



Plant and Wildlife Identification Apps

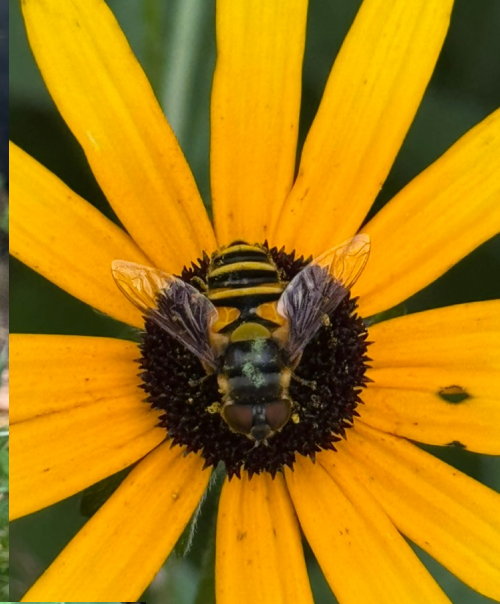
Neighborhood Gardener: SW Library

August 13, 2026

Kristyna Culp, Director Habitat Builders

Contact at info@habitatbuilders.org





Let's Discuss Plant and Animal ID apps

- iNaturalist
- NCSU Extension Plant Toolbox
- Some other Apps to consider



iNat Classic



iNaturalist

NC STATE EXTENSION



iNaturalist

- Citizen Science ID App
- Great for plants AND animals
- Even sounds



iNat Classic



iNaturalist

About

[About](#) [iNaturalist Team](#) [Supporters](#) [Financials](#) [Press](#)



iNaturalist helps you identify the plants and animals around you while generating data for science and conservation. Get connected with a community of millions of scientists and naturalists who can help you learn more about nature!

By recording and sharing your observations, you'll create research-quality data for scientists working to better understand and protect nature. If you like recording your findings from the outdoors, or just like learning about life, [join us!](#)

iNaturalist is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in the USA (Tax ID 92-1296468).



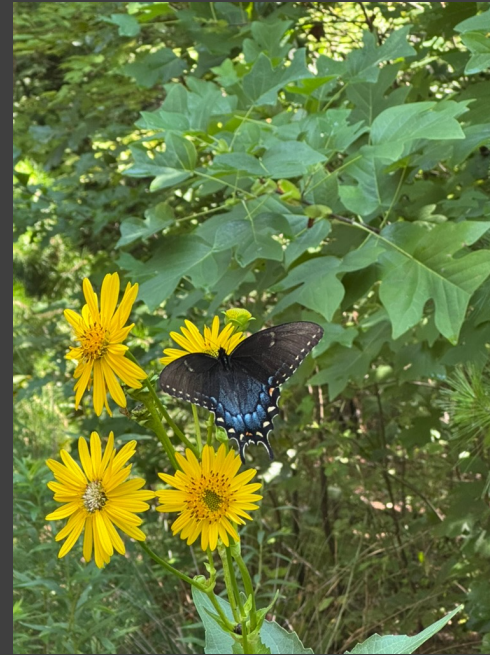
INATURALIST'S MISSION & VISION

iNaturalist's mission is to connect people to nature and advance biodiversity science and conservation.

