

1953

## Palms and Flowers of Florida

Francis Wyly Hall

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# Palms And Flowers... of Florida



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# Palms And Flowers... of Florida

I should like to rise and go  
Where the waving palm trees blow,  
And toss their feathered lances high  
Across the sunlit Southern sky  
Where the flowers on every hand  
Bloom in nature's wonderland,  
And their glowing colors seem  
Like a rainbow in a dream.



# EIGHTY-SIX DRAWINGS AND DESCRIPTIONS

By

FRANCIS WYLY HALL

P. O. Box 896

Neptune Beach, Florida

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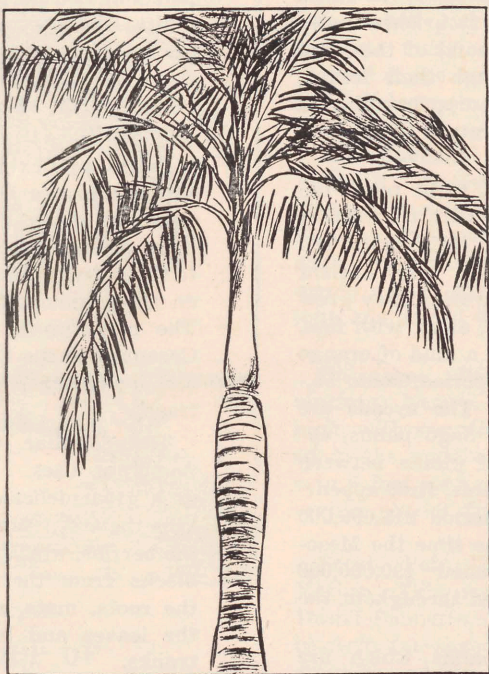
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Thomas C. Desmond  
The Senate  
State of New York  
Albany, New York



**Royal Palm** (*Oreodoxa regia*). (*Roystonea regia*). These trees, native to the extreme southern part of Florida, are considered by many to be our most beautiful palms. They tower nearly a hundred feet high, with glimmering, pale gray trunks, and glorious crowns of darkly green, shining leaves. The massive trunks, 3 feet in diameter, bulge at the base, taper, bulge again, then rise smooth and straight, to the point where the leaf shaft starts. From that point to where the leaves diverge, it is bright green. The large graceful leaves are 12 feet long, with leaflets 2 to 3 feet long. The fruit is small,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long, bluish in color.



# P A L M S

Florida is justly famous for its many palms, which lend their graceful beauty as a background for its picturesque scenes. They line our avenues and highways, and dense jungles of Cabbage and Palmetto palms are to be found in most parts of the state. Many a romance has flourished under the palms and the sound of the wind as it whispers through their leaves, lingers in the memory, bringing a nostalgic longing to return to the land of the palm trees.

Palm trees are not to be taken too lightly, but regarded with the respect due their great age. Historians tell us that palms are a very ancient species of the plant world. They grew in Montana and Asia, along with figs, bread-fruit trees and a kind of orange tree, in the Eocene period, some 55,000,000 years ago. The cycads are even more ancient. Sago palms, cycads and a group of plants between the tree-fern and palms, first appeared in the Permian period 215,000,000 years ago, and by the time the Mesozoic era rolled around 190,000,000 years ago, were found throughout the world.

Nearly all the palms which are native to the United States, or can be grown in this country, can be found in Florida. Many are tall, stately trees, sometimes reaching a height of one hundred feet, without branches, and bearing at the top a magnificent crown of immense leaves. These leaves are long-lasting and only drop off as new ones grow at the summit. Some species form clusters by putting out suckers at the base, while others, such as the palmetto, grow from reclining trunks. The flowers are small, but are produced in dense masses, of striking appearance, with as many as six hundred blossoms on a single tree. Some of these flowers give forth a strong, sweetish, musty odor which attracts crowds of insects. The fruit is sometimes a berry, sometimes a nut, as the coconut, or a drupe, as the date.

The tropical parts of America produce by far the greatest number of species. Florida has about 12 native palms, and many imported ones that flourish in her climate. The Coconut has become cosmopolitan, but many palms have very narrow geographical limits. The Coconut often grows near the water and some of the nuts, when they fall off, are washed away to other shores, there to start life for themselves.

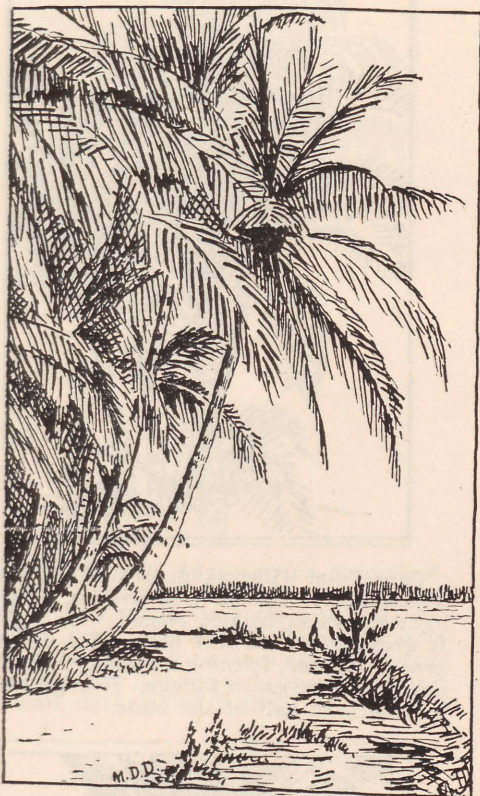
Palms are extremely useful trees, and are grown for their commercial value in many countries. Some of them provide food, drink and shelter, to the native tribes, who are dependent on them almost for their very lives. The most useful are the Date, the Coconut and the Cabbage, all of which are popular in Florida as ornamental trees.

The familiar Cabbage palm has numerous uses. The heart is eaten as a great delicacy, but to remove it kills the tree. Medicine is made from the berries, whisk brooms and building blocks from the fibre, tannin from the roots, mats, rope and fans from the leaves and log cabins from the trunks.

There are more than one thousand species of palms, divided into one-hundred and thirty genera. There are two types of palms, those with pinnate leaves, or whose leaflets are arranged along a central midrib, like a feather, and those whose leaves are shaped like a fan. The fan palms comprise about one-sixth of the whole number of palms, and have larger leaves than any other plant, although some of the pinnate group have leaves fifty feet long, and eight feet wide. The trunk, or stem, is usually scarred with rings or ridges where the old leaves have fallen off, and sometimes the broken bases of the leaf stalks remain on the trunk for a long time.

The leaves of the palm tree are shiny. This is also true of many tropical fruits, flowers and trees. It is caused by a sort of varnish which retains the moisture within the leaf, thus protecting it from the intense heat of the sun, and from protracted dry spells.





## GROUP OF COCONUT PALMS

The Coconut palm is one of our best loved palms. Salt water and brackish soils do not seem to hurt it, and it is often seen near the water's edge. (Page 6.)

The Royal palm is also one of our native species (page 3) as is the Cabbage palm (page 8) the Silver palm (page 9) the Blue Stem Dwarf Palmetto (page 8) the Saw Palmetto (page 9) and the *Thrinax* species, including *Thatch* palm (page 9) *Key Thatch* and *Brittle Thatch* which is very similar.

The former has a heavy trunk, about one foot in diameter, and a base of exposed and matted roots nearly two feet high. The latter is without this base, more slender of trunk. All grow to a height of 25 to 30 feet.

## FLORIDA'S NATIVE PALMS

**Needle Palm** (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*.) Native. A low growing species with usually a reclining trunk, covered with fibre, and armed with spines. Fan-shaped leaves, erect and stiff, cut into many segments, which are toothed at the ends, dark green above, grayish beneath.

**Saw Cabbage Palm** (*Acoelorrhaphe Wrightii*) Native. Grows in clumps, about 40 feet tall, with slender trunks. Fan-shaped leaves, 2 to 3 feet across, cleft about half way, and these segments cut in turn. Leaf stalks are long and armed with heavy spines.

**Buccaneer Palm** (*Pseudophoenix vinifera*) Native. Trees grow 25 feet high, with smooth, light trunks, bulged in the middle. Pinnate leaves are 4 to 6 feet long, dark green. It bears orange scarlet fruits.

**Scrub Palmetto** (*Sabal Etonia*). Native. This species resembles the Dwarf Palmetto, except that the deeply cleft, fan-shaped leaves have numerous thread like fibres.

**James Palmetto** (*Sabal Jamesiana*) This palmetto attains a height of 15 feet, has large heavily drooping leaves on rather slender stems. The leaf blades themselves are flat, without the sharp bend at the midrib of most palmettos. It is found in the far south of Florida.

This covers the state's native species. Many palms have been brought here, from Madagascar, Africa, India, Brazil, the South Sea Islands and other tropic countries. Most of them flourish in our mild climate, especially in Southern Florida and in the Keys. I have not attempted to give all the varieties of palms found in Florida but have selected the ones which are more widely planted, and most interesting.





