

# Add Fall Color to Your Yard



**Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)** In the fall, the bright purple berries of the Beautyberry stand out in any garden. Beautyberry is a deciduous shrub that will grow to about six feet tall. This weepy, informal shrub can be grown in part-sun or shade gardens, woodland gardens, natural areas, and in bird and butterfly gardens. Combine Beautyberry with evergreen shrubs.

**Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaries*)** This is one of the most attractive fall-blooming plants in Florida. It produces showy purple/pink blooms that rise above the grass. Muhly Grass is drought-tolerant and grows three to four feet tall and wide. Combine Muhly grass with Goldenrod, Beach Sunflower, and other perennials. It is also attractive when combined with evergreen shrubs.



**Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*)** In fall, when ragweed is shedding its pollen to the wind, goldenrod is conspicuously blooming in many of the same fields. Because of this, goldenrod is often wrongly accused of being the cause of ragweed-induced hay fever. They are great fall perennial flowering plants that provide essential nectar for migrating butterflies and are great in wildflower arrangements. Plant in full to mostly sunny sites.

**Blazing Star (*Liatris chapmanii*)** This plant occurs nearly statewide in scrub and sandhill habitats. Most specimens do not get taller than 3 feet. Chapman's Blazing Star is a very attractive addition to a mixed wildflower planting, but it absolutely requires well-drained sandy soils to persist. Soils that hold water around the corm for too long will cause the corms to rot. Give it plenty of sunlight also. The erect showy flowers attract butterflies and pollinators.



## **Silky Golden Aster (*Pityopsis graminifolia*)**

This is a low-growing perennial. The silver-green foliage is a nice contrast to the yellow flowers of the plant. This is a tough native plant that can be combined with other wildflowers and perennials, ornamental grasses and native drought-tolerant shrubs.

**Lopsided Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum secundum*)** The golden multi-colored seed heads of this perennial bunchgrass are showy in the fall breeze and have inspired jewelry art. It needs well drained soils in full sun for natural landscapes, habitat restorations, and wildflower gardens.



Photos from University of Florida IFAS.

In addition, consider **Starry Rosinflower**, **Joe Pye Weed**, **Narrow-leaf Sunflower**, and **Climbing Aster** for great fall color and essential nectar for migrating butterflies.