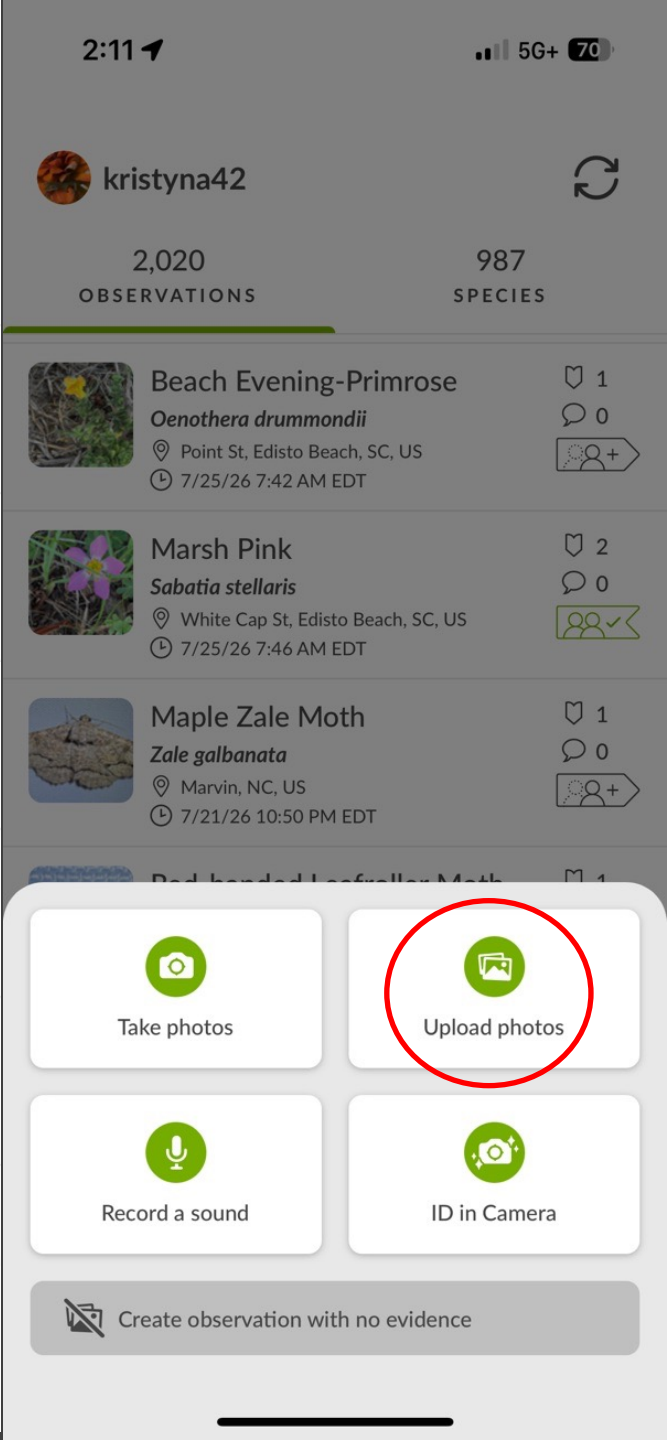
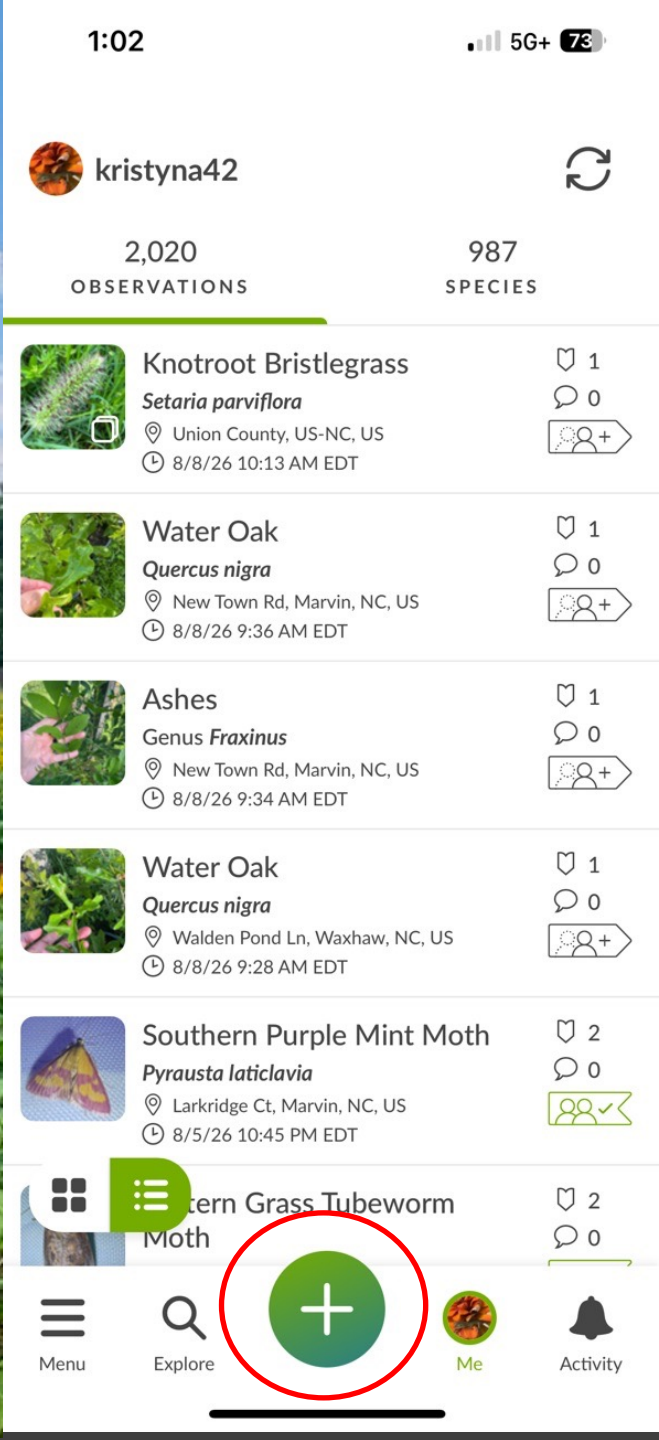
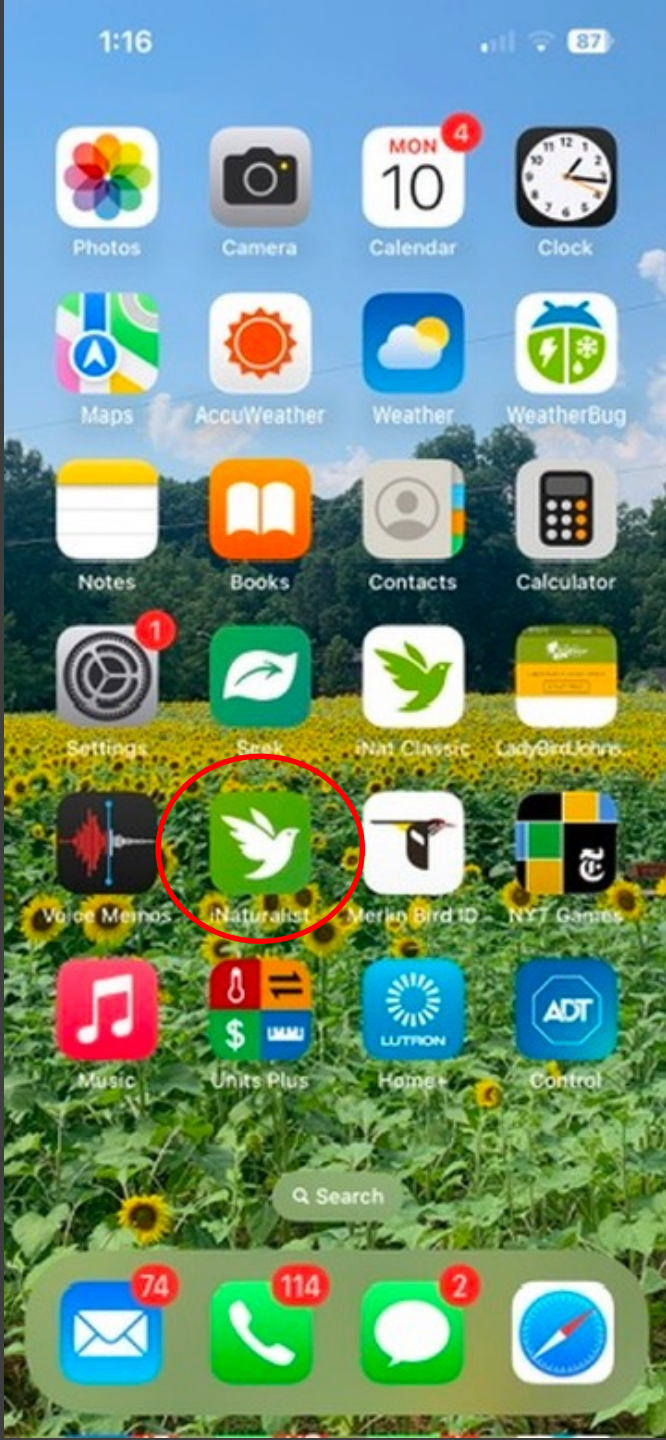
iNaturalist's vision is a world where everyone can understand and sustain biodiversity through the practice of observing wild organisms and sharing information about them.

The Process to Add a Photo

- Snap a photo
- Crop to highlight the interesting part
- Open iNaturalist, click Me, then 
- Select photo(s)
- Click Add
- Check ID suggestions and pick your choice
- Read and view more photos
- Select the taxon
- Upload Now



