



DEAR Field Keys Shoreline Emergent Plants

****Disclaimer: This key includes the most commonly observed species in Florida lakes, and thus does not cover every shoreline emergent plant found in Florida. The 10 most commonly found species will be denoted by an asterisk. Furthermore, many couplets within this key require flowers to be present.**

Shoreline
Emergent
Plant

Monocot:
parallel veins
and/or flower
parts in threes
or multiples of
threes

Not
grass-like

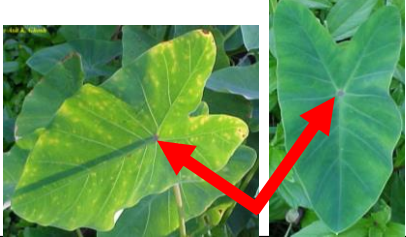
Grass-like (grasses,
sedges, and rushes)

Not covered in this key

Large, pointed,
arrow-shaped
leaves, flowers
in spadix or
not present



Purple dot located where petiole
attaches to leaf; petiole attached
several inches from leaf base



**Colocasia esculenta*
(FLEPPC 1)



Peltandra spp.

Leaves smaller (1-
2 ft long) and with
three main
prominent veins

Petiole attached
directly at leaf base



Leaves variously
shaped

Proceed to page 2

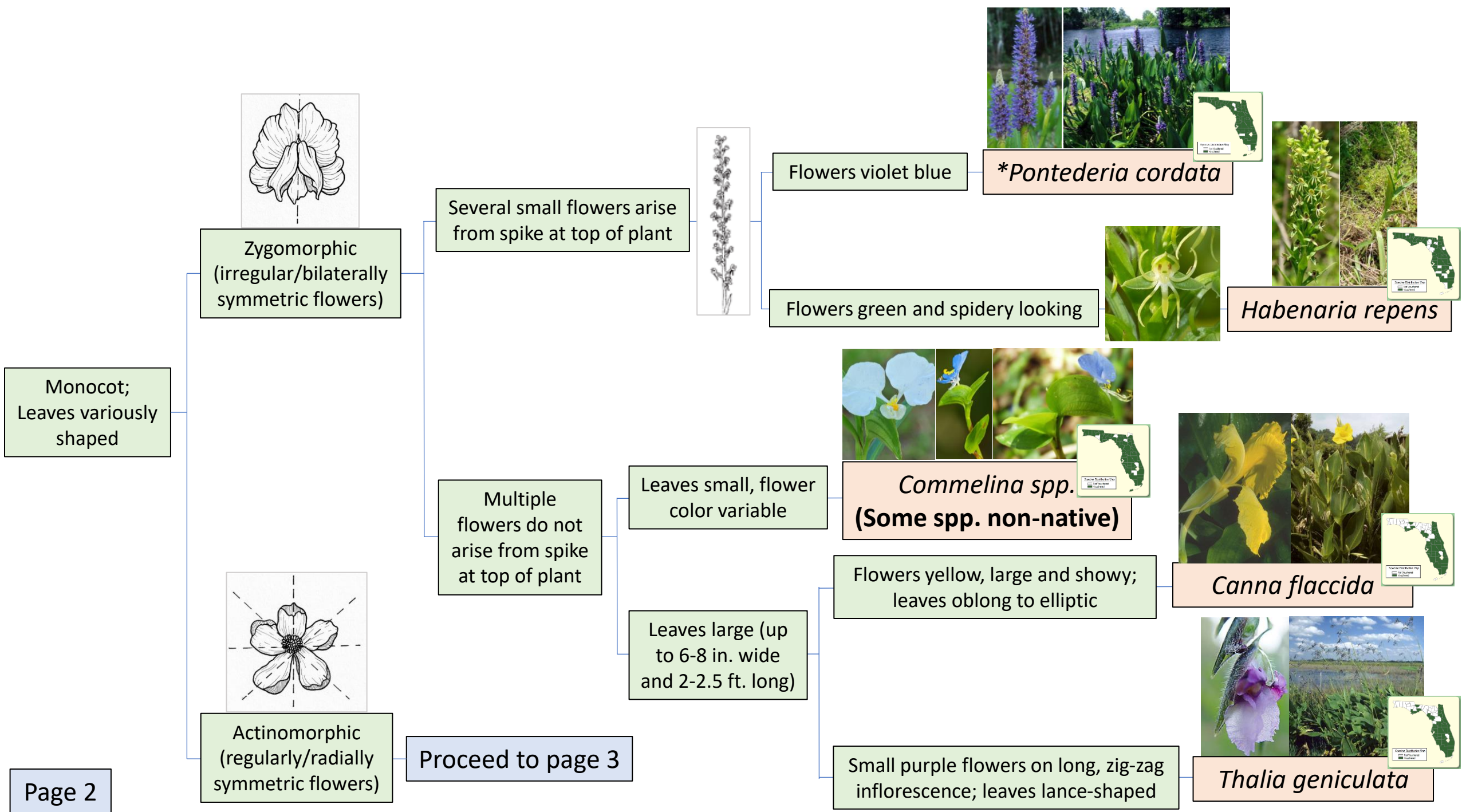
Dicot: branched veins
and/or flower parts in
multiples of fours or fives

