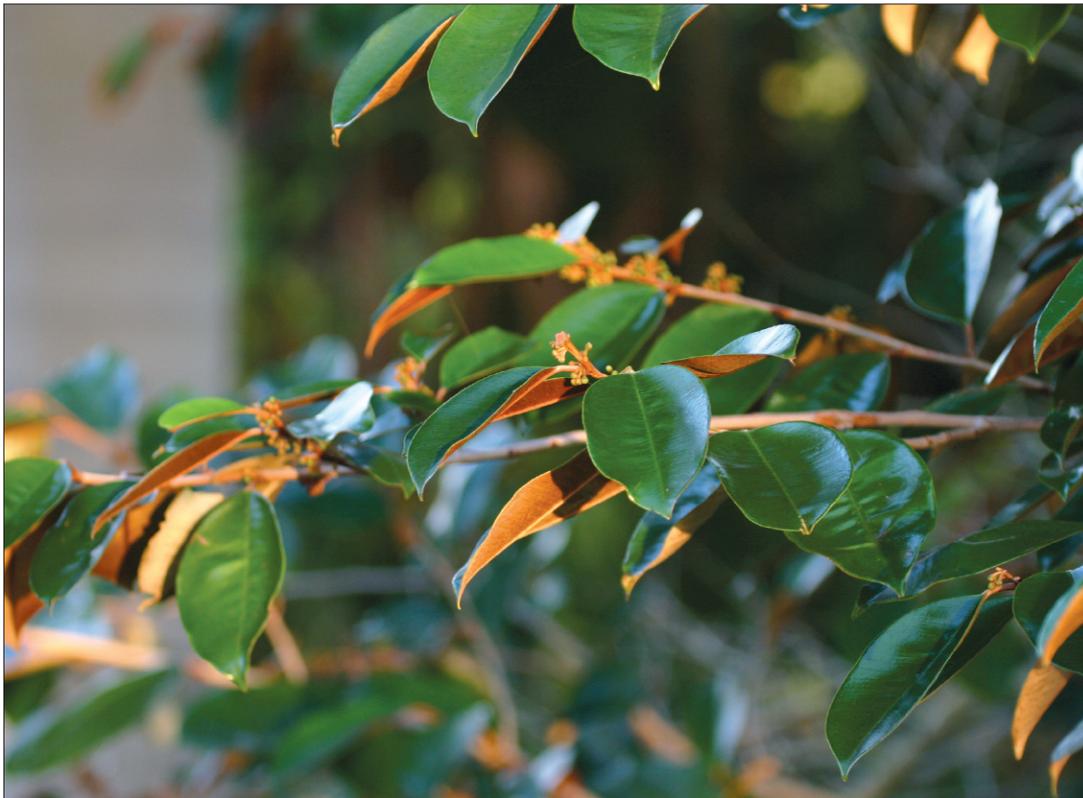


NEW HOMES

CONTENTS PREPARED BY CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING



The Satin Leaf is an attractive tree that has large deep green leaves above and brown satin color and texture below. The tree is listed as threatened by the State of Florida. **Photo by Debby LaFogg-Docherty.**

Go 'native' with our exciting new column

BY DEBBY LAFOGG-DOCHERTY
SPECIAL TO NEW HOMES

Now that you have moved into your new home, it's a great time to begin including native plants in your landscaping.

Since native plants and trees have colorful flowers and outstanding foliage, using them will not make your yard look like a weed garden.

There are several reasons to go native. Native plants require less water than non-natives once established; they are more pest resistant, thus requiring fewer pesticides; and they require far less fertilizers, saving you both time and money.

In the following weeks, you will discover the many available options with our new bi-weekly Native Plant of the Week column.

You will be introduced to plants, ground covers, scrubs and trees that you can master — and use to make your yard a showcase — with minimal effort. Yeah, more time for relaxation, or

a day at the beach.

Our new column will reveal requirements for sun and water — an important consideration with water restrictions — and also flower color and other pertinent details.

This information will be courtesy of NatureScape, which is part of the Broward Water Resources Division, and Natives For Your Neighborhood, a program of the Institute for Regional Conservation.

Naturescape believes that creating a Florida-friendly landscape starts in learning about your own back yard. What are your drainage patterns? Are there sunny or shady spots? Does your backyard consist of just a patio or a rooftop?

Naturescape offers some great ways to bring a little green into your life with a program called Florida Friendly Roofs and Patios. For more information visit: www.broward.org/naturescape.

Natives For Your Neighborhood helps to promote restora-

tion and long-term management of biodiversity. Not only do they provide valuable information on plants that are indigenous to our area, they provide a list of butterflies that could visit your yard, if you plant the appropriate host plants. To visit their web site visit: www.regionalconservation.org.

With their help, we'll provide tips for growing healthy plants, such as mulching to help suppress weeds and hold water in the soil.

Whether you'd like to learn more about becoming a butterfly gardener, or finding just the right scrub to make the perfect hedge, turn to our Native Plant of the Week column for information and advice.



Great Blue Heron. **Photo by Debby LaFogg-Docherty.**