Add a Photo



2:11

5G+ 70

 kristyna42

2,020
OBSERVATIONS

987
SPECIES

Beach Evening-Primrose

Oenothera drummondii

 Point St, Edisto Beach, SC, US

 7/25/26 7:42 AM EDT

 1

 0

Marsh Pink

Sabatia stellaris

 White Cap St, Edisto Beach, SC, US

 7/25/26 7:46 AM EDT

 2

 0

Maple Zale Moth

Zale galbanata

 Marvin, NC, US

 7/21/26 10:50 PM EDT

 1

 0

Red-banded Leafroller Moth

Mimodesmia

 Marvin, NC, US

 7/21/26 10:50 PM EDT

 1

 0

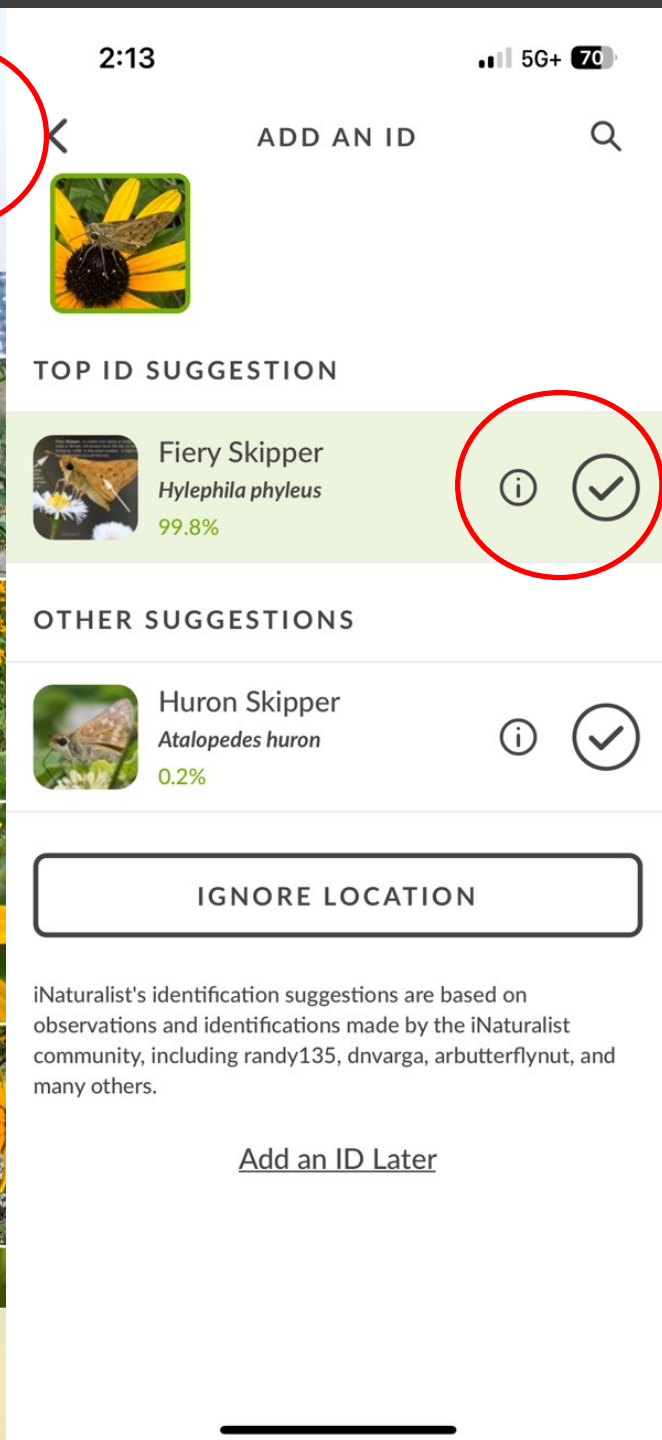
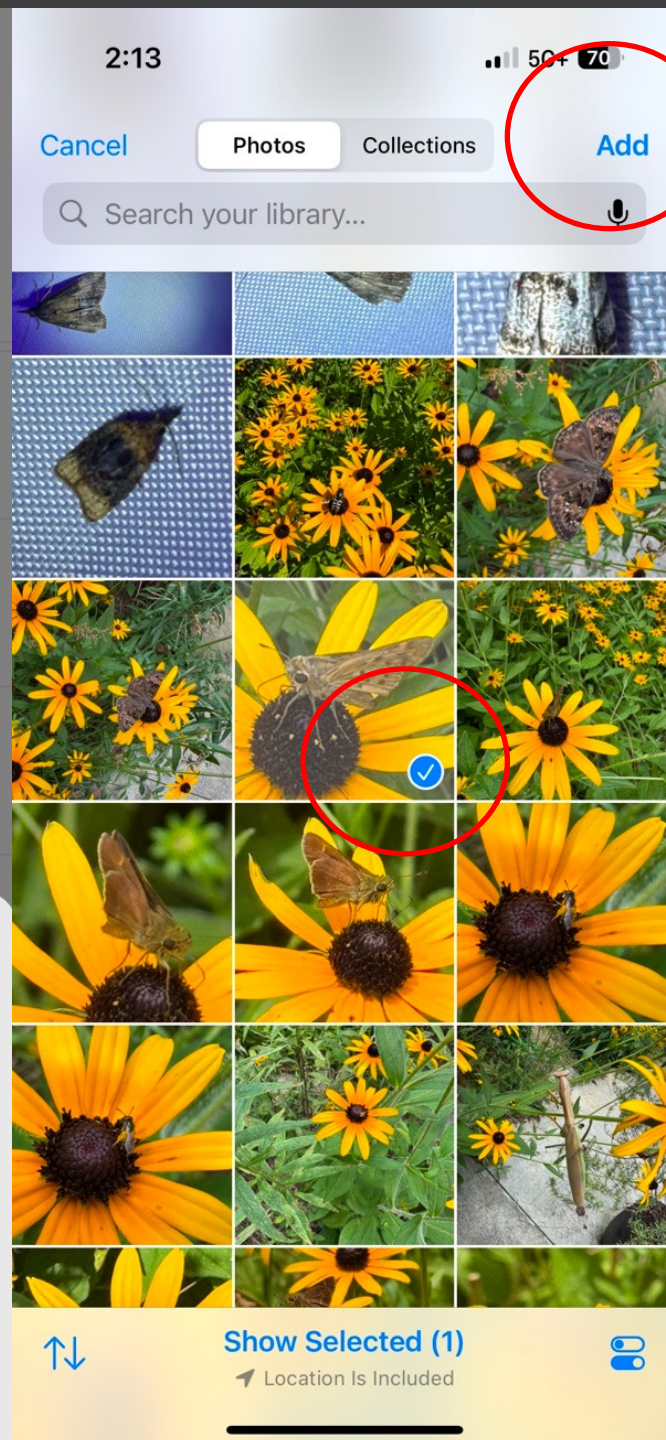
Take photos

Upload photos

Record a sound

ID in Camera

 Create observation with no evidence



Add a Photo

2:13

5G+ 70

<

ADD AN ID

>



TOP ID SUGGESTION



Fiery Skipper

Hylephila phyleus

99.8%

i

✓

OTHER SUGGESTIONS



Huron Skipper

Atalopedes huron

0.2%

i

✓

IGNORE LOCATION

iNaturalist's identification suggestions are based on observations and identifications made by the iNaturalist community, including randy135, dnvarga, arbutterflynut, and many others.

[Add an ID Later](#)

1:18

87

<

Fiery Skipper, no matter how lightly or boldly male or female, will always have this dot, on the hindwing "ruffle" in this exact location. It might have no other marks but just this one.



SPECIES ✓

Fiery Skipper

Hylephila phyleus

WIKIPEDIA

The **fiery skipper** (*Hylephila phyleus*) is a butterfly of the family Hesperiidae and is approximately 1 inch (2.5 cm) long. The males are orange or yellow with black spots while the females are dark brown with orange or yellow spots. The caterpillars are greenish pink with a black head. The caterpillars are often considered pests and can feed on Bermudagrass, creeping bentgrass, and St. Augustine grass.

[Read more on Wikipedia](#)