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Leaves larger (2+ feet
long) and without
three main prominent
veins as above



*Xanthosoma
sagittifolium*
(FLEPPC 2)



Monocot; leaves
variously shaped;
actinomorphic

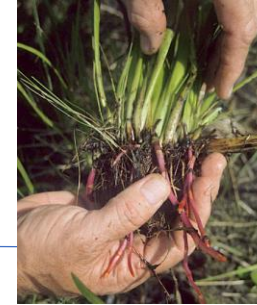
Female spike conspicuously brown
and fuzzy, appearing like a hotdog
on a stick; stems to 9 ft tall and
strap-like



**Typha spp.*



Flattened basal leaves; stalk and cluster branches
hairy; flowers woolly-looking; roots red



**Lachnanthes caroliniana*



Flowers
white, showy;
stems not as
above

Not as above

Petals 3, short and
round

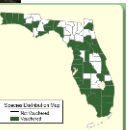


Sagittaria spp.
*Proceed to page 4

Petals 6, long and relatively thin



Crinum americanum

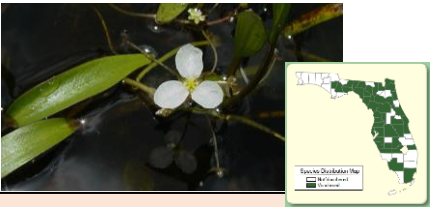


Sagittaria spp.
(monocot;
leaves variously
shaped;
actinomorphic)

Majority of plant
submerged,
leaves floating or
submersed



Sagittaria filiformis



Leaves lance-shaped,
variable in width

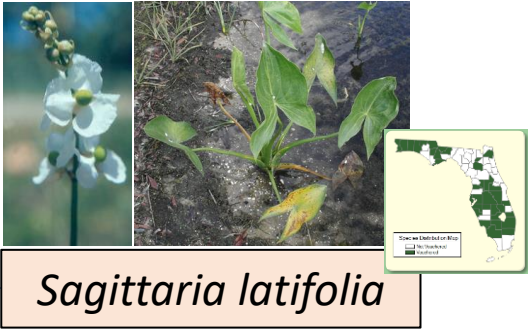


**Sagittaria lancifolia*



Leaves arrowhead or
lance-shaped

Arrowhead-shaped leaves



Sagittaria latifolia

Majority of plant
usually
emergent, if
submerged then
leaves never
floating



Leaves slender,
grass-like

Leaf-blades wider than petioles, when
emergent can resemble *S. lancifolia*



Sagittaria graminea

Leaf-blades narrower
than petioles



Sagittaria isoetiformis



Dicot

Not as below

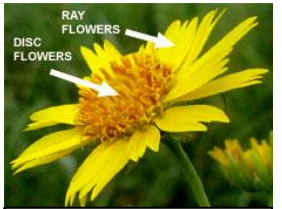


Aster family: multiple layers of bracts beneath flowers; disk and/or ray florets present inside flower head



Not Aster family

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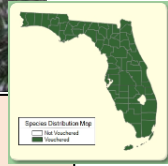
Disk and ray florets present

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Leaves finely dissected and aromatic when crushed



**Eupatorium capillifolium*



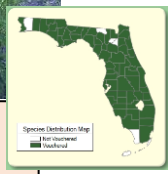
Disk florets present only

Leaves not as above

Florets white; not odorous



Erechtites hieraciifolius



Florets usually pink, rarely white; emits unpleasant odor



Pluchea spp.
(Some spp. non-native)



Utricularia spp.
**Go to Utricularia field key*

Carnivorous; produce small bladders; flowers 2 lipped; plant aquatic and primarily submersed

Dicot; Asteraceae;
disk and ray
florets present

Ray florets white or
pink/purple

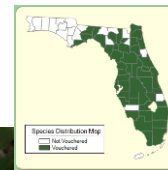
Ray florets wider,
rectangular; no more
than 8 ray florets
present



