Florida Ecosystems

Today on Gardening in a Minute: Florida ecosystems.

Florida is a biologically rich state with many different kinds of ecosystems, some found nowhere else in the U.S.

Coral reefs, dunes, saltwater marshes, and mangroves are all found along the coast.

Further inland, some Floridians live near wetlands like freshwater marshes, which typically have an open expanse of grasses and standing water. Freshwater swamps are wooded wetlands, with trees such as cypress, sweet gum, or oak. Wetlands act as natural water filters.

Hardwood hammocks are thick stands of trees, and scrubs contain mostly pine, oaks, and saw palmetto. Pinelands are the most common plant communities in Florida.

Knowing the ecosystems in your area can help you figure out what types of plants to use in your landscape and what kinds of wildlife you can attract.

For more information about Florida ecosystems, 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’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.