SELECT THIS TAXON ✓

1:18

87

<

New Observation

>

EVIDENCE ✓

+



Larkridge Ct, Marvin, NC, US

Lat: 34.988645, Lon: -80.827842, Acc: 5

08/05/2026, 2:31 PM

IDENTIFICATION ✓



Fiery Skipper

Hylephila phyleus

✎

✕

IDENTIFY

SEARCH

OTHER DATA

Geoprivacy: Open ▾

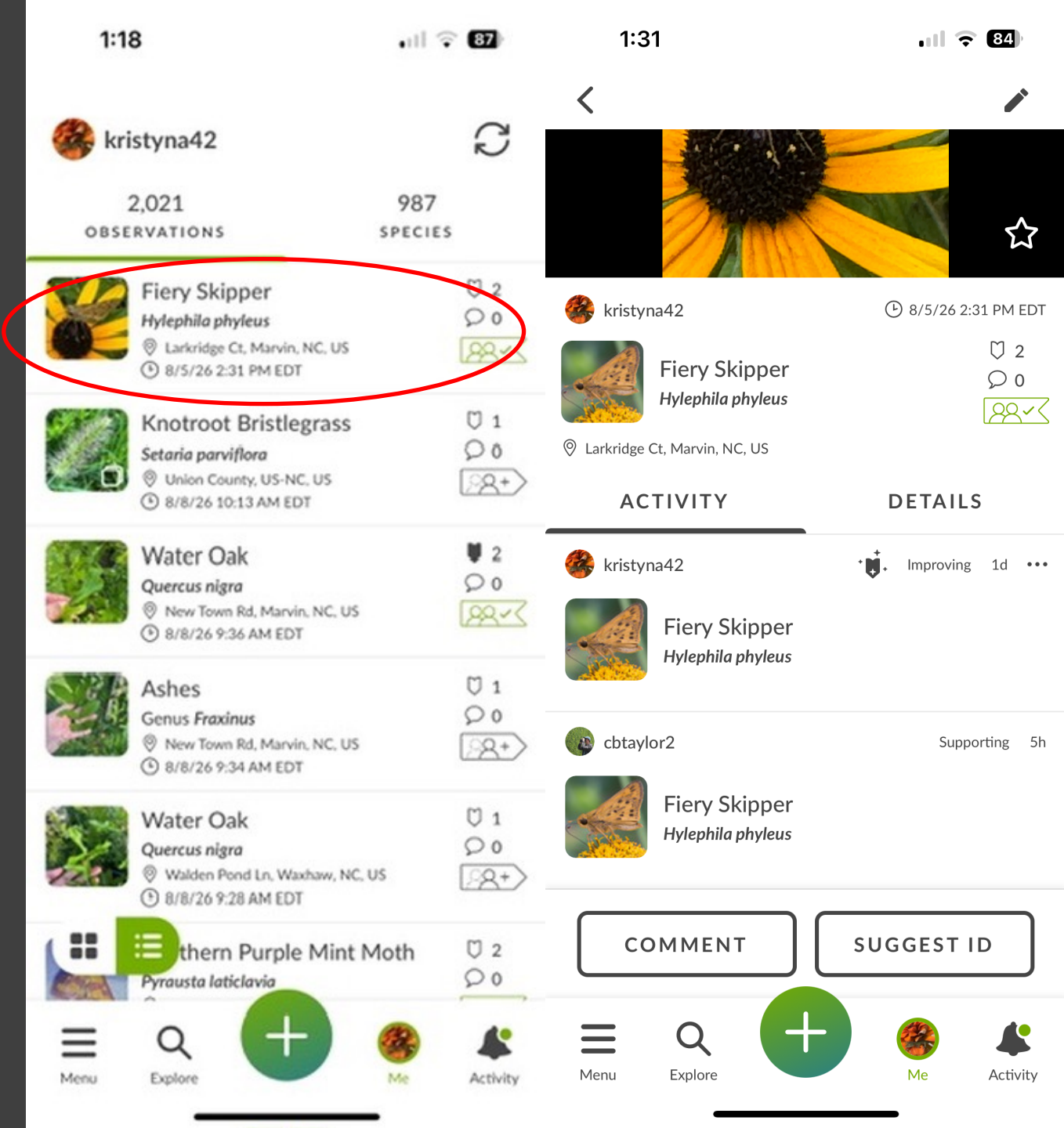
Organism is wild ▾

Add optional notes ▾

SAVE

UPLOAD NOW

Your New Entry



Your New Entry with Comments

1:02

5G+ 73

<



7

.....

☆

 kristyna42

8/4/26 10:47 PM EDT



Wavy-lined and Southern Emeralds

Complex *Synchlora aerata*

Larkridge Ct, Marvin, NC, US

1

2

ACTIVITY

DETAILS

 jagerwin

Leading 3d



Wavy-lined and Southern Emeralds

COMMENT

SUGGEST ID

Menu

Explore

+

Me

Activity

1:02

5G+ 73

<

the larva of these two closely related species adorn themselves with plant petal pieces, probably some leaf matter as well. I've only seen them with petals. Sometimes on my sunflowers they use the yellow petals and then I think the plant is I can't say alive b/c it is of course alive. But it's bizarre to see part of the plant blossom move... ha ha.

Anyway, I'm confident this is what you have but we'll see what others think.

 kristyna42

3d ...

Thanks for the comments.

That's the only ID that makes sense relative to the options iNat gave. But more research into the wavy lines emerald shows that before they adorn themselves with petals etc they are smooth. Whatever these spiky clusters are I don't think they are plant material. I'm at a loss. But it's fascinating. I do have a lot of wavy lined emerald caterpillars in this area. None look like this. I guess we will see.

 jagerwin

2d

COMMENT

SUGGEST ID

Menu

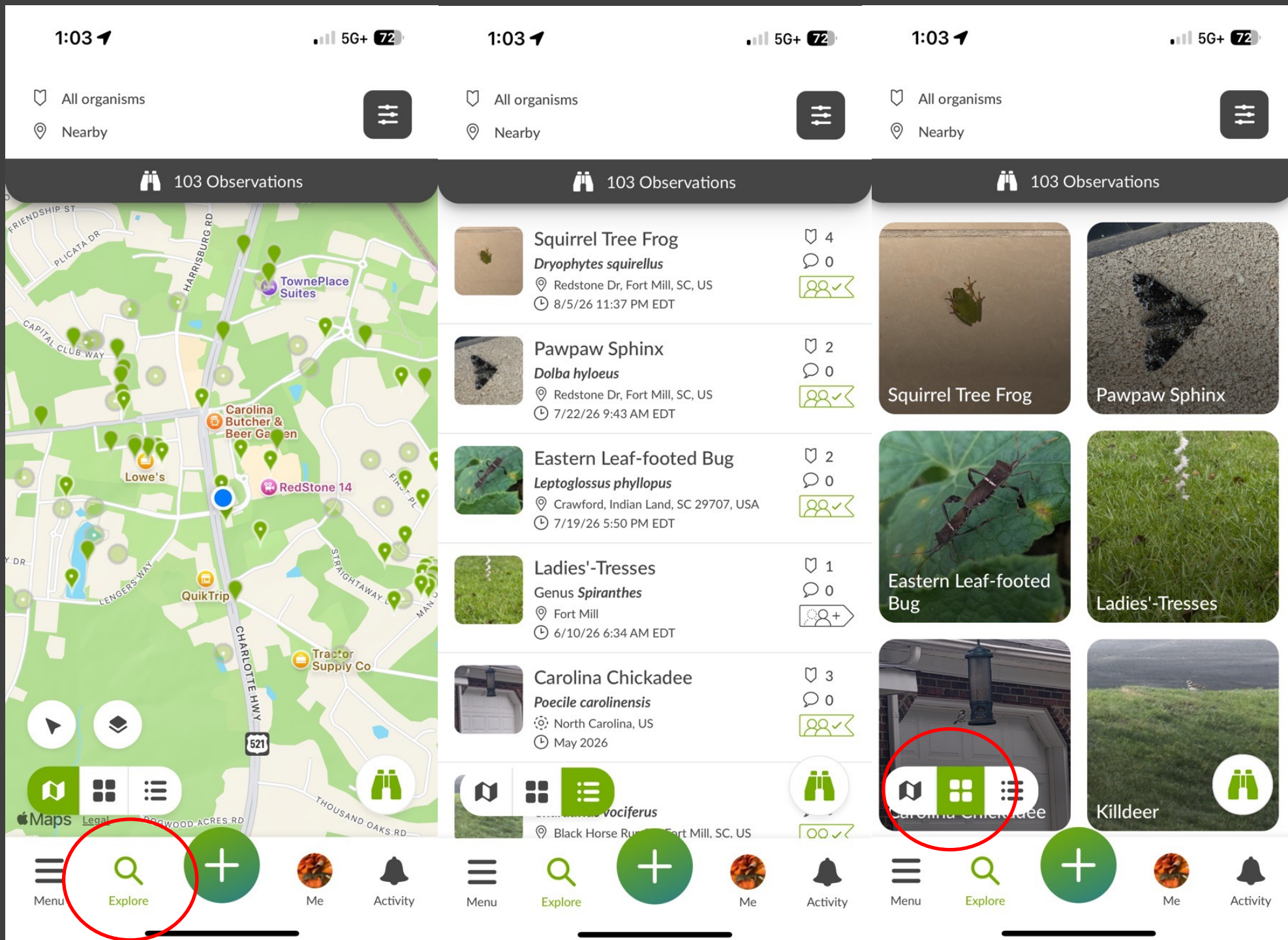
Explore

+

Me

Activity

Explore Nearby

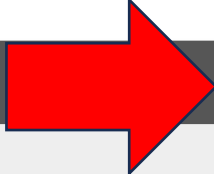


iNaturalist via Computer: The World

iNaturalist Search × Explore Your Observations Community Identify More ⌵ Upload 0 0 

