

## **Glossary:**

**Adaptation:** An organism's adjustment to environmental influences.

**Anal:** Associated with or situated near the anus.

**Antenna:** The moveable sense organ associated with the head of insects and crustaceans.

**Aperture:** The large opening in the body whorl of a snail shell.

**Aquatic:** Living in or near water.

**Autotomize:** A reflex allowing for the separation of a body part from the body.

**Axil:** Referring to the angle between a branch or leaf and the axis from which it originates.

**Barbel:** A fleshy tentacle-like organ on the mouth of some fishes.

**Beak:** The pointed or peaked part of a bivalve shell.

**Benthic:** Describes a bottom-dweller.

**Bivalve:** A shell having two corresponding, moveable pieces.

**Brackish:** Describes water with a salinity level between freshwater and saltwater.

**Bromeliad:** An epiphytic, herbaceous plant.

**Buteo.** Relating to hawks with broad rounded wings and soaring flight.

**Camouflage:** Evasion by means of disguise.

**Carapace:** A hard covering over the head and thorax of many crustaceans or the top shell of a turtle.

**Carnivore:** An animal that feeds on living animals.

**Carrion:** Relating to dead and decaying flesh.

**Caudal:** Associated with or situated near the tail or hind portion of the body.

**Chela:** The pincerlike claw of a crustacean.

**Cilia:** Microscopic hairs.

**Colonial animal:** A member of a colony.

**Colony:** A localized population within a species that have established a neighboring relationship.

**Community:** The interaction of a group of species and abiotic factors assembled in the same location.

**Compound Leaf:** A leaf containing a number of leaflets on a common stem.

**Concentric:** Starting from a common axis.

**Cord:** The raised spiral pattern on a snail shell, usually a rounded, vertical or spiral ridge.

**Covert:** The feather covering the bases of the quills of the wings and tail of a bird.

**Cranial:** Associated with the head and skull.

**Crustaceans:** The largest group of marine arthropods that make up the majority of life on the ocean floors and beaches.

**Deciduous:** Losing leaves seasonally or during a certain stage of growth.

**Desiccation:** The act of becoming dry.

**Detritus:** Dead disintegrating organic material.

**Dinoflagellate:** Plantlike marine plankton.

Dioecious: Having male reproductive organs in one individual and female reproductive organs in another individual.

Disseminate: To disperse widely, as in seeds.

Dorsal: Associated with or situated near the back.

Dorsoventral: Having well-defined back and abdominal surfaces.

Drift Algae: Marine or aquatic plants carried by water currents.

Endangered Species: Individuals threatened by extinction.

Epiphytic: Living on the surface of other plants and deriving nutrients and moisture from the air and rain.

EPPC Category I - Species that are invading and disrupting native plant communities in Florida according to Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's 1999 List of Florida's Most Invasive Species. This definition does not rely on the economic severity or geographic range of the problem, but on the documented ecological damage caused.

EPPC Category II - Species that have shown a potential to disrupt native plant communities. These species may become ranked as Category I, but have not yet demonstrated disruption of natural Florida communities.

Estuarine: Describes an environment associated with an estuary.

Estuary: A coastal area where salt water meets fresh water; brackish.

Evergreen: Describing a plant that has foliage that remains green year-round.

Filter Feeder: An organism that uses filtering mechanisms to trap food particles suspended in water.

Finfolds: A flap of skin running down the ventral side of the tail of a ray.

Foliage: A cluster of leaves, flowers, and branches of one or more plants.

Forage: Food taken by grazing or browsing.

Fouling Community: A marine community attached to an artificial substrate such as a boat hull.

Gorgonian: A class of Cnidarians that have flexible protein skeletons.

Habitat: The native environment of an animal or plant. A place that provides the organism with food, water, shelter, and space.

Hardwood Hammock: An area higher in elevation than its surroundings, characterized by hardwood trees and lush vegetation.

Herbivore: An animal that feeds on plants.

Herbaceous: Referring to a plant that has the qualities of an herb.

Humus: A dark material resulting from the partial decomposition of plant or animal matter and producing the organic part of the soil.

Hypersaline: Extremely salty water or condition.

Incisor Teeth: The front teeth adapted for cutting.

Intertidal Zone: A relatively narrow strip of shoreline that is exposed during the lowest low tides and either covered or splashed with waves during the highest high tides.

Introduced Species: A species brought to an area for the first time.

Invertebrate: An organism lacking a spinal column.

Isopod: A small crustacean with a segmented body, each segment having a pair of corresponding legs.

Knob: A rounded projection.

Larva: The immature stage of some organisms.

Lateral: Associated with the side of an organism.

