

# 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](mailto: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/](https://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](#)