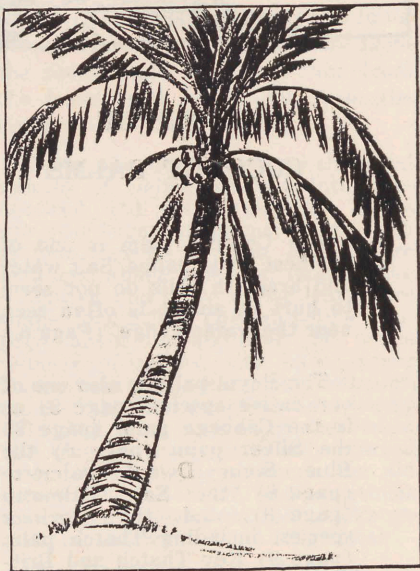
**Alexander's Palm** (*Archontophoenix Alexandrae*). This palm, closely allied to the "Seaforthia" and "Loroma," reaches a height of 70 feet, with straight trunks, bulging at the base, spineless, ringed with scars. Leaves are large, graceful, 10 feet long, leaflets rather stiff, deep green.



**Cane Palm** (*Chrysalidocarpus lutescens*). Madagascar. Has several slender, smooth, light brownish trunks, ringed with yellow. It grows 10 to 15 feet high, with arching, graceful leaves, forming a beautiful mass of bright, yellow-green foliage. It is grown in the southern half of the state.

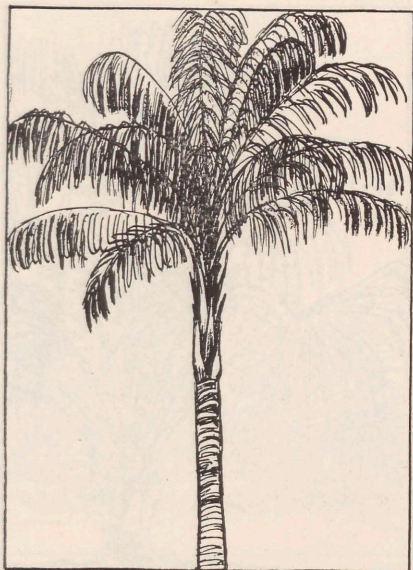


**Canary Island Date** (*Phoenix canariensis*). This is the handsomest of the many Phoenix palms, with its huge, barrel like trunk, and its crown of leaves, 20 feet long, with flat, glossy, dark-green, densely-set leaflets. Flowers are small, yellow, borne in dense clusters, followed by small, bright orange berries.



**Coconut** (*Cocos nucifera*) Native to southern Florida, grows 80 feet tall, with brown, ridged trunks, bulging at the base, and leaning at picturesque angles. The immense, sweeping leaves are 12 to 18 feet long. Small, whitish flowers are borne beneath the crown. The coconuts, produced in clusters, are 8 to 12 inches long.





**Cocos Plumoso** (*Arecastrum Romanzoffianum*). Brazil. Trunk slender, tall, smooth, with old leaf stalks near the top. Graceful, arching leaves, the leaflets fine and drooping. It bears great clusters of long strings of tiny, yellow flowers, and immense clusters of small, dark, round fruits.



**Common Date Palm.** (*Phoenix dactylifera*). Africa, India. The palm of scripture. Trunk is tall, straight, slender, ridged, bearing at the top a crown of 40 leaves, 8 to 10 feet long. Flowers are yellow. Fruit the date, red orange, borne in great clusters. They do not mature in Florida.

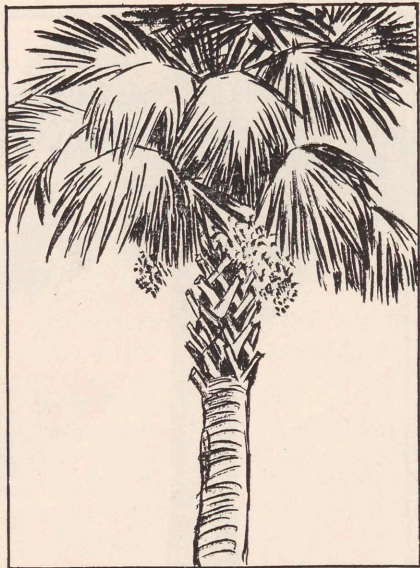


**Fish Tail Palm** (*Caryota urens*). Southern Asia. 40 or more feet tall. The leaflets are shaped like the tail of a fish. It has a stout, smooth, widely ringed trunk, and large spreading, drooping leaves. The seeds look like long ropes of yellow beads. Each year the bloom is borne lower on the trunk, till it is near the ground when the tree dies. (Sketch shows leaf).



**Spindle Palm** (*Hyophorbe Verschaffeltii*). Mauritius. 30 feet tall. It has a spineless, smooth, heavy trunk, bulging just below the leaf crown. Leaves are 4 to 6 feet long, borne at the top, and close to the trunk, with a yellow band extending the length of the blade. Closely allied is "Hyophorbe amaricaulis" or "Bottle Palm," with a heavy bottle-shaped trunk.

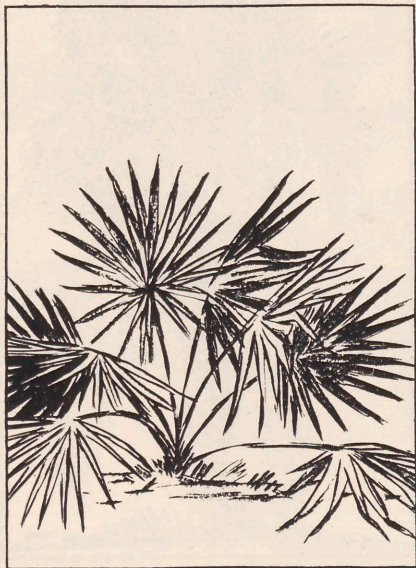




**Cabbage Palm** (*Sabal palmetto*). Native. Sometimes 80 feet tall, with a trunk 2 feet in diameter, covered with "boot-jacks," which on old trees gradually drop off, leaving the trunk scarred, and ridged. Leaves are 5 feet across, grayish green, deeply cut, drooping or twisted. Berry like, black fruits are borne in great clusters.



**Chinese Fan Palm** (*Livistona chinensis*). China; grows 30 feet tall, and has a stout trunk, smooth, but ringed. Leaves are large, cut into about 60 segments, characterized by their graceful, distinctly drooping manner. Leaf stalks are spiny along the lower part. Fruit is grayish blue-green,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long, olive shaped.

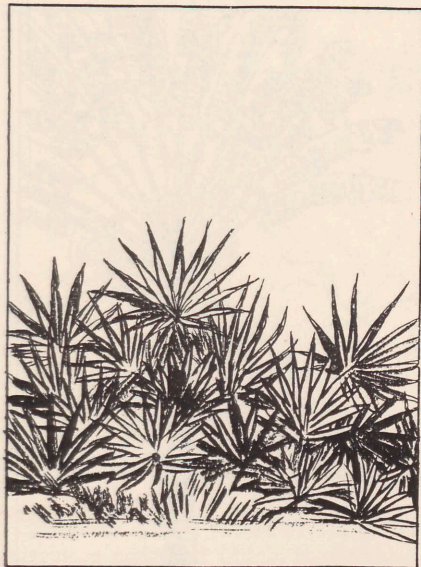


**Dwarf Palmetto** (*Sabal minor*). This is the native "Blue Stem Palmetto." It is a trunkless palm with smooth, stout, fairly erect leaf stalks, which bear the large leaves, 3 feet across, almost circular, cut nearly to the stem, quite stiff, bluish green. The fruits are black,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter. The flowers are borne in very long spikes.

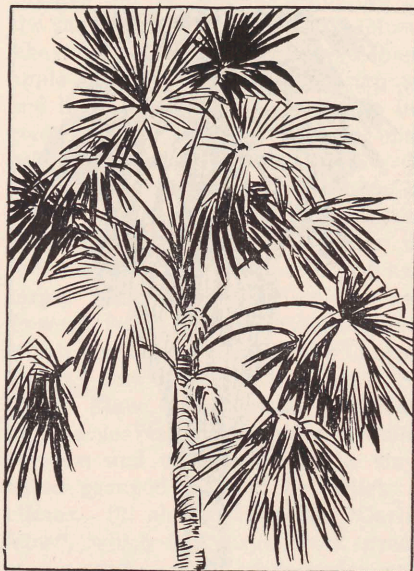


**Fiji Fan Palm** (*Pritchardia pacifica*). Fiji Islands; 30 feet tall, spineless, with a slender, smooth straight trunk. The leaves, 3 to 4 feet across, are not deeply cut, and the segments are fine and rather stiff. It is not hardy, only adapted to southern Florida, but is one of the most beautiful of the fan-leaved palms.

