

# What Is It? Services

Attention: Science teachers and students, extension agents, state park employees...

There are more than 4,000 plant species in Florida. Who can know them all? That's why we have botanists and that's why we are offering plant identification services...**FREE!**

Even common plants often look differently, depending on where they are growing. And some plants look very much like other plants. For example, our native frog's-bit looks a lot like non-native water hyacinths. And, unless one is a botanist, it is difficult to distinguish one bulrush from another, or one oak tree from another.

**Want to ID a plant?  
Send it to us; we'll identify it for free.**

You can send a plant sample or e-mail pictures. However, the very best thing to do is to send an actual plant sample. There are so many kinds of plants that they are rarely identifiable with one or two pictures. In fact, sending pictures is often a waste of time.

For all plants – aquatic, wetland and upland plants – the collection method and mailing preparation is the same. See instructions (right column).

**IMPORTANT** Please do not send any kind of plant specimen, even an underwater plant, inside a plastic bag or a bag of water as the plant will deteriorate before it makes it to us.



## DO THIS:

- 1) Collect a large section of plant with leaves, and with flowers, if present. For aquatic plants, drain as much water as possible off the plant.
- 2) Press the plant between two sections of newspaper. Press with heavy books, if needed.
- 3) Put the sample and newspaper into an envelope.
- 4) Fill out the form below and include it. Mail to:

APIRS Plant ID  
Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants  
7922 NW 71<sup>st</sup> Street  
Gainesville, FL 32653  
(352) 392-1799

**We'll contact you when we've identified the plant.**



<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>

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Name E-mail

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Address

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2nd Address Line

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Date specimen was collected Area where specimen was collected (e.g., shady dry area under an oak tree; in the wet soil next to the lake, etc.)

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Place or address where specimen was collected (e.g., Old McDonald State Park, my back yard, etc.)

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Anything else you'd like to say about the plant or the place it was found?