

Application for Louisiana Certified Habitat Program

A project of the Louisiana Native Plant Society

<https://www.lnps.org/louisiana-certified-habitat>

The Louisiana Native Plant Society and its chapters and partners invite Louisiana residents, businesses, schools, and public institutions to certify their outdoor space as native habitat, which requires plants native to our region. Native plants form the base of all habitat types and natural ecosystems. They provide food and shelter for native wildlife, including birds and pollinators.



Eligibility: Any Louisiana resident, school, organization or business may apply.

This application is for **Southcentral Louisiana** parishes: *Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, and Tangipahoa*. **Applying from another parish?**

Visit <https://www.lnps.org/louisiana-certified-habitat>

* Email scan or pdf to hilltop@lsu.edu and pay at the Application Fee button at www.lsu.edu/hilltop.

* OR mail a copy of your application with payment to: Friends of Hilltop Arboretum, PO Box 82608, Baton Rouge, LA 70884

* Cost is \$45. Current Hilltop members get 10% discount, \$40.

Process: Once your application and payment are received, a representative from your area will contact you about the vetting process and may schedule a visit. If your space meets the criteria, your garden sign will be delivered. If not, your application fee will be returned.

Last Name	First Name(s)	Site address	City	Zip

Parish	Email	Phone	Hilltop member?	LNPS member?

Optional: I am applying on behalf of _____ school/company/office

Optional: Mailing address, if different from site: _____

☐ I give permission for this address to be included on a map of all certified sites in Louisiana

☐ I give permission for the general location, but not address, to be included on a map of all certified sites in Louisiana

☐ I would like to learn more about having my site included on a native garden tour.

☐ I have shared inspiring images of my site on iNaturalist or elsewhere. Describe _____

I am applying for

☐ Bronze: 25 different native plant species or 25% of the plants on this site are native.

☐ Silver: 50 different native plant species or 50% of the plants on this site are native.

☐ Gold: 75 different native plant species or 75% of the plants on this site are native.

An upgrade in certification is available at no additional charge once the required criteria are met. A decal for your sign will be mailed to you.

Tell us about your property

Describe your site. Urban, traditional subdivision, rural, something else? Does it have residual prairie, forest, or wetland elements? What motivated your decisions to conserve or restore your site? How did you decide what to include, when did you begin, what observations have been significant for you? Has your site already been certified by another organization? (National Wildlife Federation, Monarch Watch, Xerces)
(~250 words. This text may be used in the directory).

Best Practices for Gardening for Habitat

per National Wildlife Federation, Audubon, Xerces Society

Certification does not require compliance with all of them. We recognize that every property and family have special land uses and preferences.

I adhere to the following best practices related to gardening for habitat:

___ In addition to the diverse foods provided by native plants (nectar, leaves, seeds, fruit), I recognize that healthy habitats also provide water and shelter. Water sources can be birdbaths, misters, or naturally wet areas. Shelter and nesting material are provided by unmown thicket and fallen branches.

___ To put the greatest area into the service as habitat, I mow the part of my lawn or property that my family/organization uses. To conserve ground-nesting pollinators, I keep my mower blade height set high (about 4 inches), and I leave dried grass and leaves in place through winter when possible.

___ I rarely use herbicides and insecticides except to spot manage invasive plants or destructive insects. I do not use mosquito repellant systems, nor do I use weed killer liberally in ditches and edging, as these chemicals harm other insects and helpful plants and end up in our watershed.

___ I rarely leave soil bare and vulnerable to erosion and weeds. Instead, I use native plants as ground cover or mulch with leaves, recycled yard waste (e.g. public compost), or responsibly sourced material such as pine bark or pine straw, not purchased, bagged cypress mulches whose sources cannot be verified.

___ I do not actively propagate Tier 1 invasive plants on my site and when possible take action to control their spread. Five top offenders are Chinese tallow tree (chicken tree), Chinese privet, Japanese honeysuckle, Elephant ear, and Yellow flag iris.

Feel free to explain special circumstances for your property: _____

Your property may qualify for special assistance

Does your site contain any rare plant or animal species? ____ If yes, your site may qualify for additional protection from the state and for higher level certification from us or the Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries' Natural Heritage Program.

