

Animals Use Plants Everywhere!

Here in Southeast Florida, we have a climate that is pleasant not only for us humans, but for many species of plant as well. Some grow here naturally, or are **native** plants, and some come from far away, or **exotic or non-native** plants. Once here, plants can be seen all over: on your street, parks, farms, gardens, grocery stores, and inside our homes, where they are used for many different purposes. Some plants are for eating, some for **habitat**, some for making objects like clothes and furniture, some for looking at their beauty, and some for keeping nature healthy. Many times we are using plants without many of us even knowing it!

Activity: Plant Search Challenge

Challenge yourself to look for as many plants as you can! Look through windows, in your kitchen, and in your closet! Here are some ideas to get started:

- Trees for beauty, shade, and habitat!
- Fruits and vegetables for eating such as oranges, broccoli, potatoes, pasta from wheat, olive oil and more!
- Wood for building homes, tools, furniture, floors, guitars and baseball bats!
- Paper for books, cups, bags, straws, and many more!
- Flowering plants for beauty and habitat for bees, butterflies, and other **pollinators!**
- House plants for beauty and cleaning indoor air!
- Cotton in clothes, towels, cushions
- Aquatic plants like wetland grasses, water lilies, and mangroves that provide home for animals and clean up water pollution!
- Dune grasses and Sea grape at the beach to prevent **erosion**, or the movement of material away, in this case sand from the dune.



Plus so many other creative uses!

How many can you find?

Add to the list below what plants you see all around you!

	What type of plant do you see?	How is it being used?
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		



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- Georgialh (16 December 2014), *Oat grass (Uniola paniculata) on a sand dune crest at John U. Lloyd Beach State Park, Florida*. Accessed 10 May 2020. This file is licensed under the Creative Common Attribution 3.0 Unported License. Retrieved from: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c1/Oat_grass_%28Uniola_paniculata%29_in_Florida.jpg
- Orange Juice Picture is USDA Public Domain. Retrieved from: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5a/Oranges_and_orange_juice.jpg
- Stierch, Sarah (14 May 2019), *Thai Iced Tea in a paper cup and paper straw from E-Saan Thai House in Sonoma, California*. Accessed 10 May 2020. This file is licensed under the [Creative Common Attribution 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). Retrieved From: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/29/E-saan_thai_house_-_Stierch_-_May_2019.jpg