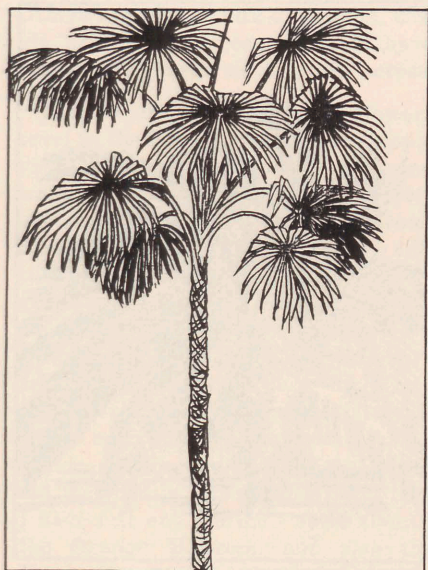




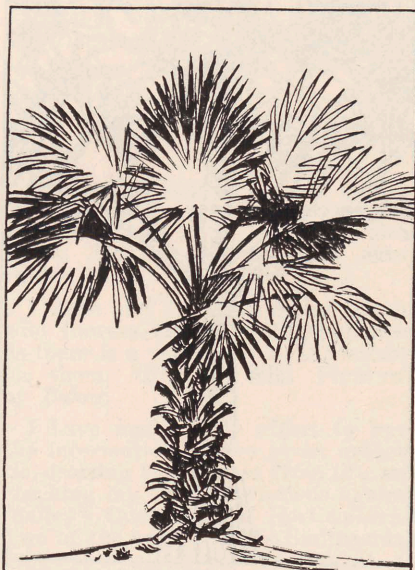
**Saw Palmetto** (*Seroenoa repens*). Native. A heavy trunk twists along the ground, and sends out the nearly circular, stiff, deeply cut leaves, yellowish green, except along the East Coast, where they are bluish. The leaf stalks are spiny. It bears a profusion of tiny, cream flowers of musty, sweet odor, and small, black, berry-like fruits.



**Silver Palm** (*Coccothrinax argentea*). Native to the southern Florida keys, and Biscayne Bay. It grows 25 feet high, with a slender trunk, 6 inches thick, smooth, grayish-brown. Leaves are deeply cut, thinish, light shining green on top, silvery beneath, borne on long, somewhat drooping leaf stalks. Fruit is small, black-fleshed.



**Thatch Palm** (*Thrinax floridana*). Native to Florida and West Indies; spineless, with slender trunks, 6 inches in diameter, and they grow 30 feet tall. Leaves are nearly circular, deeply cut, glossy, light green above, grayish beneath. *Thrinax keyensis* has a trunk 1 foot thick, with a swollen base of matted roots.

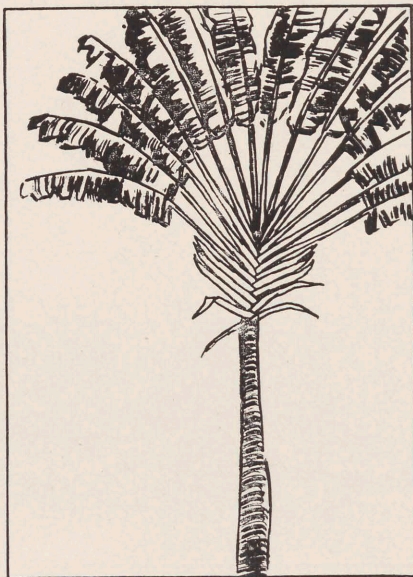


**Thread Palm** (*Washingtonia filifera*). Native to California and Mexico; very hardy, it grows 50 feet tall, has a reddish-brown trunk, heavy at the base, the upper part covered with bases of dead leaf stalks. Leaves are 3 to 5 feet across, bright, shiny, yellowish green, and stiff. At their tips are numerous white threads. The leaf stalks are spiny.

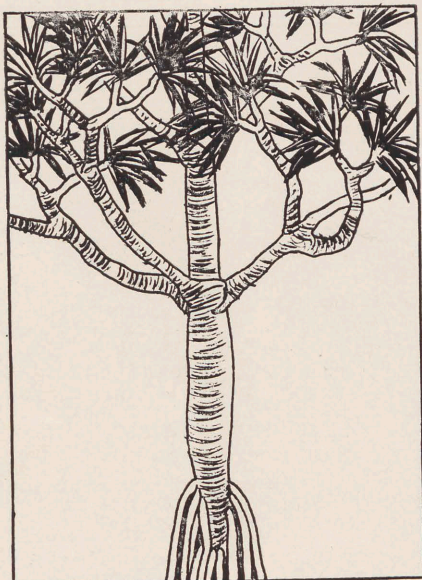




**Washington Palm** (*Washingtonia robusta*). California; named for George Washington. It grows 60 feet or more tall, with a straight, slender trunk, which in the older trees is covered with a matted collar of dead leaves. Leaves are 3 to 5 feet across, deeply cut, drooping at the tips, bright green in color, borne on spiny leaf stalks.



**Traveller's Palm** (*Ravenala*). Madagascar. By piercing the base of a leaf stalk, a quart of pure water may be obtained. The trunk sends out leaves only on the two opposite sides, like a huge, flat fan. There are 20 to 24 flat, bright green, glossy leaves, 6 feet long. Large, dark, bluish fruits are borne in clusters.

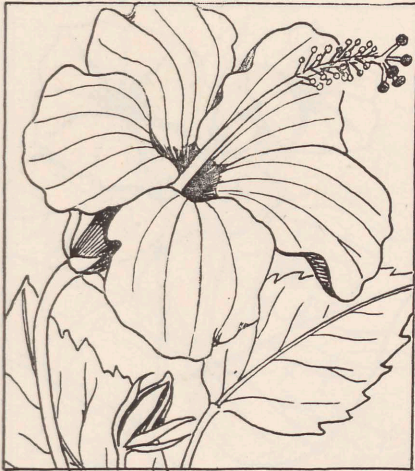


**Screw Pine** (*Pandanus*). This tropical tree, while not a palm, is often taken for one. Its appearance is odd, with its stilt like aerial roots, which gradually push the tree out of the ground. The angular branches are light gray, scarred, forked, bearing at the ends of the forks, tufts of long, sword-shaped leaves. It bears a cone-shaped, yellow, edible fruit.



**Saga Palm**. While not a true palm, this is often called one. It is a native of Japan, is hardy, and widely planted in Florida. It reaches a height of 10 feet, with a heavy crown of thick, waxy, stiff, dark green, fern like leaves, 3 to 5 feet long, which form an almost perfect circular mound of green.





**Hibiscus** (*Rosa sinensis*). The Hibiscus, a native of China, is outstanding among all Florida shrubs, and is the official flower of Hawaii. It grows to a height of ten feet, with handsome, evergreen leaves, large and coarsely toothed. The common type bears showy, scarlet flowers, 5 inches across, which last for but a single day, but the plants bloom all the year. Others are pink, white or salmon, single or double. Recent hybrids have blossoms as large as 9 inches across.

Florida is a land where flowers revel in the hot sunshine, where tropic vines climb rampant over porches and walls, and fling their clusters of gorgeous blossoms high into the trees. Species that have to be carefully cultivated in greenhouses in the north, grow luxuriantly in Florida's warm climate. I have not the space to describe nearly all of them, so have selected those which are tropic or semi-tropic, and those most interesting to our visitors. However I should like to mention a few here, which are not included in this small book. First, I have left out Florida's state flower, the Orange Blossom, and also the Poinsettia, as these two are already known to everyone. Then there is the night-blooming Cereus, and the night-blooming Jasmine, both of which are lovely and fragrant, but not seen by many tourists. The Tree Orchids are interesting, though they are not really

Orchids but air plants, belonging to the same family as the Spanish Moss. They look much like long-leaved Pine-apple Plants, and grow on the trunks and limbs of trees. The bloom is inconspicuous. There is, too, the mis-called Purple Allamanda, which is really *Cryptostegia*, and a source of rubber. A very interesting one is the Trumpet Flower, a shrub similar to the Oleander in appearance, which has large, bell-shaped, apricot colored flowers, followed by spiny seed pods, which contain the "Sailor's Lucky Beans." One of our native vines is the "Cats Claw Vine", with its small pointed leaves, large yellow tubular flowers, and the characteristic, tiny, three pronged "claws" by which it climbs. I'll also mention the "Garlic Vine", which has large, dark green leaves, and masses of lavender and purple flowers, and gets its name from the odor of garlic given off by the leaves, when crushed.

Florida also boasts many beautiful flowering trees, including the purple flowered Jacaranda, the flaming Royal Poinciana, the Mountain Ebony, with its orchid like blooms of lilac, and the Florida Holly, with its masses of red berries. There is a book on the market, "Florida Trees", by Snyder, which will be found helpful along this line.

Of course Florida's climate is ideal for many of the northern flowers, and one sees quantities of Petunias, Phlox, Roses, Zinnias, Altheas and many others.

I have not included many of the wild flowers, especially the small ones, as there is a very good book available on them, "Florida Wild Flowers", by Baker.

I have made every effort to have the information I have given authentic, drawing the flowers from life, and checking my own descriptions against "Bailey's Cyclopedia of Horticulture." Two of the experts at the Smithsonian Institute, at Washington, D. C. checked the Latin names of the flowers. There is always some difference of opinion where common names are concerned, as they often differ in different localities.

I hope this book will give you at least a "speaking acquaintance", with many of our loveliest flowers.