Is your site being restored to natural habitat from agricultural or other use? ____ If yes, contact US Fish and Wildlife Service or USDA Soil Conservation District for possible government assistance in your restoration

The following is a checklist of ecologically important Gulf Coast native plants commonly found or used in Louisiana landscapes. If you have a Gulf Coast native plant that is not on the list, please add it (common and/or scientific name if known) in the space provided at the end of these listings.

Native Woody Plants (trees, shrubs, woody vines)

	Common name	Scientific name
	Acacia, Sweet	<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>
	Alder, Black/Hazel	<i>Alnus rugosa</i>
	Allspice, Carolina/ Sweet Shrub	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>
	Ashes, Native	<i>Fraxinus spp.</i>
	Ash, Green	<i>F. pennsylvanicum</i>
	Ash, Carolina	<i>F. caroliniana</i>
	Ash, Pumpkin	<i>F. profunda</i>
	Ash, White	<i>F. americana</i>
	Azalea, Pink	<i>Rhododendron canescens</i>
	Azalea, Florida Flame	<i>Rhododendron austrinum</i>
	Anise, Star	<i>Illicium floridanum</i>
	Anise, Yellow/Florida	<i>Illicium parviflorum</i>
	Azalea, Florida Flame	<i>Rhododendron austrinum</i>
	Azalea, Pink	<i>Rhododendron canescens</i>
	Azalea, White	<i>Rhododendron serrulatum, viscosum, oblongifolium</i>
	Baccharis/ Groundsel Bush	<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>
	Baccharis, Salt- marsh	<i>B. angustifolia</i>
	Bayberry, Southern	<i>Morella carolinensis</i>
	Beautyberry, American	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>
	Beautyberry, American, White	<i>C. americana 'Lactea'</i>
	Beech, American	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>
	Blackberries/ Dewberries	<i>Rubus spp.</i>
	Birch, River	<i>Betula nigra</i>
	Blueberries	<i>Vaccinium spp.</i>
	Boxelder	<i>Acer negundo</i>
	Buckeye, Bottlebrush	<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>
	Buckeye, Red	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>
	Buckthorn, Carolina/Indian Cherry	<i>Frangula caroliniana</i>
	Buckwheat Tree/Black Titi	<i>Cliftonia monophylla</i>
	Bumelia, Gum	<i>Bumelia lanuginosa</i>
	Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>

	Camellia, Silky	<i>Stewartia malacodendron</i>
	Catalpa, Southern	<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>
	Cedar, Eastern Red	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
	Cedar, Atlantic/Southern White	<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>
	Cherry, Black	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
	Cherry, Choke	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>
	Cherry-laurel	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>
	Chinquapin	<i>Castanea pumila</i>
	Coralbean, Eastern/Mamou	<i>Erythrina herbacea</i>
	Crabapple, Southern	<i>Malus angustifolia</i>
	Creeper, Trumpet	<i>Campsis radicans</i>
	Creeper, Virginia	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>
	Crossvine	<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>
	Cucumber Tree	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>
	Cypress, Bald	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
	Cypress, Pond	<i>Taxodium ascendens</i>
	Cyrilla, Swamp/Titi	<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>
	Cyrilla, Little-leaf	<i>Cyrilla parvifolia</i>
	Devil's Walkingstick	<i>Aralia spinosa</i>
	Devilwood	<i>Osmanthus americana</i>
	Dogwood, Flowering	<i>Cornus florida</i>
	Dogwood, Rough- leaf	<i>Cornus drummondii</i>
	Dogwood, Stiff	<i>Cornus foemina</i>
	Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>
	Elms, Native	<i>Ulmus spp.</i>
	Elm, American	<i>U. americana</i>
	Elm, Cedar	<i>U. crassifolia</i>
	Elm, Slippery	<i>U. rubra</i>
	Elm, Winged	<i>U. alata</i>
	Elm, Water	<i>Planera aquatica</i>
	Fetterbush	<i>Lyonia lucida</i>
	Fetterbush, Swamp	<i>Leucothoe racemosa</i>
	Fringetree, American	<i>Chionanthus virginiana</i>
	Gordonia	<i>Gordonia lasianthus</i>
	Grape, Wild	<i>Vitis spp.</i>
	Greenbriar/Catbriar	<i>Smilax spp.</i>

