quality is questionable (think pollinator plants sprayed with pesticides). Instead we rely on our local businesses to supply something special, something that gives back to our urban fabric. Native plants are well suited to respond to our specific environment: immense amounts of rain mixed with intense heat. New Orleans' year-round growing season means plants that seem tame elsewhere grow wild and lush here; it also means invasive plants grow out of control. Hyacinth takes over waterways; Cat's Claw can tear down buildings. Many of us have experienced fighting with a neighbor's bamboo or a stand of banana trees taking over the yard. Nature doesn't respect fence lines! To keep the balance, we must be good stewards and thoughtfully work with our environment.

Recent flooding and a rapidly changing climate have shown us we need to make smarter, more sustainable choices to keep New Orleans livable. When it comes to water, we have to slow it down, spread it out, and soak it in. Choosing the right plants goes a long way toward creating a hard-working, low maintenance landscape that can help us do just that. Most plants on our list love 'wet feet' and thrive in an environment meant to hold water for periods of time (though not for more than 72 hours: sorry, mosquitos!). These same plants are also favored by wildlife. Native plants like the Pawpaw tree and Milkweed are the only food source for the Zebra Swallowtail and Monarch butterflies, respectively. Mulberry is a birder's best friend. We welcome you to dive a little deeper into your gardening choices and discover the multifaceted benefits native plants offer our fragile ecosystem. Turn the page to discover beautiful, attainable options for your own front yard!

Happy planting!

Felice Lavergne
FYI Project Manager



SHADE TREES



Prickly Ash

Zanthoxylum clava-herculis

Light: Full Sun

Height: 36 - 72 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Pond Cypress

Taxodium ascendens

Light: Full Sun

Height: 70 - 80 Feet

Maintenance: Low



American Beech

Fagus grandiflora

Light: Partial Shade - Shade

Height: 50 - 80 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



White Oak

Quercus alba

Light: Full Sun - Partial Shade

Height: 100+ Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Bald Cypress

Taxodium distichum

Light: Sun - Partial Shade

Height: 50 - 75 Feet

Maintenance: Low



American Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis

Light: Full Sun - Shade

Height: 75 - 100 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Southern Catalpa

Catalpa bignonioides

Light: Partial Shade

Height: 25 - 40 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Swamp Red Maple

Acer rubrum drummondii

Light: Full Sun - Partial Shade

Height: 40 - 60 Feet

Maintenance: Low

SMALL TREES



Yaupon

Ilex vomitoria

Light: Full Sun - Shade

Height: 12 - 45 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Two-wing Silverbell

Halesia diptera

Light: Partial Shade

Height: 3 - 15 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



American Hornbeam

Carpinus caroliniana

Light: Partial Shade - Shade

Height: 20 - 35 Feet

Maintenance: Low



River Birch

Betula nigra

Light: Partial Shade

Height: 30 - 50 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Roughleaf Dogwood

Cornus drummondii

Light: Partial Shade - Shade

Height: 12 - 16 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Sweetbay Magnolia

Magnolia virginiana

Light: Full Sun - Partial Shade

Height: 12 - 35 Feet

Maintenance: Low



White Fringetree

Chionanthus virginicus

Light: Partial Shade

Height: 15 - 30 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Eastern Red Cedar

Juniperus virginiana

Light: Full Sun

Height: 30 - 65 Feet

Maintenance: Low

SHRUBS



Scarlet Hibiscus

Hibiscus coccineus

Light: Full Sun

Height: 3 - 6 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Soldier Mallow

Hibiscus militaris

Light: Full Sun - Partial Shade

Height: 4 - 6 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



American Beautyberry

Callicarpa americana

Light: Partial Shade

Height: 3 - 6 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Muhly Grass

Muhlenbergia capillaris

Light: Full Sun

Height: 1 - 3 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Turk's Cap

Malvaviscus arboreus var.

Drummondii

Light: Partial Shade - Shade

Height: 3 - 6 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Dwarf Palmetto

Sabal minor

Light: Full Sun - Shade

Height: 3 - 6 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Arrowwood

Viburnum dentatum

Light: Full Sun - Partial Shade

Height: 5- 12 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Dwarf Waxmyrtle

Morella cerifera

Light: Full Sun - Partial Shade

Height: 3 - 6 Feet

Maintenance: Low

SMALL FLOWERING PLANTS



Spider Lily

Hymenocallis liriosme

Light: Full Sun - Partial Shade

Height: 1 - 3 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Louisiana Iris

Iris louisiana

Light: Full Sun - Partial Shade

Height: 0 - 1 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Blue-eyed Grass

Sisyrinchium angustifolium

Light: Full Sun

Height: 1.5 - 2 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Crinum Lily

Crinum americanum

Light: Partial Shade

Height: 2 - 3 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Cardinal Flower

Lobelia cardinalis

Light: Full Sun - Shade

Height: 3 - 6 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Coneflower

Rudbeckia maxima

Light: Full Sun - Partial Shade

Height: 3 - 6 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Swamp Milkweed

Asclepias incarnata

Light: Full Sun

Height: 4 - 5 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Stokes Aster

Stokesia laevis

Light: Full Sun - Partial Shade

Height: 1 - 3 Feet

Maintenance: Low

EDIBLES



Wild Plum

Prunus americana

Category: Small Tree

Light: Full Sun - Partial Shade

Height: 15 - 25 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Pecan

Carya illinoinensis

Category: Large Tree

Light: Full Sun

Height: 70 - 100 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Black Walnut

Juglans nigra

Category: Large Tree

Light: Full Sun - Partial Shade

Height: 72 - 100 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Persimmon

Diospyros virginiana

Category: Large Tree

Light: Partial Shade

Height: 36 - 72 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Mexican Plum

Prunus mexicana

Category: Small Tree

Light: Full Sun - Partial Shade

Height: 15 - 25 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Sand Blackberry

Rubus cuneifolius

Category: Shrub

Light: Partial Shade

Height: 3 - 4 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Elderberry

Sambucus nigra

Category: Shrub

Light: Full Sun - Partial Shade

Height: 5- 12 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Red Mulberry

Morus rubra

Category: Small Tree

Light: Full Sun - Full Shade

Height: 12 - 36 Feet

Maintenance: Medium

PLANTS OF INTEREST



Maypop Vine

Passiflora incarnata

Light: Full Sun - Partial Shade

Length: up to 25 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Wood Fern

Thelypteris kunthii

Light: Partial Shade - Shade

Height: 1 - 3 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Pawpaw

Asimina triloba

Light: Full Sun

Height: 15 - 20 Feet

Maintenance: Medium



Cinnamon Fern

Osmunda cinnamomea

Light: Full Sun - Shade

Height: 3 - 6 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Soapwort

Saponaria officinalis

Light: Full Sun - Partial Shade

Height: 1 - 2 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Royal Fern

Osmunda regalis

Light: Partial Shade - Shade

Height: 2 - 5 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Virginia Chain Fern

Woodwardia virginica

Light: Partial Shade

Height: 2 - 3 Feet

Maintenance: Low



Sensitive Fern

Onoclea sensibilis

Light: Partial Shade - Shade

Height: 1 - 3 Feet

Maintenance: Medium

GET INVOLVED

The **Front Yard Initiative** (FYI) is an incentive program that reimburses eligible homeowners for removing pavement from their property.

The **Urban Conservancy** can connect you with professionals, volunteers, and other resources that can help make the gray-to-green transformation as affordable and effective as possible.

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