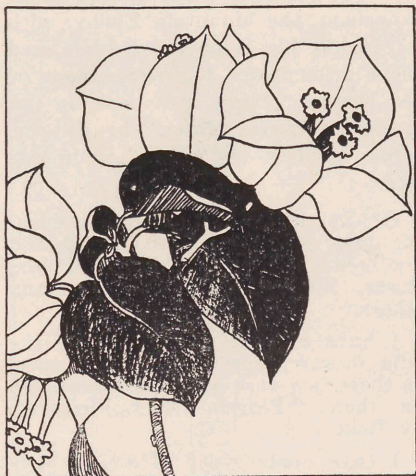




**Allamanda.** One of the most popular vines, also used as a shrub, in Florida, and seen throughout the state. It is a native of Brazil and Central America. The leaves are long, pointed smooth, light green, and grow in whorls of three or four. The vine bears numerous large, showy, lemon yellow trumpet-shaped flowers, 2 inches long.



**Brazilian Glory (Ipomoea).** This native of Brazil, which belongs to the same family as the northern Morning Glory and the Moonflower, is one of our popular winter flowering vines. It grows rapidly, and forms a dense screen, because of its large thick leaves, which are 3 to 10 inches across, heart-shaped or three lobed. It bears rich magenta crimson flowers.

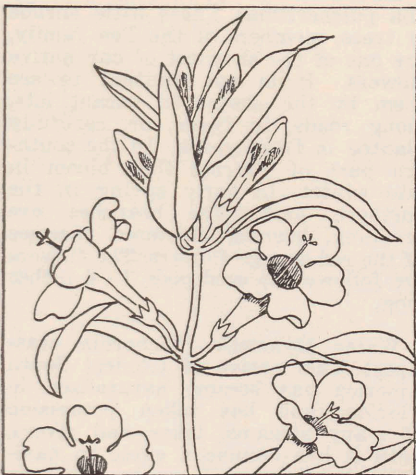


**Bougainvillea.** This native of South America, is the most brilliant and popular of all our flowering vines. It bears numerous large, crimson, purple, or salmon colored bracts, in groups of three, each group enfolding three tiny white flowers. The leaves are smooth, oval and pointed. It blooms in winter and spring, the bloom-bracts remaining in perfect condition for a long time. The bougainvillea is used as covering for walls and porches, or trimmed for borders.



**Cape Honeysuckle (Tecoma capensis).** This evergreen vine, a native of the West Indies, belongs to the Trumpet-creeper family. It is becoming naturalized all along the Gulf Coast. The leaves are pinnate, with 7 to 9 leaflets growing opposite along each leaf stem. They are bright green, coarsely toothed. The trumpet like flowers, 2 to 3 inches long, are vivid red orange, with long yellow stamens, and are borne in loose clusters.

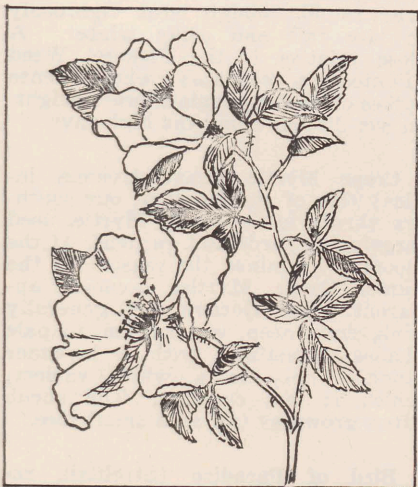




**Carolina Yellow Jessamine** (*Gelsemium sempervirens*). This native Florida vine is one of the joys of early spring in the state. It climbs over porches and into trees, blooming profusely from late January till April. The stem is twining and purplish, leaves glossy and evergreen. The vivid yellow flowers,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, bell-shaped, and very fragrant, are borne in clusters of two to six.



**Chalice Vine** (*Solandra grandiflora*). This showy tropical vine is a native of Mexico. The leaves are large, shiny and fleshy. The flowers are cup-shaped, on slender tubes. They are 5 inches across, and fragrant. A greenish white when they first open, they turn to a rich brownish yellow. *Solandra guttata* has bright yellow flowers with purplish lines in throat. Blooms in winter.



**Cherokee Rose** (*Rosa laevigata*). This charming vine, a native of China and Japan, naturalized in Florida, is seen along our roadsides, blooming in January if the winter is warm. It has a trailing stem, armed with thorns, and the evergreen leaves, which grow in threes, are dark and glossy. The very abundant white flowers are borne singly on the branches, and are 1 to 2 inches across, and delightfully fragrant.



**Confederate Jasmine** (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*). This is not a true jasmine, but is often called one. It is a valuable evergreen vine throughout the state, strong growing, high climbing. The leaves are dark, leathery and glossy, attractive the year round. It blooms profusely in early spring, bearing numerous clusters of small, pure white, very fragrant flowers, which look like miniature pinwheels, about 1 inch across.



**Fringed Hibiscus** (*Hibiscus schizopetalus*) This lovely Hibiscus is a native of tropical East Africa. The branches of the shrub are sparse, and the leaves are scattered, but the bloom more than compensates for this. The flowers and buds sway from long, pendant stems. Our ornamental shrub has large blossoms and small pods, but we are all familiar with another member of the family, *Hibiscus esculentus*, which is the popular garden vegetable, Okra, with its small flowers and large pods. In China, the *Hibiscus Rosa sinensis*, or Rose of China, is valued for the buds which are used in curries and soups. A hybrid with yellow flowers, which can be grown from seed, has been developed, *Hibiscus manihot*.

**Gaillardia or Blanket Flower** (*Gaillardia*) The *Gaillardia*, carefully cultivated in northern gardens, grows wild in Florida, and brightens roadsides and fields with patches of gay color. They bloom the year round and I have seen them in all parts of the state. From a thick clump of long, narrow leaves, more or less toothed, rise the flowers, each on its own stem. In one variety the ends of the petals split to form tiny three-petal flowers. The deep orange-red with yellow-tipped petals is the most common. Some have a purplish cast with white-tipped petals. The name Blanket Flower is very appropriate, for they literally blanket the ground in places.

**Passion Flower or Maypop** (*Passiflora incarnata*) One of the most beautiful, unusual and appealing of our native flowers is the Passion Flower. It received its name from the Spaniards when they saw it in South America, who saw in the plant a resemblance to the crucifixion. The fringed corona represents the halo about Christ's head, or, the crown of thorns; the pistil is for the three nails; the five stamens are five wounds; the sepals and petals stand for ten of the disciples; the young seed pod is the vinegar soaked sponge; the tendrils are the whips; the leaves (three or five lobed) represent the hands of Christ. The blossoms are fragrant, about two inches across. Though usually purple, there is also a white variety with a pale lavender corona, and another has a greenish white flower with the corona blue on the tips, white in the middle and purple at the base. The vine bears an edible fruit two inches long. It prefers a dry soil, and can often be seen along the shoulders of the roads.

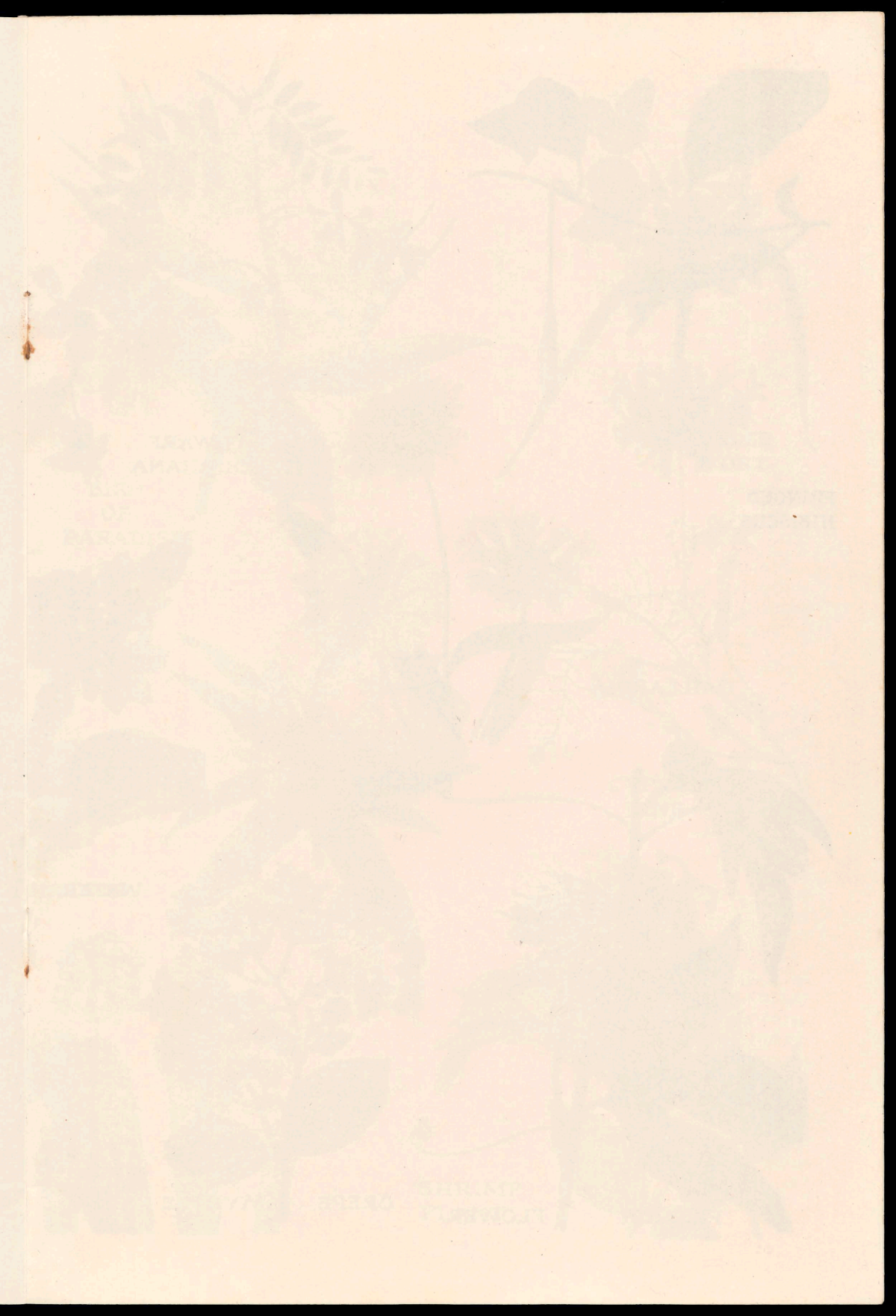
**Dwarf or False Poinciana** (*Poinciana pulcherrima*) These little shrubs or trees, members of the Pea family, are one of the showiest of our native flowers. It is not unusual to see them by the dozens in vacant lots, along roads, in fields, or, carefully planted in front yards. In the southern part of Florida they bloom in late winter, in early spring in the northern part. The branches are drooping, bearing clustered racemes of the red-orange flowers. The flowers are followed by seed pods 3 - 4 inches long.