	Gum, Black	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>
	Gum, Swamp Black	<i>Nyssa biflora</i>
	Gum, Tupelo	<i>Nyssa aquatica</i>
	Gum, Sweet	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
	Hackberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>
	Hawthorn, Native	<i>Crataegus spp.</i>
	Hawthorn, Barberry- leaf	<i>C. berberifolia</i>
	Hawthorn, Blueberry	<i>C. brachycantha</i>
	Hawthorn, Green	<i>C. viridis</i>
	Hawthorn, Mayhaw	<i>C. aestivalis/opaca</i>
	Hawthorn, Parsley	<i>C. marshallii</i>
	Hickories, Native	<i>Carya spp.</i>
	Hickory, Black	<i>C. texana</i>
	Hickory, Bitternut	<i>C. cordiformes</i>
	Hickory, Mockernut	<i>C. tomentosa</i>
	Hickory, Nutmeg	<i>C. myristiciformes</i>
	Hickory, PECAN	<i>C. illinoensis</i>
	Hickory, Pignut	<i>C. glabra</i>
	Hickory, Shagbark	<i>C. ovata</i>
	Hickory, Water/Bitter Pecan	<i>C. aquatica</i>
	Hollies, Native	<i>Ilex spp.</i>
	Holly, American	<i>I. americana</i>
	Holly, Dahoon	<i>I. cassine</i>
	Holly, Deciduous Possum-haw	<i>I. decidua</i>
	Holly, Gallberry	<i>I. glabra</i>
	Holly, Inkberry	<i>I. coriacea</i>
	Holly, Winterberry	<i>I. verticillata</i>
	Holly, Yaupon	<i>I. vomitoria</i>
	Honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>
	Honeysuckle, Trumpet/Red	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>
	Hophornbeam, Eastern/Ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginica</i>
	Hornbeam, American/Musclewo od/Ironwood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
	Huckleberry, Woolly/Hairy	<i>Gaylussacia mosieri</i>
	Huckleberry, Winter/Tree	<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i>
	Hydrangea, Oakleaf	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>

	Lantana	<i>Lantana urticoides</i>
	Laurelcherry	<i>See Cherrylaurel</i>
	Leadplant	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>
	Leucothoe, Downy	<i>Leucothoe axillaris</i>
	Leucothoe, Florida/Honeybells	<i>Agarista populifolia</i>
	Magnolia, Bigleaf	<i>Magnolia macrophylla</i>
	Magnolia, cucumber	<i>M. acuminata</i>
	Magnolia, 'Little Gem'	<i>M. grandiflora</i>
	Magnolia, Pyramid	<i>M. pyramidata</i>
	Magnolia, Southern	<i>M. grandiflora</i>
	Magnolia, Sweetbay	<i>M. virginiana</i>
	Maple, Chalk	<i>Acer leucoderme</i>
	Maple, Red/Swamp	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
	Maple, Silver	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>
	Maple, Southern Sugar	<i>Acer barbatum</i>
	Moonseed/Snailseed/Coralbead Vine	<i>Cocculus carolinus</i>
	Mulberry, Red	<i>Morus rubra</i>
	Oaks, Native	<i>Quercus spp.</i>
	Oak, Cherrybark	<i>Q. pagoda</i>
	Oak, Live	<i>Q. virginiana</i>
	Oak, Laurel	<i>Q. laurifolia</i>
	Oak, Nuttall	<i>Q. texana</i>
	Oak, Overcup	<i>Q. lyrata</i>
	Oak, Post	<i>Q. stellata</i>
	Oak, Shumard	<i>Q. shumardii</i>
	Oak, Southern Red	<i>Q. falcata</i>
	Oak, Swamp Chestnut/Cow	<i>Q. michauxii</i>

	Oak, Water	<i>Q. nigra</i>
	Oak, White	<i>Q. alba</i>
	Oak, Willow	<i>Q. phellos</i>
	Osage Orange/Bois d'arc	<i>Maclura pomifera</i>
	Palmetto, Dwarf	<i>Sabal minor</i>
	PawPaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>
	Pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>
	Peppervine	<i>Nekemias arborea</i>
	Persimmon, American	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>
	Pine, Native	<i>Pinus spp.</i>
	Pine, Loblolly	<i>P. taeda</i>
	Pine, Longleaf	<i>P. palustris</i>
	Pine, Slash	<i>P. elliotii</i>
	Pine, Spruce	<i>P. glabra</i>
	Plum, Native	<i>Prunus spp.</i>
	Plum, Chickasaw	<i>P. angustifolia</i>
	Plum, Flatwoods/Am. Sloe	<i>P. umbellata</i>
	Plum, Mexican	<i>P. mexicana</i>
	Poison Ivy	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
	Prickly Ash/Toothache Tree	<i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>
	Privet, Swamp	<i>Forestiera acuminata</i>
	Redbay	<i>Persea borbonia/palustris</i>
	Redbud, Eastern	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>
	Rose, Carolina	<i>Rosa carolina</i>
	Rose, Prairie	<i>Rosa setigera</i>
	Rose, Swamp	<i>Rosa palustris</i>