Observations

Q Species Location Go Filters

 **The World** 341,315,913 OBSERVATIONS 580,050 SPECIES 521,138 IDENTIFIERS 4,352,428 OBSERVERS

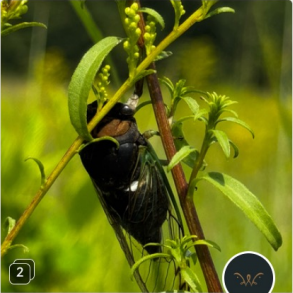
Map Grid List



European Starling
(*Sturnus vulgaris*)
1 5h



European Starling
(*Sturnus vulgaris*)
1 5h



Swamp Cicada
(*Neotibicen tibicen*)
1 2h



Canada Clearweed
(*Pilea pumila*)
1 40m



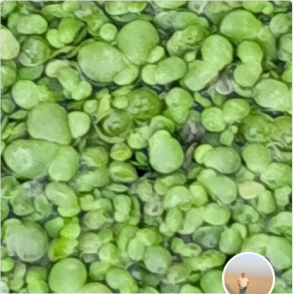
Common Elephant's-Foot
(*Elephantopus tomentosus*)
1 1h



Genus *Pandemis*
1 Aug '20



Monarch
(*Danaus plexippus*)
1 Aug '26



Common Duckweed
(*Lemna minor*)
1 Jun '25

iNaturalist via Computer by Species

iNaturalist Search

Explore Your Observations Community Identify More

Upload 0 0

Observations

Species Location Go Filters

The World 341,315,913 OBSERVATIONS 580,050 SPECIES 521,138 IDENTIFIERS 4,352,428 OBSERVERS



885,689 observations CC

Mallard
(*Anas platyrhynchos*)



696,370 observations ©

Western Honey Bee
(*Apis mellifera*)



547,675 observations PD

Asian Lady Beetle
(*Harmonia axyridis*)



511,379 observations CC

House Sparrow
(*Passer domesticus*)



485,701 observations CC

Monarch
(*Danaus plexippus*)



452,930 observations ©

Canada Goose
(*Branta canadensis*)



438,979 observations CC

American Robin
(*Turdus migratorius*)



435,466 observations CC

Great Blue Heron
(*Ardea herodias*)



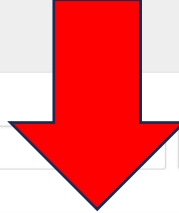
413,001 observations CC

Rock Pigeon
(*Columba livia*)



398,280 observations CC

White-tailed Deer
(*Odocoileus virginianus*)



iNaturalist via Computer: Union County NC

Observations

Species

Union County, NC

Go

Filters

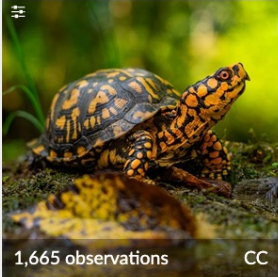
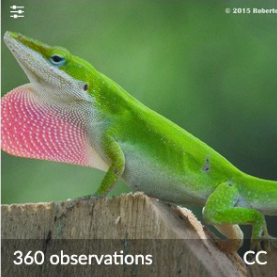
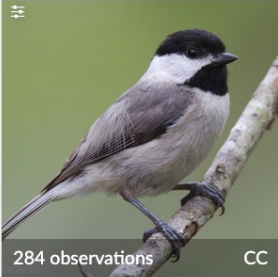
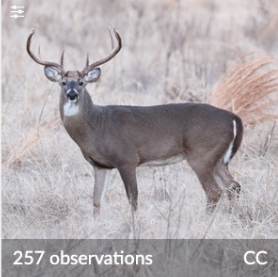
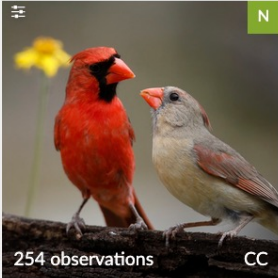
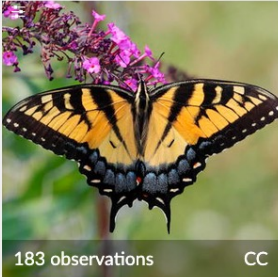
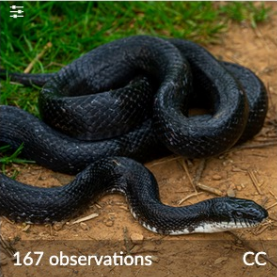
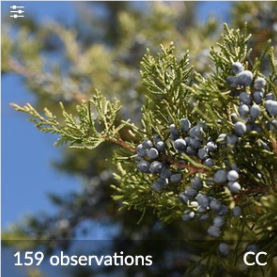
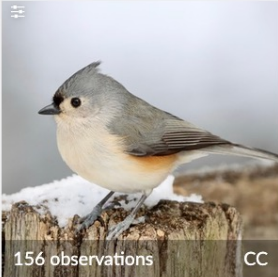
Union

46,783
OBSERVATIONS

4,260
SPECIES

4,173
IDENTIFIERS

2,442
OBSERVERS

 1,665 observations CC Common Box Turtle (<i>Terrapene carolina</i>)	 529 observations CC Eastern Bluebird (<i>Sialia sialis</i>)	 360 observations CC Green Anole (<i>Anolis carolinensis</i>)	 284 observations CC Carolina Chickadee (<i>Parus carolinensis</i>)	 257 observations CC White-tailed Deer (<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>)
 254 observations CC N Northern Cardinal (<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>)	 242 observations CC American Sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>)	 205 observations CC Fowler's Toad (<i>Anaxyrus fowleri</i>)	 195 observations CC Green Treefrog (<i>Dryophytes cinereus</i>)	 191 observations CC Carolina Wren (<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>)
 183 observations CC Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (<i>Papilio glaucus</i>)	 167 observations CC Central Ratsnake (<i>Pantherophis alleghaniensis</i>)	 159 observations CC Eastern Redcedar (<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>)	 156 observations CC Tufted Titmouse (<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>)	 150 observations CC Willow Oak (<i>Quercus phellos</i>)

iNaturalist via Computer: My Observations

iNaturalist Search × Explore **Your Observations** Community ▼ Identify More ▼ Upload 0 0

Observations

Q Species Location Go Filters ²

The World

2,018
OBSERVATIONS

987
SPECIES

458
IDENTIFIERS

1
OBSERVER

Map

Grid

List



Ashes
(Genus *Fraxinus*)