**Water Hyacinth** (*Eichornia crassipes*) This native of tropical South America has become naturalized in Florida, and has taken possession of many streams, lakes and rivers, until it has become a curse to navigation, and so much money has been spent trying to clean it out, that it is called the "Million-dollar-weed". However, the sight of an acre or so of these plants in bloom, a cloud of bluish-orchid, is so beautiful as to call to mind the saying, "a thing of beauty is a joy forever." The leaf stalks are globular, and inflated with air, forming buoys by which the plant floats. In full bloom it bears a spike of about eight lovely flowers, 1½ inches across. It is found throughout the state, and blooms the year round, though most vigorously in late fall and early winter. A close relative is the Pickerel Weed (*Pontederia cordata*) whose dense spikes of bluish-purple flowers brighten wet ditches along the highways.

**Crepe Myrtle** (*Lagerstroemia indica*) One of the finest of our southern shrubs is the Crepe Myrtle, used largely for yards and gardens. If the bloom is examined the reason for the name, Crepe Myrtle, becomes apparent. The flowers are generally pink, from deep, watermelon, to pale shades, sometimes with a lavender tinge. There is a white variety, which is less common. The shrub often grows as tall as a small tree.

**Bird of Paradise** (*Strelitzia reginae*) This odd tropical plant, always of interest to visitors to Florida, reaches a height of 3 feet. The leaves are stiff, concave, 1 foot or more long, with sturdy stalks. About six orange and purplish-blue flowers, are held in a nearly horizontal spathe, 6 inches long, and boat-shaped. The plant is a close relative of the banana. It is a native of South Africa, and one of our winter blooming herbs.









FRINGED  
HIBISCUS



DWARF  
POINCIANA



GAILLARDIA



WATER HYAC



PASSION

FLOWER



CREPE

MYRTLE





BIRD  
OF  
PARADISE



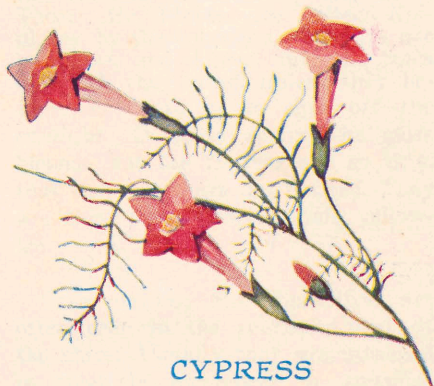
SPIDER  
WORT



HYACINTH



OLEANDER



CYPRESS  
VINE



PITCHER  
PLANT



SHRIMP  
PLANT







**Oleander** (*Nerium oleander*) The popular Oleander is a native of the Mediterranean and Asia Minor. It is hardy in Florida, and is widely used for street and roadside planting, and as an ornamental shrub, over the entire state. It blooms nearly all the year, but more profusely in late winter and early spring. It grows as tall as a small tree. The leaves are glossy as in many tropical plants. The gloss serves as protection against the hot sun. The leaves exude a milky juice when broken, and cattle have become ill from eating them. The flowers are single or double, pink, white, peach or red, sometimes fragrant, and borne in large clusters.

**Pitcher Plant or Spotted Trumpet Leaf** (*Sarracenia minor*) An extremely interesting plant is the Spotted Trumpet Leaf, one of the insect catching family. The leaves, which have a hollow tube down one side, are baited with a sweet nectar to lure the passing victim. Once having entered beneath the overhanging hood, the trapped insect dashes itself against the transparent spots on the back of the arch of the leaf, until it falls exhausted into a fluid at the base of the tube. Here it is dissolved, and consumed as food by the plant. The flowers are about 2 inches across, borne one on a stalk. The plant grows 8-20 inches high, in low ground.

**Shrimp Plant** (*Beloperone*) This unusual tropical American shrub, 3-5 feet high, bears numerous heads of overlapping, reddish-bronze floral bracts, at the end of which emerge small, slender white flowers, each having two petals and long stamens. This combination of bracts and flowers has a close resemblance to a boiled shrimp. It grows in any part of the state, and blooms during most of the year.

**Blue Spiderwort** (*Tradescantia reflexia*) These charming, delicate flowers must be seen in the morning, before they wilt in the heat of the day. They grow wild in Florida, in low sandy soil. The Spiderwort is known by other common names that see to me more appropriate and attractive. It is called Day or Dew Flower, Nine o'Clocks, and Trinity. The flowers are 1 inch across, and the plant grows about 2 feet tall. The familiar Wandering Jew, and Moses-in-the-Bullrushes (see page 28) are of this same family. Other varieties of the Spiderwort have white or pinkish flowers.

**Cypress Vine** (*Quamoclit pennata*) This dainty, scarlet flowered climber has long been a garden favorite. It has escaped cultivation in Florida, and often tries to take possession of our vegetable gardens. The flowers are small,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch across. It blooms in late winter and early spring.

Most of the visitors to Florida are interested in the Air Plants. The best known of these is the Spanish Moss (*Dendropogon usneoides*) a plant of the pineapple family. Some people do not care for the Spanish Moss, especially when they first see it. I have heard them say it is dark and depressing, wierd and unnatural. To me it is beautiful, hanging from the branches of the great oaks, with the bright shafts of sunlight streaming through it in golden lances, or again, blowing like banners in the breeze, on a windy day; or at night, drifting ghost-like, calm and peaceful, touched to silver by the moon. These Air Plants are called Epiphytes, by the botanists. They are not parasites, and do not hurt the trees to which they cling, unless they become so dense as to shut off the sunlight. In early spring the moss blooms, but the flowers are so tiny, that they often are not noticed. They are three-petal flowers, pale yellowish.

Tree orchids, also Epiphytes, are often seen in the southern part of the state. Usually they are attached to trees in hammocks or swamps, where the air is damp. Showiest of these is *Tillandsia fasciculata*, with bright red bracts and spikes of 2 inch long, blue flowers. The grayish leaves grow in a cluster from the base of the plant. They are 1-2 feet long, very slender, recurved and pointed. Another showy one is *Tillandsia utriculata*, a large, light green orchid, with pale, cream flowers. This one grows on a stem sometimes several feet tall and branched. The orchid most people can see with no difficulty is *Tillandsia recurvata*, the hardiest of them all. It grows like a small gray tuft on the trees, and attaches itself to telegraph or telephone wires. The narrow, grayish leaves are 2-5 inches long, and it bears small, blue flowers.





**Pithecoctenium.** There are 23 species of this tropical bignonia-like climber, which is a native of Brazil and Mexico. The dark green leaves are smooth, pointed, and grow in threes or have the center leaf transformed into a tendril. The flowers are large, two inches long, trumpet-shaped, white with yellow throats, and fragrant. The fruit is a capsule, short, thick and covered with prickles or warts. The vine blooms in late winter and early spring.



**Sky Flower of India** (*Thunbergia grandiflora*). This is one of the most gorgeous blue flowered vines to be found in Florida. It has large, heart-shaped, overlapping leaves. The flowers are a lovely, clear, azure blue, becoming whitish in the throat, about 3 inches across. A white variety has long hanging clusters of white flowers with yellow throats. Grows over 30 ft. high.



**Queen's Wreath** (*Petrea volubilis*). This native of the American tropics, is a woody vine, with large, rough, prettily veined leaves. It bears graceful clusters, 8 inches long, of very lovely flowers, about 2 dozen in a cluster. Each flower has a calyx of grayish blue, like a five pointed star, with a violet-like flower of royal purple, in the center. Blooms profusely in winter and spring.