	St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum spp.</i>
	Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>
	Silverbell, Two-winged	<i>Halesia diptera</i>
	Snowbell, American	<i>Styrax americana</i>
	Snowbell, Bigleaf	<i>Styrax grandifolius</i>
	Sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>
	Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>
	Strawberry Bush	<i>Euonymus americana</i>
	Sumac, Shining/Dwarf	<i>Rhus copallinum</i>
	Sumac, Winged	<i>Rhus glabra</i>
	Summer-sweet, Peppervine	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>
	Supplejack/Blackjack Vine	<i>Berchemia scandens</i>
	Sweetspire, Virginia	<i>Itea virginica</i>
	Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>
	Tulip Tree/Tulip Poplar	<i>Lireodendron tulipifera</i>
	Waxmyrtle	<i>Morella cerifera</i>
	Willow, Black	<i>Salix nigra</i>
	Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>
	Viburnum, Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>
	Viburnum, Possumhaw	<i>Viburnum nudum</i>
	Viburnum, Little-leaf/Walter's/Schiller's Delight	<i>Viburnum obovatum</i>
	Viburnum, Rusty Blackhaw	<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>

Herbaceous plants (ferns, grasses, sedges/rushes and wildflowers)

Common Name or Plant Group Name	Scientific Name/Genus
Agave, American	<i>Agave virginica</i>
Alligator-flags	<i>Thalia spp.</i>
Asters, Wild	<i>Symphyotrichum/Seriocarpus/Ionactis/Eurybia spp.</i>
Aster, Stokes	<i>Stokesia laevis</i>
Buttons, Barbara's	<i>Marshallia spp.</i>
Buttonweeds, Poor Joes	<i>Diodia spp.</i>
Beardtongues/Pe nstemons	<i>Penstemon spp.</i>
Bedstraws	<i>Gailium spp.</i>
Beebalm	<i>Monarda spp.</i>
Beggarticks	(see <i>Coreopsis</i>)
Bergamot, Wild	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>
Bittercress	<i>Cardamine spp.</i>
Blazing Stars	<i>Liatris spp.</i>
Blue Stars	<i>Amsonia spp.</i>
Bluecurls	<i>Trichostema spp.</i>
Blue-eyed Grasses	<i>Sisyrinchium spp.</i>
Bonesets, Thoroughworts	<i>Eupatorium spp.</i>
Buttercups	<i>Ranunculus spp.</i>
Butterflyweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>
Butterweed	<i>Packera glabellus</i>
Camphorweeds	<i>Pluchea spp.</i>
Cannas, Native	<i>Canna spp.</i>
Cardinalflower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>
Catchfly	<i>Silene spp.</i>
Cattails	<i>Typha spp.</i>
Clematis, Native	<i>Clematis spp.</i>
Club, Golden	<i>Orontium aquaticum</i>
Compass Plants	(see <i>Rosinweeds</i>)
Coneflowers, Black-eyed Susans	<i>Rudbeckia spp., Ratibida spp.</i>
Coneflowers, Purple	<i>Echinacea spp.</i>
Coreopsis, Native	<i>Coreopsis spp.</i>
Crownbeards, Wingstems	<i>Verbesina spp.</i>
Cuban Jute	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>
Cypress, Standing	<i>Ipomopsis rubra</i>
Daisy Fleabanes	<i>Erigeron spp.</i>
Dayflowers, Native	<i>Commelina spp.</i>