1

3h



Water Oak
(*Quercus nigra*)

1

3h



Southern Purple Mint Moth
(*Pyrausta laticlavata*)

Research Grade

2

3d

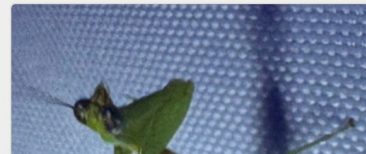
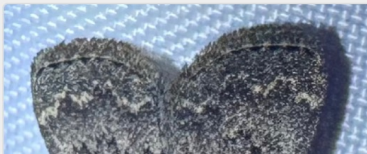


Eastern Grass Tubeworm Moth
(*Acrolophus plumifrontella*)

Research Grade

2

3d



iNaturalist via Computer: My Observations

The screenshot displays the iNaturalist web interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes the iNaturalist logo, a search bar, and links for Explore, Your Observations, Community, Identify, and More. The 'Your Observations' tab is selected. A red arrow points to the user profile icon in the top right corner, which is labeled with a '2'. Below the navigation bar, the 'Observations' section shows a search bar with 'Species' and 'Location' filters, a 'Go' button, and a 'Filters' button with a '3' badge. The main content area displays a grid of observations. The first observation is 'Ashes' (Genus *Fraxinus*), followed by 'Water Oak' (Quercus nigra), and 'Southern Purple Moth' (Pyrausta laticlavata). A 'Custom Boundary' button is visible. A modal window is open, showing various filters for the search results. The modal includes sections for 'Show' (Wild, Captive, Verifiable, Research Grade, Needs ID, Threatened, Introduced, Popular, Has Sounds, Has Photos, Your Observations), 'Categories' (various animal icons), 'Rank' (High, Low), 'Sort By' (Date Added, Desc), 'Date Observed' (Any, Exact Date, Range, Months), 'Date Added' (Any, Exact Date, Range), 'Photo Licensing' (All), and 'Reviewed' (Any, Yes, No). The modal also includes a 'Person' section with the user 'kristyna42' and a 'Project' section with a text input for 'Name or URL slug, e.g. my-project'. At the bottom of the modal are 'Update Search' and 'Reset Search Filters' buttons. The bottom of the page shows the date 'Aug 5, 2026' and the location 'Larkridge Ct. Marvin, NC, US'.

iNaturalist

Search

Explore Your Observations Community Identify More

Upload 0 0

Observations

Species Location Go Filters 2

The World 2,018 OBSERVATIONS 987 SPECIES 458 1

Map Grid List

Ashes (Genus *Fraxinus*) 1 3h

Water Oak (*Quercus nigra*) 1 3h

Southern Purple Moth (*Pyrausta laticlavata*) Research Grade

Custom Boundary

Map Grid List

Media Name

Southern Purple Moth (*Pyrausta laticlavata*) Research Grade

Eastern Grass Tubeworm Moth (*Acrolophus plumifrons*) Research Grade

Common Idia Moth (*Idia aemula*) 1

Zeugomantispa minuta Research Grade

Genista Broom Moth

Aug 5, 2026 Larkridge Ct. Marvin, NC, US Aug 5, 2026

Identify Atom Download

Update Search Reset Search Filters

More Filters

Person kristyna42

Project Name or URL slug, e.g. my-project

Place Place

Show

Wild Captive Verifiable Research Grade Needs ID Threatened Introduced Popular Has Sounds Has Photos Your Observations

Categories

Rank High Low

Sort By Date Added Desc

Date Observed

Any Exact Date YYYY-MM-DD Range Start End Months Select Options

Date Added

Any Exact Date YYYY-MM-DD Range Start End

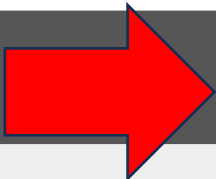
Photo Licensing All

Reviewed Any Yes No

Observations

Species Location Go Filters 3

The World



1,055
OBSERVATIONS

491
SPECIES

233
IDENTIFIERS

1
OBSERVER

Map Grid List



Southern Purple Mint Moth
(*Pyrausta laticlavata*)

Research Grade 2 3d



Eastern Grass Tubeworm Moth
(*Acrolophus plumifrontella*)

Research Grade 2 3d



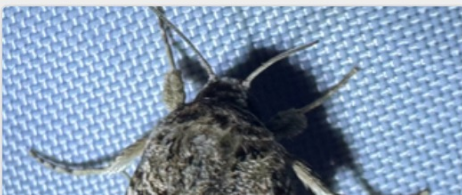
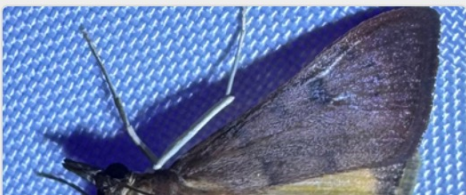
Common Idia Moth
(*Idia aemula*)

1 3d



Zeugomantispa minuta

Research Grade 2 3d



Observations

[Go](#)[Filters](#)

3

[The World](#)1,055
OBSERVATIONS491
SPECIES233
IDENTIFIERS1
OBSERVER

15 observations

CC

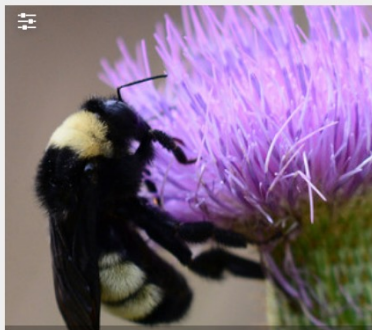
Canadian Melanophia
Moth
(*Melanophia canadaria*)



11 observations

CC

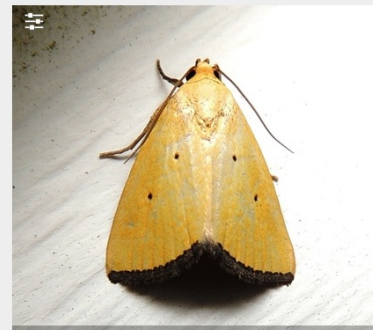
Tulip-tree Beauty
(*Epimecis hortaria*)



9 observations

CC

American Bumble Bee
(*Bombus pensylvanicus*)



9 observations

CC

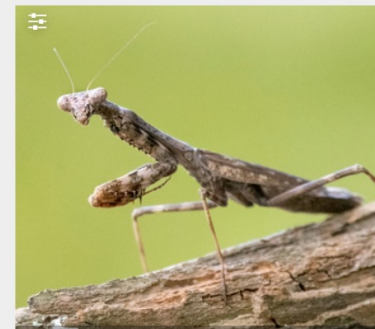
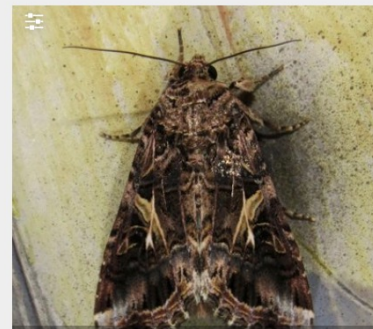
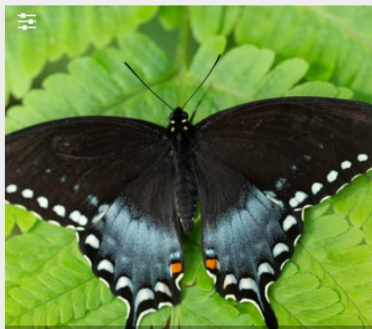
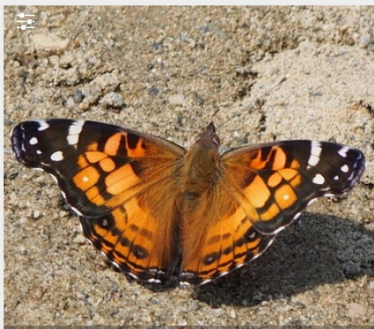
Black-bordered Lemon Moth
(*Marimatha nigrofimbria*)



