

SALT Native Habitat Certification Checklist

Transform your yard, patio or balcony into a habitat to encourage biodiversity in our neighborhood landscapes.

Receive your Native Habitat Certification from the South Alabama Land Trust. Score your landscape using the chart below. If your space meets the minimum required sustainable habitat practices in every category, send your results to salt@southalabamalandtrust.org, or mail your checklist to 11401 US HWY 98, Fairhope, AL 36532 to receive your certification.



Name _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____

What is the size of your yard/patio/balcony? ≤ ¼ acre ¼ - 1 acres ≥ 1 acre

SALT Native Habitat Program

Guidelines and Resources

Step 1: Assess your yard

Score your landscape using the checklist.

Start by identifying the native plants that are currently in your yard. Do they provide Food, Cover, or Breeding Places? **Only Native Plants can contribute to the checklist.** Do you have a source of Water in your landscape? Are you currently using any Sustainable Practices on the checklist?

Once you have completed the checklist for your yard or landscape, make a list of what checks are missing.

This will tell you how to begin transforming your yard into a habitat. For help identifying plants, you can use apps like [PictureThis](#) or [iNaturalist](#), call your local [Master Gardener helpline](#), or contact SALT at 251-990-5004.

Step 2: Add native plants

Now that you know a little bit more about what is in your yard, you may have noticed that many common landscape plants are not native to our area, or worse, invasive. **Work towards a goal of at least 70% native plants in your habitat and the elimination of invasive species that displace native plants and provide no benefit to wildlife.** For most people, that will be a big transition, but the most important thing is to get started! As you add native plants, the birds, butterflies, and other life that will be drawn to your yard will provide plenty of encouragement to keep going. The following native plants are available at local nurseries. Scan the QR code or [visit our website](#) for a more extensive list.

Examples of native plants

Blue-eyed Grass	evergreen perennial wildflower 🍌❤️	Wax Myrtle	evergreen shrub 🍌❤️
Muhly Grass	grass 🍌🏠❤️	Winterberry	deciduous shrub 🍌🏠❤️
River Oats	grass 🍌🏠❤️	Florida Anise	fragrant evergreen shrub 🍌🏠
Native Milkweed	herbaceous perennial 🍌❤️	Sweet Pepperbush	narrow, deciduous shrub 🍌❤️
Narrow-leaf Sunflower	perennial wildflower 🍌❤️	Serviceberry	large shrub, small tree 🍌🏠❤️
Sweet Goldenrod	evergreen perennial wildflower 🍌❤️	American Snowbell	deciduous shrub, small tree 🍌🏠❤️
Scarlet Rose Mallow	herbaceous perennial 🍌❤️	Witch Hazel	large deciduous shrub 🍌❤️
Purple Coneflower	herbaceous perennial 🍌❤️	Paw Paw	small fruit tree 🍌❤️
Stokes Aster	herbaceous perennial 🍌❤️	Native Persimmon	low, shrubby fruit tree 🍌❤️
Climbing Aster	perennial wildflower 🍌❤️	Pecan	large deciduous tree 🍌❤️
Coral Honeysuckle	evergreen vine 🍌❤️	Live Oak	large, keystone species 🍌🏠❤️
Maypop/Passionflower	herbaceous flowering vine 🍌❤️	Eastern Red Cedar	evergreen, coniferous tree 🍌🏠❤️
American Wisteria	deciduous vine 🍌❤️	Swamp Chestnut Oak	large deciduous tree 🍌🏠❤️
Saw Palmetto	shrub-sized palm 🍌🏠	Spruce Pine	large evergreen tree 🍌🏠❤️
American Beauty Berry	large shrub 🍌🏠❤️		



Food



Cover



Breeding Places



For a more extensive list of native plants, and links to resources, scan the QR code, or visit: southalabamalandtrust.org/native-habitat-program/

Step 3: Maintain your habitat

Native Plants are adapted to our climate and can thrive without additional irrigation or fertilizers once they are established. While lower maintenance than a traditional yard, your habitat will need some maintenance to look its best. **Adopting sustainable landscape maintenance practices can significantly reduce maintenance costs, conserve resources, and protect our waterways from polluted runoff.**

Learn more about sustainable practices to help your habitat thrive with these resources:

- [Alabama Smart Yards](#)
- [Greener by the Yard](#)
- [Homegrown National Park](#)
- [National Wildlife Federation Native Plant Finder](#)