Luminescence: Light that is caused by friction, chemical reaction, or a physiological process at low temperatures.

Marsupial: An animal with a pouch on the abdomen of the female containing teats and functions to carry the young.

Mutualism: An association based on a shared relationship in which both organisms benefit.

Maxillipeds: In crustaceans, the first two or three thoracic appendages typically used in handling food.

Nape: The area at the back of the neck.

Naturalized: To become established as if native.

Nematocyst: A stinging cell used for defense and to capture food.

Nocturnal: Typically active at night.

Nonmigratory: Staying in one area year-round.

Omnivore: An animal that feeds on both animal and plant matter.

Operculum: A lid or cover, such as the plate covering the opening of the shell of a mollusk when the animal is retracted.

Organic: Relating to or arising from living organisms.

Parasitism: A relationship in which a parasite derives benefits from a host organism.

Pectoral: Associated with the breast.

Perennial: Continuing to produce growth over several years.

Periostracum: The noncalcareous covering on the outer layer of a shell.

Pinnae: Leaflets growing on either side of a common leaf stalk.

Pinnate: Leaves arranged on opposite sides of an axis resembling a feather.

Pinnatifid: A leaf divided in a pinnate way.

Pinnule: An ultimate division of a twice pinnate leaf.

Pioneering Plant: A plant able to perpetuate itself in a vacant area and begin a new ecological cycle.

Plankton: Drifting organisms of varying sizes that cannot swim against wind-driven ocean currents.

Plastron: The abdominal part of the shell of a turtle or tortoise.

Podium: An appendage resembling a foot.

Polychaete: A class of annelid worms with distinct appendages or folds and bristles over most of their body segments.

Polyp: An attached, cylindrical, soft-bodied organism with a mouth surrounded by tentacles.

Primaries: Describing the leading quills on a bird's wing.

Probosci: An elongated, flexible organ of the oral area.

Propagate. To multiply by sexual or asexual reproduction.

Prop roots: In some mangrove trees, the roots which extend from the main trunk and curve into the water.

Pupa: The intermediate and changing stage of an insect that is usually enclosed by a cocoon or case.

Rhinophores: Tentacle-like organs on the head of a nudibranch or sea slug.

Rhizome: A horizontal, rootlike stem growing above or below the ground.

Rookery: A breeding ground for a colony of birds.

Roost: A site where birds typically rest.

Rostrum: A projected body part resembling a snout or beak.

Salinity: The saltiness of the water, usually expressed as parts per thousand.

Scavenge: To feed on carrion or refuse.

Scrub Area: Sandy dry areas consisting of limited, sparse vegetation.

Seagrasses: Flowering plants that live under water.

Sessile: Describes organisms permanently attached to the substrate.

Sori. Groupings of sporangia.

Species: A class of individuals having common characteristics and designated by a common name.

Spiracle: A breathing orifice.

Spiral: The single turn or twist in a shell.

Spire: The tapering end of a shell.

Sporangium: A protective sac where asexual spores are produced.

Stamen: The part of the flower that produces the male gamete for reproduction.

Stipe: A short plant stalk.

Stolon: The horizontal branch or runner growing from the base of a plant that produces new plants from buds at its extremity.

Subdorsal: Describes an area just below the back.

Subspecies: A subdivision of a species, or a geographically isolated group of the same species.

Substrate: The base on which an organism lives.

Successional: Describing a group of organisms that follow each other in a particular order.

Succulent: A plant having fleshy tissues intended to conserve water.

Symbiotic: Describes the long-term, dependent, relationship between two organisms.

Tendrils: A leaf or stem that grows in a spiral and attaches the plant to its support.

Test: The hard external covering of many invertebrates.

Thermal: A rising mass of warm air.

Threatened: Listed as Threatened Plants in the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act.

Defined as species of plants native to the state that are in rapid decline in the number of plants within the state, but which have not so decreased in such number as to cause them to be endangered

Thorax: The cavity where the heart and lungs are found in the area between the neck and abdomen. The middle part of the three separate divisions of the body of an insect.

Trawling: Gathering marine organisms from shallow water with a funnel shaped net.

Understory: Plants growing beneath the canopy.

Varix: raised longitudinal rib on the surface of a snail shell caused by routine thickening of the outer lip during pauses in shell growth.

Viviparous: Relating to the ability to produce live young instead of eggs from within the body.

Whorl: The single curve of a spiral, as associated with a shell.

Xeric: Relating to the ability to exist with limited moisture.

Xerophyte: A plant structurally acclimated to grow with limited moisture.

Zooxanthellae: Microscopic algae living in the tissues of corals and other organisms.

