

Weed identification resources for South Florida landscapes

Dr. Phil Busey, CCA, CPAg, Certified Landscape Inspector ¹

On May 22 and 29, 2020, with UF/Miami-Dade County Extension Commercial Urban Horticulture Agent Henry Mayer, M.S., I zoomed, “Weed identification by families” and “Weed identification in practice.” The intended focus and most examples were weeds of South Florida landscapes including turfgrass areas and natural areas.

Books

There are many excellent books with photographs or line drawings of weeds. Here are a few:

Guide to the vascular plants of Florida (ed. 3). 2011. By Richard P. Wunderlin and Bruce F. Hansen. Available for \$44.95 from University Press of Florida <http://upf.com> There are no photographs and the keys are difficult but it covers more than 4200 native and exotic species in Florida that are established.

Identification and biology of nonnative plants in Florida’s natural areas (ed. 2). K. A. Langeland et al. Available for \$30 from IFAS Books, <http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu> Covers 117 species with much ecological information.

Native plants, weeds, and sustainable landscapes in South Florida. 2013. By George K. Rogers. Available for \$20 from Palm Beach State College, go to plantbook.org (where you can also access a database and keys). Covers only about 120 weed species but the author shares detailed experience.

Weeds of southern turfgrasses. 1992. by Timothy R. Murphy, et al. Special Bulletin 31. Available for \$14 from University of Georgia UGA Extension Publications Covers 193 species with 437 color photographs.

Websites

Atlas of Florida Plants, Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida – <https://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu>

Floristic Inventory of South Florida, The Institute for Regional Conservation, <https://www.regionalconservation.org/ircs/database/Database.asp>

Identify lawn and landscape weeds in Florida, <https://idweed.com> I created this little website is an easy dichotomous key to nearly 50 of the most common landscape weeds in Florida emphasizing South Florida.

Apps

PlantSnap, <https://www.plantsnap.com> In attempting to identify 97 dicot species of South Florida landscape plants, from excellent photos of flowers, PlantSnap correctly identified 51, or 53%, in position #1.

iNaturalist, <https://www.inaturalist.org> I have seen this used very effectively but not tried it on weeds.

Pl@ntNet, <https://plantnet.org/en/> I have not tried this but I would appreciate knowing your experiences.

¹ Certified Crop Adviser (CCA-FL #310955), Certified Professional Agronomist, Certified Landscape Inspector of the Florida Landscape Inspector’s Association (LIAF #2016-0160), member of Brookside Society of Professional Consultants (#691), and University of Florida Emeritus Professor of Environmental Horticulture. Contact: phil@philbusey.com or (954)579-3932.