**Vanilla** (*Vanilla aromatica*). The Vanilla is a climbing orchid, and a native of Mexico. It is tall growing, with thick stems, from the joints of which grow stout, light green, waxy leaves, and aerial rootlets. Beautiful, yellow, trumpet-shaped, fragrant flowers, about 4 inches across, are borne in large clusters. The vine also bears a pod, from which the Vanilla of commerce is obtained. It blooms in winter.

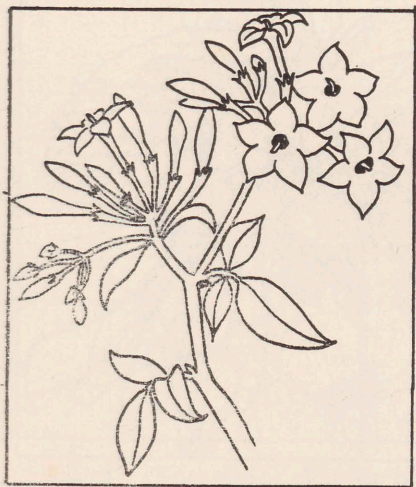




**Coral Vine** (*Antigonon leptopus*). This is the Mountain Rose, or Coral-lita of Mexico. A strong grower, it climbs high over porches and walls, fastening itself securely by tendrils. In southern Florida it blooms all the year. Its alternate, many veined leaves are light green, heart-shaped, 3 to 5 inches long. The small flowers are heart shaped, a beautiful coral pink, borne in long sprays of from 6 to 15 blooms.



**Flame Vine** (*Bignonia venusta*). This popular, tropical vine, a native of Brazil, excels in brilliance of color and abundance of bloom. It climbs by tendrils over fences, walls and porches, and high into trees. It blooms in winter. The leaves are light green, smooth and pointed. The flowers, borne in dense drooping clusters that nearly cover the vine, are trumpet-shaped, and flaming orange in color.



**Italian Yellow Jasmine** (*Jasminum Humile*.) This Jasmine is a native of tropical Asia, hardy in Florida, and when given support, climbing to a height of 20 feet. The branches are smooth and angular, leaves thick and usually grow in threes. The flowers are small,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch across, bright yellow, very fragrant and borne in loose clusters.



**Jasmine** (*Jasminum illicifolium*). There are more than a hundred species of Jasmynes, vines or shrubs, growing in the warm parts of the world. This type has glossy, pointed leaves, and terminal, loose clusters of very fragrant white flowers,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches across, and purplish pink underneath. It blooms in late winter and spring, is popular in Florida, and can be trained as a vine or a willowy shrub.





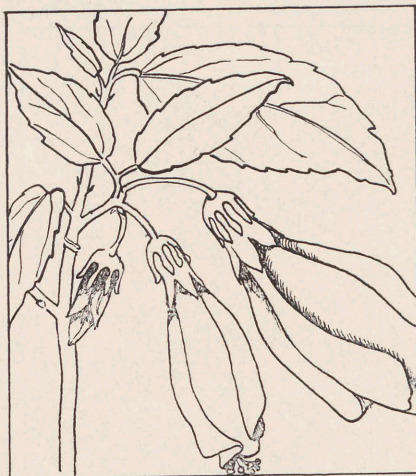
**Mexican Flame Vine** (*Senecio confusus*). This tropical vine from Mexico, is becoming one of our most popular vines, as it is an almost constant bloomer, and thrives throughout the state. The leaves are light green, pointed, toothed edges, and grow alternately. The daisy like flowers, borne in loose terminal clusters, have yellow centers and bright, reddish orange petals.



**Pandorea** (*Tecoma jasminoides*). This, a native of tropical Australia, has evergreen leaves, dark and shining, smooth, oval, drawn into long points, grow in threes. The vine bears clusters of large, trumpet-shaped flowers, three inches long, white and pinkish purple throats. The blooms are produced during most of the year.



**Pandorea** (*Tecoma Ricasoliana*). This tropical beauty, a native of South Africa, is one of the handsomest of our flowering vines. Foliage is open, light green, with pinnate leaves, the 7 to 9 leaflets growing opposite, with the odd one at the end. They are toothed with long slender points. Lovely flowers, borne in large, drooping clusters, are of orchid pink, with lines of deeper orchid. The blossoms are slightly fragrant, and the calyx is white.

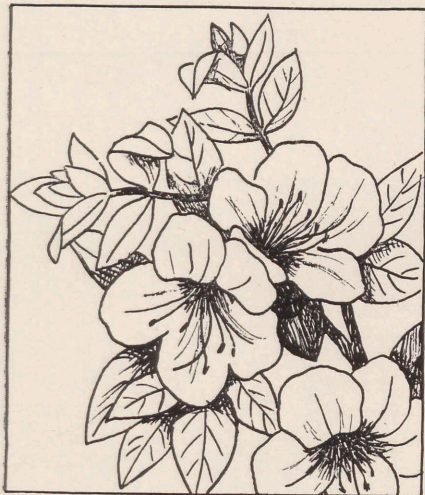


**Turk's Cap** (*Malvaviscus grandiflorus*). Also called "Sleeping Hibiscus." This shrub has good thick foliage. The leaves are large, coarsely toothed, and evergreen. The flower hangs bell-like on a weak stem, and keeps its bright red petals closely furled. The plant blooms the year round, and the flowers remain in perfect condition for a long time. It is grown in quantities throughout the State.

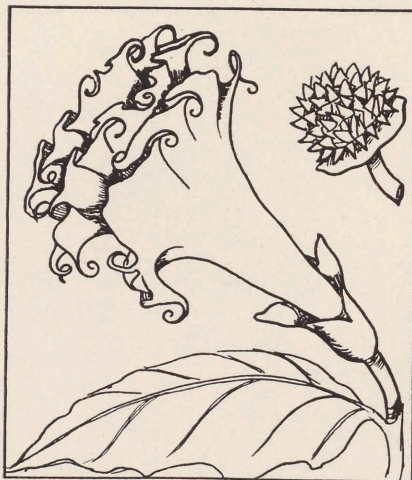




**African Yellow Daisy.** Native. The dull green leaves are jagged and toothed like those of the sunflower, to which family it belongs. The hairy stems when broken, give forth a sticky juice smelling like turpentine. The golden yellow flowers  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches across, have centers of dark, rich brown, almost black. It grows in colorful clumps, 12 to 18 inches high, and is a constant bloomer.



**Azalea** (Ericaceae). Florida has three native Azaleas; *Azalea canescens*, which has flowers of pink to deep rose, *Azalea austrina* is yellow to orange, tinted with red. Both of these bloom in February to early spring. *Azalea serrulata* is white, blooming in summer. They all have smooth glossy dark green leaves. Azaleas bloom throughout Florida, in masses of breath-taking beauty. One of the most popular varieties is the large-flowered, magenta *Formosa*.



**Angel's Trumpet** (*Datura*). This tropical American shrub belongs to the same family as the potato. Grows 6 feet high, with large wavy-toothed leaves. The flowers, 3 to 4 inches long are white, yellow or lavender with a pleasant odor. One variety develops three trumpets, one within the other, while others are single or double. It blooms nearly all the year, and bears a spiny fruit, called a thorn apple. *Daturas* contain strong poisonous narcotics.



**Bag Flower** (*Clerodendron*). West Africa; either a vine or shrub. The leaves are dark, oval pointed, many veined and grow opposite or in threes. The calyx of the flower is as showy as the bloom, being of white, with five pointed lobes, which clasp the long, slender tube of the flower. The flowers are a dark, blood red, small, borne in loose, branching clusters.





**Blue Leadwort** (*Plumbago capensis*). This shrub (sometimes a vine) is a native of South Africa, and widely used throughout Florida. The branches are delicate, and the small, oval, light green leaves, grow in clusters along their joints. The flowers borne in rounded clusters, are a pale azure blue,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch across. It blooms in winter and spring.



**Bottle Brush** (*Callistemon*). Australia. This shrub gets its name from the Greek "kallos" beauty, and "stemon" stamen, and its lovely scarlet stamens give it its beauty. It grows 6 to 10 feet high, with many branches, and thick evergreen leaves, small, slender, dull green. The small green flowers grow in a spike, almost hidden by the inch long bright red stamens.

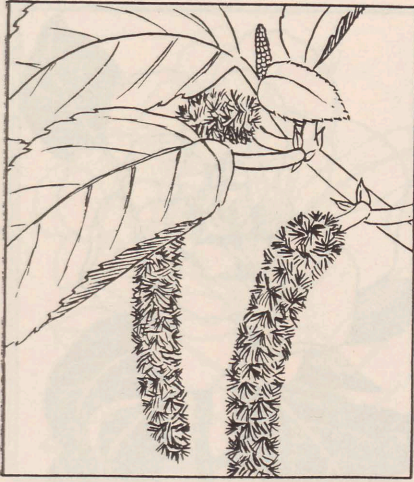


**Camellia japonica**. China and Japan; will thrive in all parts of Florida, though better suited to the northern half. It is a handsome rather large shrub, with glossy, dark green foliage, producing in winter, beautiful, perfect flowers, creamy white, pink, red or variegated. Some varieties are double. The Camellia is one of the most prized of our flowering shrubs.