9 observations

CC

Eastern Grass Tubeworm
Moth
(*Acrolophus plumifrontella*)



iNaturalist via Computer: Community/Projects

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist website interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes 'iNaturalist', a search bar, and links for 'Explore', 'Your Observations', 'Community', 'Identify', and 'More'. The 'Community' dropdown menu is open, showing options: 'People', 'Projects', 'Journal Posts', 'Forum', 'Your Projects' (with a sub-list including '75 for the 75th Challenge-N...', 'Invasive Exotic Plants of N...', 'Megachile bee leaf cuts', 'National Moth Week 2026: No...', 'North Carolina Summer Biodi...', 'Rosettes of Dicots', 'South Carolina Native Plants', and 'Customize'), and 'Terms & Rules | Leave this project'. A red arrow points to the 'Community' link, and another red arrow points to the 'South Carolina Native Plants' project in the dropdown menu.

South Carolina Native Plants

Stats

- Totals
- 7841** Observations »
- 1270** Species »
- 752** People »

Most Observations

- tanker-aviator-natu: 1809 observations
- kencheeks: 712 observations
- botanicaltreasures: 451 observations
- linaceae: 341 observations
- carolinashpherd: 258 observations
- botanicaltreasures: 198 species
- waterfallrich: 153 species

Most Observed Species

- Mountain Laurel: 240 observations
- American Holly: 129 observations
- American Sweetgum: 127 observations
- Christmas Fern: 125 observations
- Great Rhododendron: 115 observations

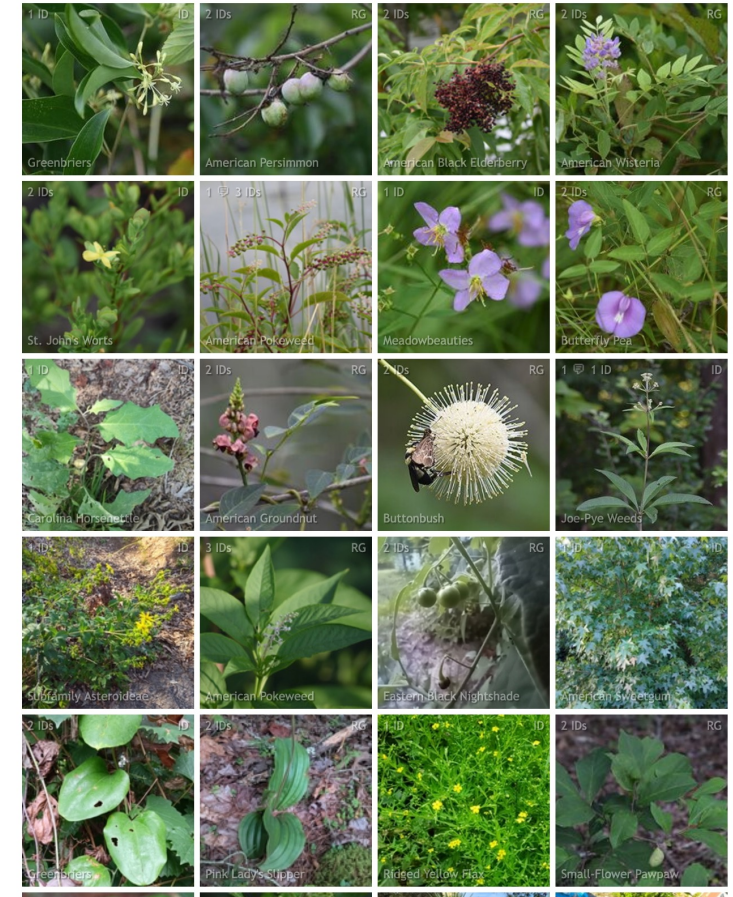
Members (287 members)

Your Membership (0 observations)

Add from Your Observations

Export Observations

Map



NC Plant Toolbox

NC STATE

Extension Master Gardener

Plant Toolbox
plants.ces.ncsu.edu

Your Resource for Thoughtful Plant Selection!



NC STATE

EXTENSION

North Carolina

Extension Gardener

Plant Toolbox



Home

Featured Plants:

Dahlia

Bedding Dahlia

Dahlia



Passiflora lutea

Dwarf Passionflower

Eastern Yellow

Passionflower

Hardy Yellow

Passionflower



Quick Plant Lists

- NC Native Pollinator Plants
- Audubon's Bird-Friendly NC Native Plants
- Show Stopper Plants
- NC State Introductions

The North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox contains detailed descriptions and photographs of 4,720 plants that grow in and around North Carolina.

Here are some tips to get you started

Search by scientific or common name:

Use [Find a Plant](#) to select the perfect plant for a specific location.

Follow the Find a Plant link to use filters (in the left sidebar) to find suitable plants for your landscape. For example, you can find flowering trees for clay soil in the Piedmont, annuals that attract butterflies, or winter-flowering shrubs for a shady site.

Use the power of the Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox to select the right plant for your garden.



Looking for help?

Have a look at the [Help](#) page to get tips on using the Plant Toolbox, and be sure to check the [Glossary](#) for plant

Our Partners

NC State Partners

- College of Natural Resources
- Forestry & Environmental Resources
- Herbarium
- Horticultural Science
- JC Raulston Arboretum
- Extension Master GardenerSM Volunteers
- The Natural Learning Initiative
- NC Sea Grant
- NC State Extension
- Plant Disease and Insect Clinic

Find a Plant

Cultural Conditions

- ✓ Light
- ✓ Soil Texture
- ✓ Soil pH
- ✓ Soil Drainage
- ✓ Available Space To Plant
- ✓ NC Region
- ✓ USDA Plant Hardiness Zone

Landscape

- ✔ Landscape Location
- ✔ Landscape Theme
- ✔ Design Feature
- ✔ Attracts
- ✔ Resistance To Challenges
- ✔ Problems to exclude

Whole Plant Traits

4718 plants by

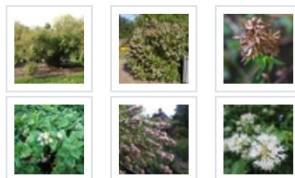
Scientific

Common

Name

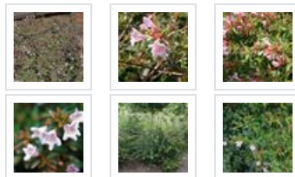
Abelia chinensis

Chinese Abelia



Abelia
'Edward Goucher'

'Edward Goucher' Glossy Abelia



< 1 2 3 4 ... 99 >

Abelia x grandiflora

Glossy Abelia



16 Cultivars/Varieties

Abelia x grandiflora
'Hopley'
s'

Miss Lemon, Miss Lemon™,
Twist of Lime, Twist of Lime™
Abelia



Abelia x grandiflora
'Kaleidoscope'

Kaleidoscope Abelia

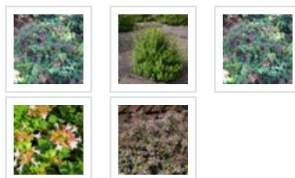


Abelia x grandiflora
'Prostrata'