Dutchman's Pipes, Native	<i>Aristolochia spp.</i>
Elephant's Foot	<i>Elephantopus, spp.</i>
Ferns, Native	(please list below)
Frog Fruits	<i>Phyla spp.</i>
Garlic, False Crowpoison	<i>Nothoscordum bivalve</i>
Gauras	<i>Gaura spp.</i>
Geraniums, Wild	<i>Geranium spp.</i>
Goldenasters	<i>Chrysopsis/Heterotheca /Pityopsis spp.</i>
Goldenrods	<i>Solidago spp.</i>
Grasses, Yellow- eyed	<i>Xyris spp.</i>
Grasses, Native	(please list below)
Herbertias	<i>Herbertia spp.</i>
Hibiscus, Native	<i>Hibiscus spp./Kosteletzkya</i>
Indian Blankets	<i>Gaillardia spp.</i>
Indian Pink	<i>Spigelia marilandica</i>
Indian Plantains	<i>Arnoglossum spp.</i>
Indigos, False	<i>Baptisia spp.</i>
Iris, Native	<i>Iris spp.</i>
Ironweeds	<i>Vernonia spp.</i>
Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>
Joe-pye Weeds	<i>Eupatorium spp.</i>
Larkspurs, Native	<i>Delphinium spp.</i>
Lillies, Rain	<i>Zephyranthes spp.</i>
Lily, Spider	<i>Hymenocallis lreosme</i>
Lily, Swamp	<i>Crinum americanum</i>
Lizard's Tail	
Lobelias, Native	<i>Lobelia spp.</i>
Lupines, Native	<i>Lupinus spp.</i>
Lettuce, Wild	<i>Lactuca spp.</i>
Mallows, Native	(See <i>Hibiscus</i>)
Mayapple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>
Maypop, Passion vine, Native	<i>Passiflora spp.</i>
Meadowbeauties	<i>Rhexia spp.</i>
Meadow Rues	<i>Thalictrum spp.</i>
Mexican Hat	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>
Milkweeds, Native	<i>Asclepias spp.</i>
Mints, Mountain	<i>Pycnanthemum spp.</i>
Mistflower, Blue	<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>
Morning glories, Native	<i>Ipomeas pp.</i>

Nightshades, Native	<i>Solanum spp.</i>
Obedient Plants, False- dragonheads	<i>Physostegia spp.</i>
Onion, Wild	<i>Allium canadense</i>
Pea, Butterfly	
Peas, Partridge	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>
Pennyworts, Native	
Penstemons, Native	(see <i>Beardtongues</i>)
Pepper, Bird	<i>Capsicum annuum var. glabrisculum</i>
Petunias, Wild	<i>Ruellia spp.</i>
Phloxes, Native	<i>Phlox spp.</i>
Pickereelweed	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>
Pink, Fire	(See <i>Catchflies</i>)
Pink, Indian	(See <i>Indian Pink</i>)
Pokeberry/Pokew eed	<i>Phytolacca americana</i>
Poppymallows	<i>Callirhoe spp.</i>
Primroses, Native	<i>Oenothera spp.</i>
Rattlesnake Masters	<i>Eryngium spp.</i>
Rosinweeds/Com pass Plants	<i>Silphium spp.</i>
Rosepinks	<i>Sabatia spp.</i>
Rushes	<i>Juncus spp.</i>
Sages, Native	<i>Salvia spp.</i>
Sedges, Flat	<i>Cyperus spp.</i>
Sedges, Caric	<i>Carex spp.</i>
Sida	(see <i>Cuban Jute</i>)
Skullcaps, Native	<i>Scutellaria spp.</i>
Snakeroot, Black	<i>Sanicula canadense</i>
Snakeroot, White	<i>Ageratina altissima</i>
Spiderworts, Native	<i>Tradescantia spp.</i>
Spikerushes, Native	<i>Eleocharis spp.</i>
Sunflowers, Native	<i>Helianthus spp.</i>
Thistles, Native	<i>Cirsium spp./Sonchus spp.</i>
Tickseeds, Native	(see <i>Coreopsis</i>)
Turk's Cap	<i>Malvaviscus arborea</i>
Verbenas, Vervains, Native	<i>Verbena spp.</i>
Violets, Native	<i>Viola spp.</i>
Wakerobins, Trilliums, Native	<i>Trillium spp.</i>

Have native plant species not on the checklist? Add them here:

Refer to the Guide to the Plants of Louisiana as needed: <https://warcapps.usgs.gov/PlantID/>. The guide is exhaustive and includes all plants, not only natives. Note that the species does not have to be native to your parish, so long as it is native to the Southeast US.