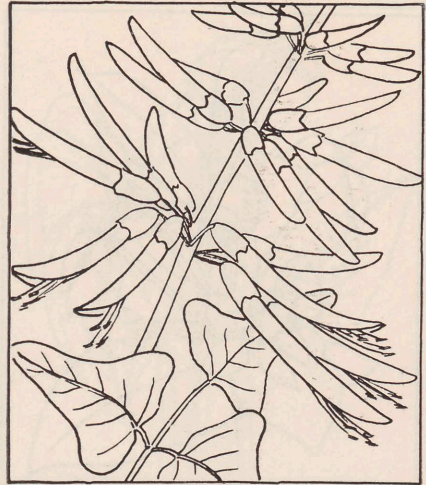


**Castor Oil Plant** (*Ricinus communis*). India and Africa; naturalized here, and grows 6 feet high. The dark red stems are thick, smooth, fleshy. Handsome leaves,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 feet across, are cut into 7 or 9 lobes, with toothed edges, green on top, red veins, and purplish red beneath. It bears clusters of small balls, covered with bright red, soft spines. Castor oil comes from the seeds.

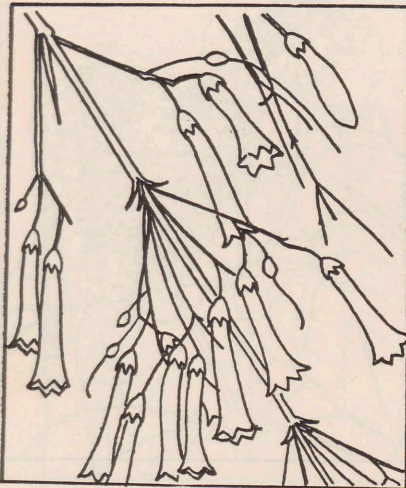




**Chenille Plant (*Acalypha hispida*).** Tropical, large growing shrub, with large, heart-shaped leaves, of light green, with toothed edges. The flower is unusual and showy. It resembles the drooping tail of a monkey in shape, and looks like bright red chenille. The name "Chenille Plant" probably comes from the French word, meaning caterpillar. The "tails" are  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter, sometimes 2 feet long, and are borne in considerable numbers.



**Cherokee Bean (*Erythrina*).** This Florida variety of the beautiful Coral Tree of India, flaunts its flaming scarlet blooms along our roadsides in late winter and spring. The flowers are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches long, extremely slender. It produces a bean like pod, which opens in summer to display bright red beans. Cultivated it is a prized garden plant.

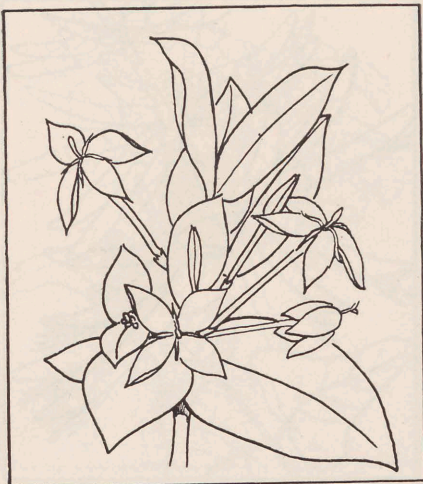


**Coral Plant (*Russelia juncea*).** This tropical plant, or shrub, is quite different from our other shrubs. It has many drooping, willowy branches, and very few leaves, with those few being so small as to be almost unnoticeable. The slender, wirelike branches remind one of lovely, pale green spray. The plant bears long sprays of tubular coral flowers, about one inch long.



**Elder (*Sambucus simpsonii*).** Elder grows wild in great quantities through most of the state. It is a large, woody shrub, bearing numerous, flat-topped heads, 4 to 8 inches across, of tiny white flowers, which are followed by great clusters of the small black berries, so loved by birds. The leaves are pinnate, each leaf having 5 to 9 leaflets.

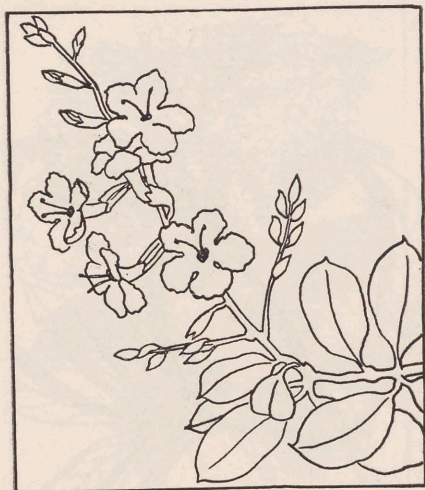




**Flame of the Woods (Ixora).** This tropical, handsome shrub is a native of India. It is an evergreen, growing 4 to 8 feet high, with smooth, dark green leaves. Star-like flowers of bright red, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch across, are borne in small clusters. There are less common varieties of white and yellow. The Ixora is a winter blooming shrub, though it bears more profusely in spring and summer.



**Gardenia (Gardenia florida).** This tropical shrub, a native of China, belongs to the Madder family. The evergreen foliage is very attractive, leaves dark green, glossy and pointed. The plant blooms freely in later winter, bearing magnificent, waxy white flowers with a cloying sweet fragrance. This is the Cape Jasmine of poetical fame in the old South. It is hardy, and thrives throughout the state.



**Golden Dewdrop (Duranta).** Native of the American tropics, hardy throughout the state. It makes a large, rather willowy shrub, with slender branches. The leaves are small, smooth and bluntly oval. Bluish violet flowers, small and dainty, are borne in early spring, and into the fall, followed by racemes of golden berries that last all winter, from which the shrub gets its common name.

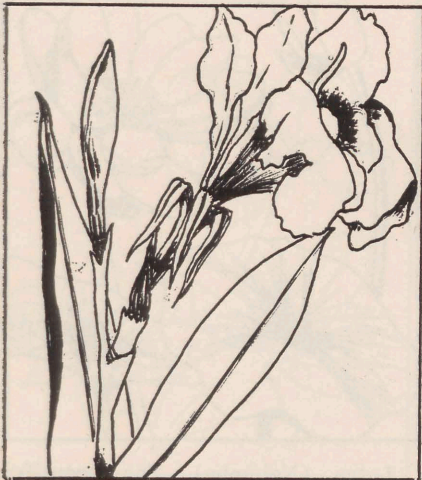


**Lantana (Lantana).** Native of tropical America. It has a spicy smell when the leaves are crushed. The leaves are rough with toothed edges. The tiny flowers grow in heads, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches across, orange, white, yellow or red and yellow. The "Weeping Lantana" is a vine, with small drooping heads of lavender flowers. The orange and red type is naturalized along the beaches. It blooms nearly the year round.





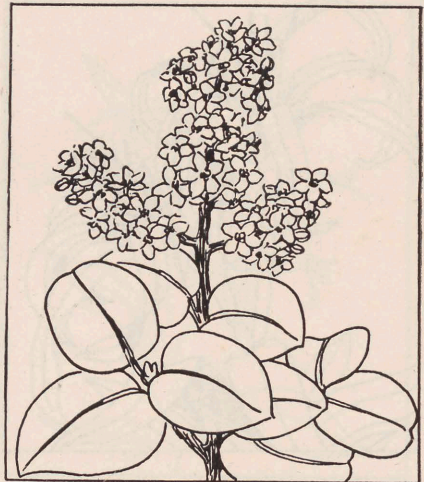
**Periwinkle (Vinca).** This tropical little flower grows wild over much of Florida. It reseeds itself, and new plants spring up after a rainy spell. When cultivated it makes a lovely colorful border, and is excellent for window boxes growing 1 to 2 feet high. The leaves are glossy and oval in shape. The flowers are rosy purple or white, sometimes with a reddish center. The stems of the pink Periwinkles are reddish, those of the white ones are yellowish green.



**Canna (Canna flaccida.)** The Canna grows in quantities in marshy places in Florida. It has stout, lance-shaped leaves. The stem of the flower rises two feet or more before bearing a few yellow blooms, 3 to 4 inches long, shaped like an iris. The cultivated Canna is seen in many gardens, and bears an abundance of large, showy flowers, red or yellow tinged with red.



**Caladium.** This plant, native of South America, is valuable for its foliage. The leaves are a foot or more long, arrow-shaped, each borne singly on its stem, brilliantly colored, in many combinations and patterns. The flower, rising on a single stem, is a fleshy spike, enclosed in a large, greenish white bract, shaded with greenish bronze at the base. It resembles a Jack-in-the-Pulpit.



**Wax Privet (Ligustrum lucidum).** This native of China and Japan, is a valuable evergreen shrub for Florida gardens. It is hardy, makes excellent hedges, and is widely used for large, dark, mass plantings. The foliage is thick, leaves dark green and glossy. Its tiny white flowers are borne in dense, compact, terminal clusters, and are very fragrant. It blooms in late winter and early spring.





