

# Sunshine 411



[www.sunshine411.org](http://www.sunshine411.org)

## Jr. FUN FLORA FINDER!

We have over 100 different plants at our  
nature center!

**How many can you find?**

- **Work in teams, as you find plants, have the person with the clipboard circle what you find on the separate checklist**
- **PLEASE do not write in the notebooks**

**DO NOT EAT OR PICK ANY PLANTS YOU FIND**

## What is an Herb?

- ✓ **In general use**, herbs are plants with savory or aromatic properties that are used for flavoring and garnishing food, for medicinal purposes, or for fragrances; excluding vegetables and other plants consumed for macronutrients.
- ✓ Culinary use typically distinguishes herbs from spices. Herbs generally refers to the leafy green or flowering parts of a plant (either fresh or dried), while spices are usually dried and produced from other parts of the plant, including seeds, bark, roots and fruits.
- ✓ In botany, the term is defined as a small, seed-bearing plant without a woody stem in which all aerial parts (i.e. above ground) die back to the ground at the end of each growing season.
- ✓ Most grasses are Herbs

**NOTE:** Just because a plant you find is an Herb.. Does not mean it is edible. **DO NOT EAT ANY PLANTS ON THE PROPERTY UNLESS GIVEN PERMISSION BY A SUPERVISING ADULT.**

# FERNS

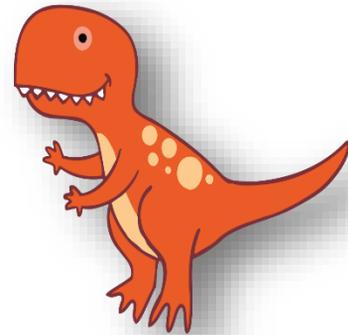
## What is a Fern?

- ✓ A fern is a member of a group of that reproduce via spores and have neither seeds nor flowers.
- ✓ The green, photosynthetic part of the plant is technically a megaphyll and in ferns, it is often referred to as a frond. New leaves typically expand by the unrolling of a tight spiral called a crozier or fiddlehead into fronds



**Giant wild-pine, Giant airplant**  
*Tillandsia utriculata*  
**LOOK UP!!**

Wow!  
Ferns are  
OLD



- ✓ Ferns first appear in the fossil record about 360 million years!



**Shoestring fern**  
*Vittaria lineata*

# TREES

## What is a Tree?

- ✓ A tree is a perennial plant with an elongated stem, or trunk, supporting branches and leaves in most species.
- ✓ A tree typically has many secondary branches supported clear of the ground by the trunk. This trunk typically contains woody tissue for strength, for most trees it is surrounded by a layer of bark which serves as a protective barrier.
- ✓ Trees usually reproduce using seeds. Flowers and fruit may be present, but some trees, such as conifers, instead have pollen cones and seed cones

## What about PALM TREES???

- ✓ **Palms** lack secondary growth and wood. *According to the botanical definition, palms are not trees but large, woody herbs.*



**Sabal Palm**

*Sabal palmetto*

# SHRUBS

## What are Shrubs?

- ✓ A shrub is a small- to medium-sized perennial woody plant. Unlike herbs, shrubs have persistent woody stems above the ground. Shrubs can be deciduous or evergreen. They are distinguished from trees by their multiple stems and shorter height.
- ✓ Shrubs are one of the most common plants we see at our homes, parks and schools. When gardening, Shrubs are often called “Bushes”
- ✓ Many Shrubs have flowers, but not all the time, so remember to look at the leaves!
- ✓ Some Cacti are even shrubs (ouch!)



**Caesarweed**  
*Urena lobata*

# Plants with **BERRIES**

## What is a Berry?

- ✓ A berry is a small, pulpy, and often edible fruit. Typically, berries are juicy, rounded, brightly colored, sweet, sour or tart, and do not have a stone or pit, although many pips or seeds may be present.

Most plants do not have berries all the time... so make sure you look at the leaves to identify the plants! Plants with berries may be trees, vines or shrubs!

**NOTE:** Just because a plant you find has berries, Does not mean it is edible. **DO NOT EAT ANY PLANTS ON THE PROPERTY UNLESS GIVEN PERMISSION BY A SUPERVISING ADULT.**



Red mulberry  
*Morus rubra*