Bidens alba



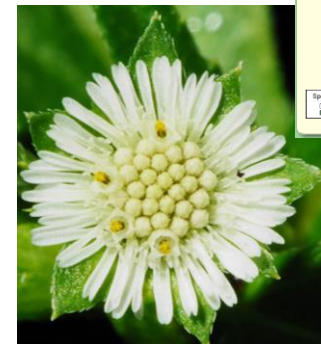
*Symphyotrichum
carolinianum*



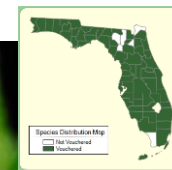
Leaves alternate,
climber on other
vegetation

Ray florets narrow; greater
than 8 ray florets present

Leaves opposite



Eclipta prostrata



Ray florets yellow

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Dicot; Asteraceae;
disk and ray florets
present; ray florets
yellow

Leaves
alternate



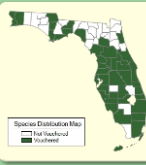
Solidago spp.



Stems hairy; low
growing ground
cover plant



Sphagneticola trilobata
(FLEPPC 2)



Leaves
opposite

Stems
smooth

Leaves variable,
some entire and
some divided,
not sessile



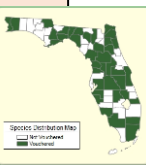
Bidens mitis



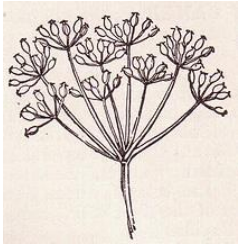
Leaves all entire, sessile



Bidens laevis



Dicot; not
Asteraceae



Apiaceae family:
flowers arranged in
umbels (multiple
flowers attached at
same point)

Flowers **not**
arranged in
umbels

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Leaves compound
with lanceolate or
finely dissected
leaflets

Leaflets finely dissected



Ptilimnium capillaceum

A photograph of the plant Ptilimnium capillaceum, showing its delicate, feathery leaves and small white flowers. To the right is a small map of Florida with a legend indicating the plant's distribution in the northern part of the state.

Cicuta maculata

A photograph of the plant Cicuta maculata, showing its broad, deeply lobed leaves and clusters of small white flowers. To the right is a small map of Florida with a legend indicating the plant's distribution in the central and southern parts of the state.

Leaflets lanceolate

Leaves kidney shaped
to round with crenate
margins; flowers often
not present

Leaves shiny and
leathery; stems attach
to leaf centers
(umbrella-like)



**Hydrocotyle spp.*
(Some spp. non-native)

A photograph of a Hydrocotyle species, showing its characteristic round, shiny leaves that are attached to the stem at the center of the leaf. To the right is a small map of Florida with a legend indicating the plant's distribution in the central and southern parts of the state.

Leaves shovel-shaped,
dull, not leathery; stems
attach to leaf base



Centella asiatica

A photograph of the plant Centella asiatica, showing its characteristic shovel-shaped leaves and small flowers. To the right is a small map of Florida with a legend indicating the plant's distribution in the central and southern parts of the state.

Dicot; not
Asteraceae
or Apiaceae

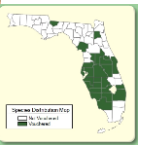
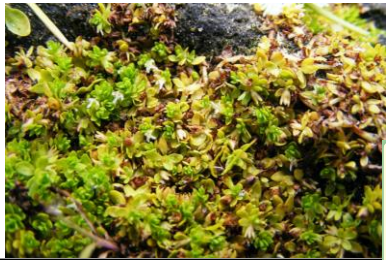
Low and mat forming
with succulent to sub-
succulent leaves;
could also be
submersed

Flowers minute,
barely visible to the
naked eye

Leaves oblanceolate



Micranthemum glomeratum



Leaves round



Micranthemum umbrosum



Flowers small, but
visible

Upper stem hairy; crushed leaves
smell of lemon; flowers
purple/blue; leaves almost round



**Bacopa caroliniana*



Stems not hairy; leaves non-
aromatic; flowers usually white, but
can be pink, blue or purple; leaves
spatulate



Bacopa monnieri



Not as above

Proceed to page 10

Dicot; not
Asteraceae or
Apiaceae; not a
low, mat forming,
succulent plant

Leaves
opposite

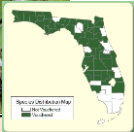
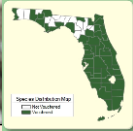
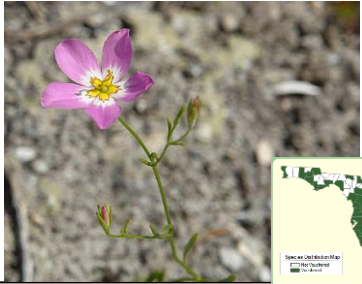
Flower color
varies, but
never yellow