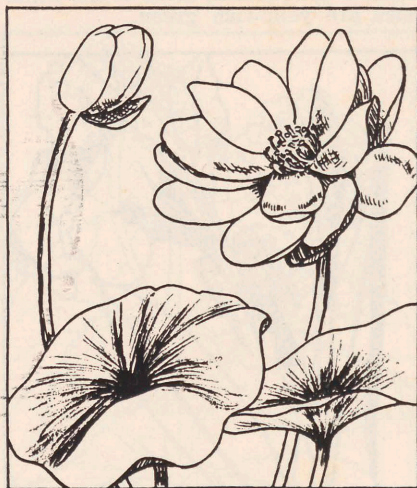
**Amaryllis.** (*Amaryllis belladonna*) South Africa; A bulbous, semi-hardy lily, producing in late winter, a number of flat, dull green, lance like leaves, 12 to 18 inches long, arranged in two rows. The stem is sturdy, 18 inches high, bearing at the top several large, funnel-shaped flowers. They are bright red, fragrant, and lovely. The hybrids are variegated, white, pink and red.



**Calla Lily** (*Araceae*). The wild *Calla* is a native bog plant. The real flower is the yellowish, fleshy spike, in the center, which is wrapped in the large, sheathing white bract. Leaves are dark green, glossy, heart-shaped, with regular parallel veins. Each leaf is borne singly on a long slender stem. The cultivated *Calla richardia*, has a larger, more flaring bract.

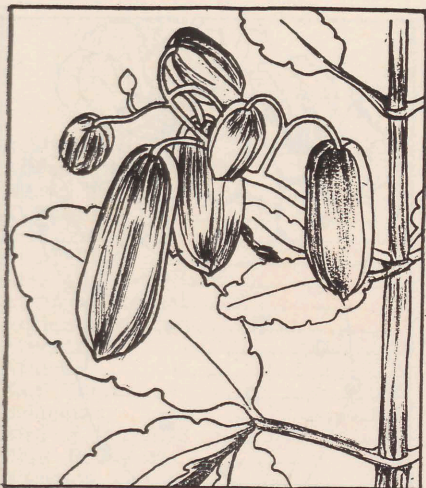


**Crinum** (*Crinum amabile*). This lily has a heavy stem, a foot high, from which grow some 25 light green, glossy leaves, 2 to 3 feet long, 3 to 4 inches wide. A tall, dark red stalk bears 6 to 10 lovely, fragrant flowers, with long, slender curling petals, white, tinged or banded with purplish red, with the flower tube of the same color. It blooms several times a year. Our white, native variety called "Swamp Lily of Florida", blooms in swamps.



**Lotus** (*Nelumbo*). The beautiful *Lotus* is a patriarch among flowers, found in the ancient art of the Egyptians, the sacred flower of the Hindus, and it symbolizes female beauty to the Greeks and Chinese. Flowers and the large leaves are borne well above the water, each on its own stem. The lily like flowers are delicately fragrant. Our native *Lotus* has beautiful yellow flowers, the East Indian *Lotus* is pink, and the Japanese variety is white.

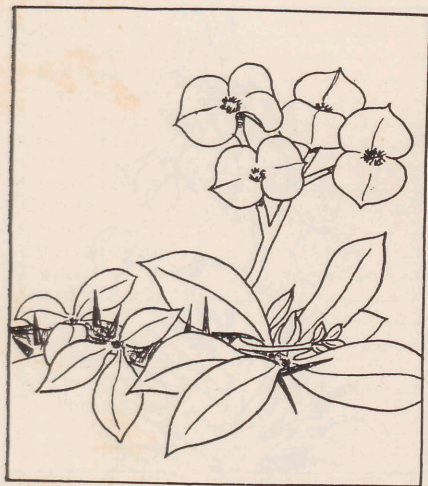




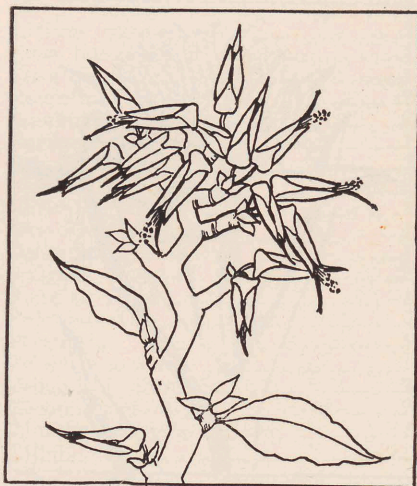
**Cathedral Bells** (*Bryophyllum*). From the Greek, meaning "spouting leaf." Lay a leaf on moist sand, and new plants will grow from the edges, or pin one to a curtain and it will start to grow. It has thick, light green leaves, indented around the edges. The veins and indentures are purple. Pale greenish and bronze, bell-shaped flowers 2 inches long, are borne in open, branching, drooping clusters, in fall and winter.



**Century Plant** (*Agave americana*). Native. The leaves are stiff, or curling back, armed with teeth, green or banded with cream, sometimes 6 feet tall. The inconspicuous flowers are borne on a huge stem, like a giant candelabra, often 20 feet high. After flowering the plant dies to the ground, but the roots send up new shoots. Two famous Mexican drinks, mescal and pulque, are made from the juice.



**Crown of Thorns** (*Euphorbia splendens*). This odd looking plant comes from Madagascar. The sinuous stems are covered with stout spines nearly an inch long. The branches are few, as are leaves, which are small, thin, light green. Near the ends of the branches, a single stalk grows, which bears small clusters of tiny flowers, closely clasped by two, broadly oval, flat, red bracts.

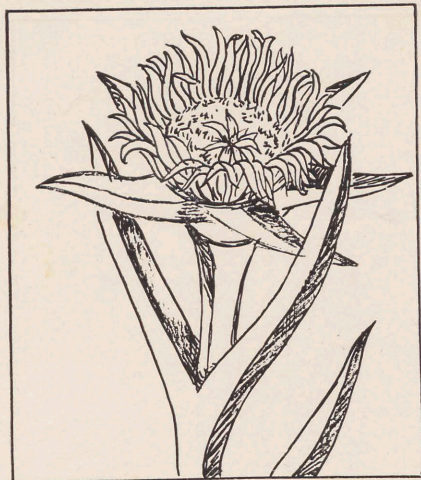


**Devil's Back Bone** (*Pedilanthus*). This is a low growing succulent plant native to tropical America. The stems are heavy, fleshy, light green, angular, jointed and branching, and when broken exude a milky juice. The leaves grow singly at the joints. The flowers are bright red, less than an inch long, blooming in winter. Other common names are "Angel's Slipper" and "Red Bird Cactus."

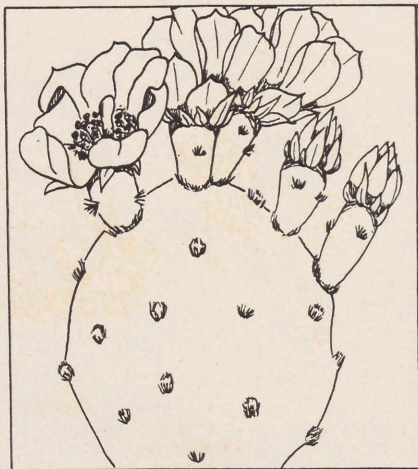




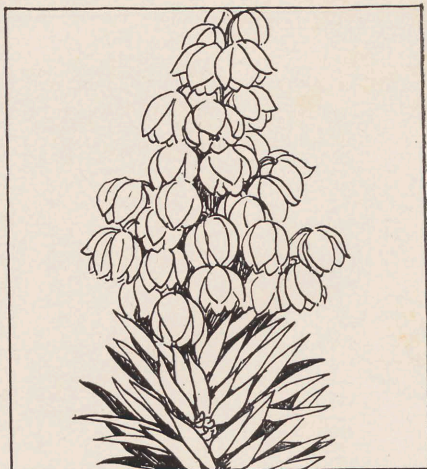
**Moses in the Bullrushes** (*Rhoeo discolor*). This odd plant, a native of Mexico has now become naturalized in Florida. It has a short, stout stem, lance like, pointed, rather stiff green leaves, which are royal purple on the under side. Rising from the axil of the leaf is a small, boat-shaped bract, holding the tiny white flowers. It is also called "Sailor in a Boat." The foliage makes this a handsome plant.



**Sea Fig** (*Mesembryanthemum*). This tropical plant, a native of South Africa, is low growing, succulent, with queer, triangular or round, long, pointed, light green leaves, which are solid and heavy. The solitary flower, borne on a heavy, fleshy stem, is lemon yellow or pink, about 2 inches across, with slender, curling petals 1 inch long. The plant is popular in California where it is seen in all colors of the rainbow.



**Prickly Pear** (*Opuntia*). This cacti was brought to the Spanish colonies by the early explorers, and grown for its sweet, insipid, purple fruit. The plant is semi-erect, 2 to 5 feet high, coarse, profusely branching, with spreading, flat, pad-like spiny joints, 2 to 4 inches long, which bear the lovely, lemon yellow flowers, in strange contrast to the ungainly stems. A less common variety has red flowers.



**Spanish Bayonet** (*Yucca filamentosa*). Native; From a thick cluster of stiff, pointed, very sharp sword like leaves, grows a large spike of waxy white, bell-shaped flowers, in late winter and early spring. It is fertilized by the Yucca moth, which lays its eggs in the flowers. The fruit pod is naturalized along the Gulf coast. The Yucca gloriosa forms a queer misshapen "tree" called Joshua Tree.



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