A Guide to Planting an African-American/African Focused Yard in Miami-Dade County:

Introduction and Acknowledgements

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Introduction

The main purpose of this guide is to review the types of plants that could be used by Miami-Dade residents in an African American/African themed garden. Particular attention is first given to those plants that have traditionally been part of the African American garden as it developed in the “black belt” of the American South. It needs to be stated at the outset that because of climate, and to a certain extent soil conditions, it is not possible to duplicate exactly in South Florida the African American gardens of the rural south. In some instances possible substitute plants are suggested.

In many respects the climate of South Florida climate is more amenable to growing plants native to W. Africa as well as other parts of the African continent. For that reason a list of landscape plants native to Africa that can be grown in South Florida is also provided. Information is also provided on food crops commonly found in Africa and note made of those that could be grown in Miami-Dade. Each of these topics is discussed separately as shown in the contents list, which can be accessed by using the back button on the toolbar.

Before discussing which plants to select, the first section of this guide presents an historical overview of the development of African American yards and the types of plants grown.

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