Coastal Gardening

Today on Gardening in a Minute: coastal gardening.

More than three-quarters of Florida’s population live in coastal counties. Coastal gardening requires a little extra planning to combat the winds; sandy high-pH soils; and inescapable salt.

The most important thing you can do for your coastal landscape is choose salt-tolerant plants, especially if you live within one-eighth of a mile of the coast.

Native plants already growing in your landscape should be protected, as they’re naturally adapted to coastal conditions.

For new plantings, choose salt-tolerant species. These include vines such as bougainvillea, groundcovers like sea oats, and shrubs such as the wax myrtle.

Create wind screens with fences, sturdy shrubs, and tree groupings to protect your landscape plants from high winds, making your landscape your own little oasis!

For more information on coastal gardening and other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida IFAS Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.