Flowers form
at top of stem

Stems and leaves
with reddish tint

Flower petals
5; stigma
prominent

Sabatia grandiflora



**Hypericum virginicum*



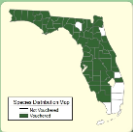
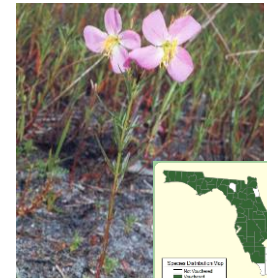
Flowers borne in
leaf axils

Proceed to page 11

Stems and
leaves green



Flower petals
4; anthers long



Rhexia spp.



Ludwigia spp.
**See Ludwigia key, pg 5*

Flowers yellow

Leaves alternate

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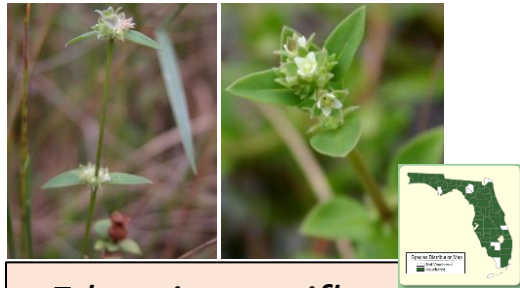
Dicot; not Asteraceae or Apiaceae; not a low, mat forming, succulent plant; leaves opposite; flowers borne in leaf axils



Flowers sessile in densely compacted structures

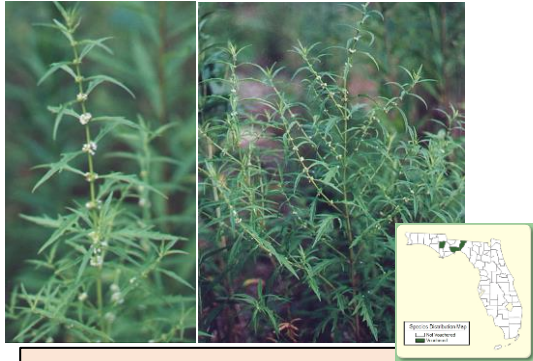


Leaves sessile, margins entire



Edrastima uniflora

Leaves small and thin, linear to lanceolate, and toothed to lobed



Lycopodium americanum



Lycopodium rubellum



Leaves pale to medium green



Lycopodium virginicum

Leaves sessile or not, margins toothed or lobed

Leaves wider, lanceolate to elliptic, and toothed



Leaves dark green to purple

Flowers not sessile in densely compacted structures

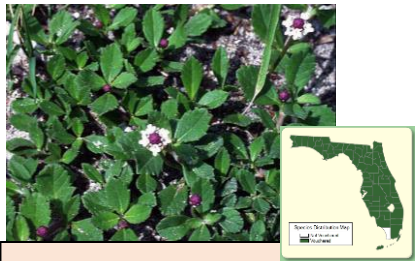
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Dicot; not Asteraceae or Apiaceae; not a low, mat forming, succulent plant; leaves opposite; flowers borne from leaf nodes, but not sessile in clusters

Leaf margins toothed or serrate

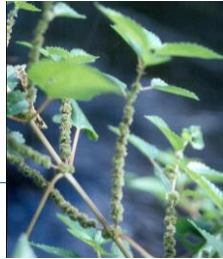


Flowers at end of long stalk



Phyla nodiflora

Flowers clustered along leaf stem



Boehmeria cylindrica



**Alternanthera philoxeroides*
(FLEPPC 2)

Stems green, often reddish at leaf nodes



Stems green to reddish, hollow



Diodia virginiana



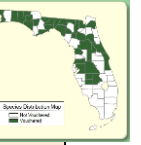
Stems reddish green, flowers hairy

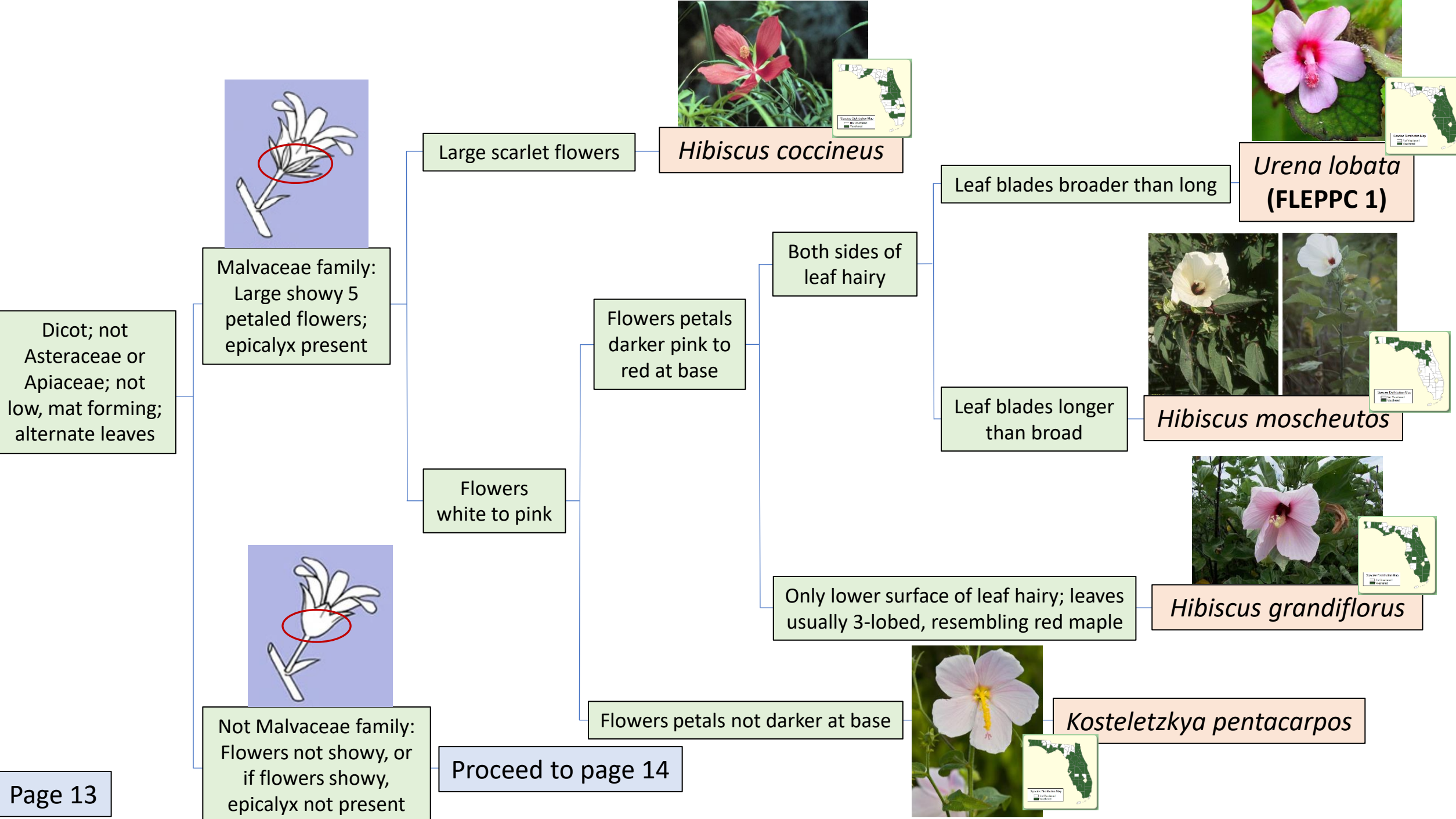


Leaf margins entire

Stems: long and arching, brown to cinnamon colored, woody below water

Decodon verticillatus

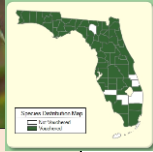




Dicot; not
Asteraceae,
Apiaceae, or
Malvaceae; not
low, mat forming;
alternate leaves

Leaf blades
ovate to
cordate

Saururus cernuus

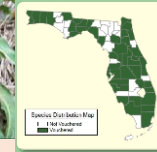


Leaf blades
variably shaped,
but never cordate

Flowers **not** yellow
and with 4-5 petals

Large plant, can grow up to 9 ft. tall; stems
can be as thick as 6 in. in diameter; stem
becomes hollow as plant gets larger

Amaranthus australis



Stems purplish

Rumex verticillatus

Stems with swollen nodes and sheaths (ocreae)



Persicaria spp.
*See *Persicaria* key

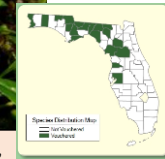


Flowers yellow,
4-5 petals

Stems with long hairs



Hydrolea quadrivalvis



Ludwigia spp.
*See *Ludwigia* key pg 1