Prostrate Abelia

Abelia x grandiflora
'Rose Creek'

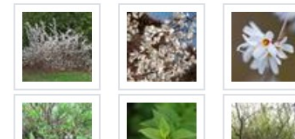
Rose Creek Glossy Abelia



Abelia x grandiflora
'Sunrise'

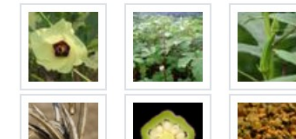
***Abeliophyllum
distichum***

Korean Abelia, Korean abelialeaf,
Korean abeliophyllum,
Miseonnamu, White Forsythia



***Abelmoschus
esculentus***

Common Ivy, Gobbo, Gumbo, Ivy
Gum Plant, Ladies' Fingers,
Ochro, Okra, Okro





Search Search

Find a Plant

Cultural Conditions

- Light
- ☐ Dappled Sunlight (Shade through upper canopy all day) 713
 - ☐ Deep shade (Less than 2 hours to no direct sunlight) 505
 - ☐ Full sun (6 or more hours of direct sunlight a day) 3851
 - ☐ Partial Shade (Direct sunlight only part of the day, 2-6 hours) 3401
- Soil Texture
- Soil pH
- Soil Drainage
- Available Space To Plant
- NC Region
- USDA Plant Hardiness Zone

Landscape

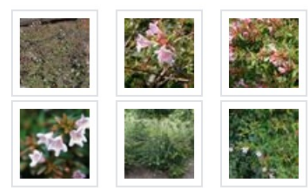
- Landscape Location
- Landscape Theme

4718 plants by Scientific Common Name Display: [Grid Icon] [List Icon]

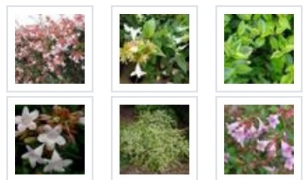
Abelia chinensis
Chinese Abelia



Abelia 'Edward Goucher'
'Edward Goucher' Glossy Abelia



Abelia x grandiflora
Glossy Abelia



16 Cultivars/Varieties

Abelia x grandiflora 'Hopley's'
Miss Lemon, Miss Lemon™, Twist of Lime, Twist of Lime™ Abelia

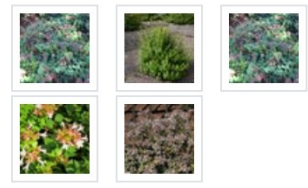


Abelia x grandiflora 'Kaleidoscope'
Kaleidoscope Abelia



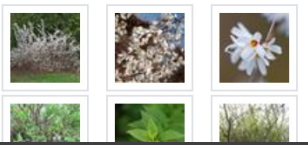
Abelia x grandiflora 'Prostrata'
Prostrate Abelia

Abelia x grandiflora 'Rose Creek'
Rose Creek Glossy Abelia

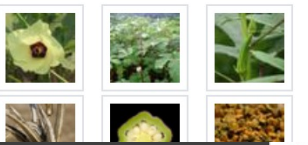


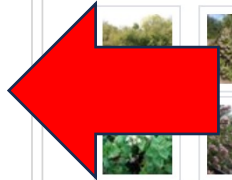
Abelia x grandiflora 'Sunrise'

Abeliophyllum distichum
Korean Abelia, Korean abelialeaf, Korean abeliophyllum, Miseonnamu, White Forsythia

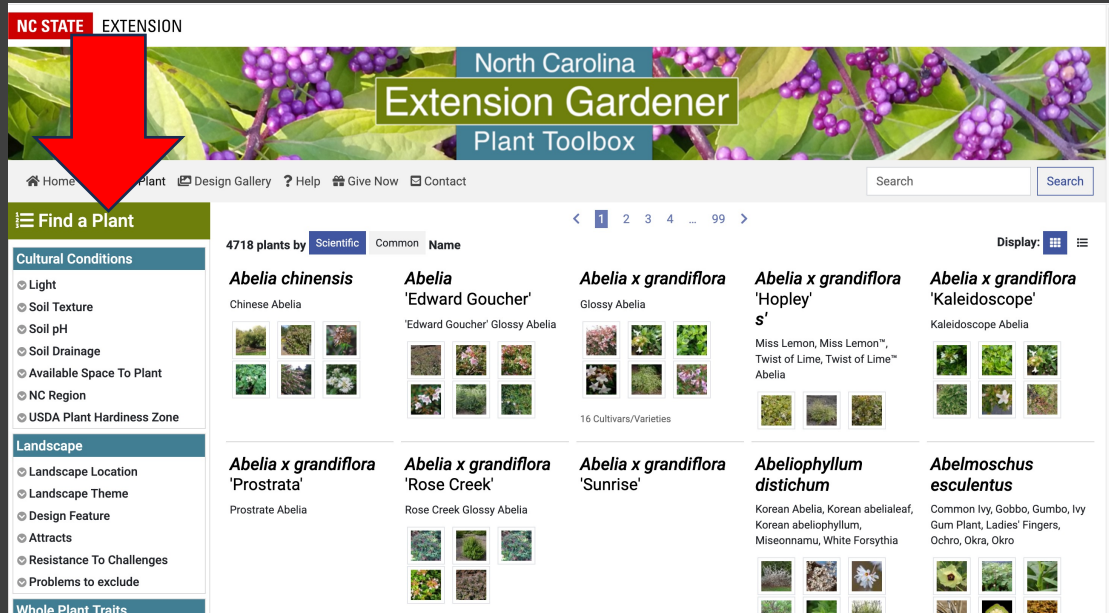


Abelmoschus esculentus
Common Ivy, Gobbo, Gumbo, Ivy Gum Plant, Ladies' Fingers, Ochro, Okra, Okro





Search Criteria



Cultural Conditions

- ✓ Light
- ✓ Soil Texture
- ✓ Soil pH
- ✓ Soil Drainage
- ✓ Available Space To Plant
- ✓ NC Region
- ✓ USDA Plant Hardiness Zone

Landscape

- ✓ Landscape Location
- ✓ Landscape Theme
- ✓ Design Feature
- ✓ Attracts
- ✓ Resistance To Challenges
- ✓ Problems to exclude

Whole Plant Traits

- ✓ Plant Type
- ✓ Woody Plant Leaf Characteristics
- ✓ Habit/Form
- ✓ Growth Rate
- ✓ Maintenance
- ✓ Texture

Flowers

- ✓ Flower Color
- ✓ Flower Value To Gardener
- ✓ Flower Bloom Time

Leaves

- ✓ Leaf Color
- ✓ Leaf Feel
- ✓ Leaf Value To Gardener
- ✓ Deciduous Leaf Fall Color

? Glossary

Search

https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/find_a_plant/?light_id=1&soil_texture_id=1&nc_region_id=3&usda_zone_id=15&plant_type_id=11

Native, Clay, Sun, Zone 8a,
piedmont: 382 plants



< 1 2 3 4 ... 8 >

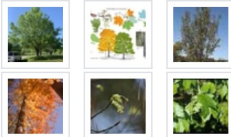
Light: Full sun (6 or more hours of direct sunlight a day) Soil Texture: Clay Nc Region: Piedmont Usda Plant Hardiness Zone: 8a Plant Type: Native Plant

382 plants by Scientific Common Name

Display: [Grid Icon] [List Icon]

Acer floridanum

Florida Maple, Hammock Maple, Southern Sugar Maple



6 Cultivars/Varieties

Acer negundo

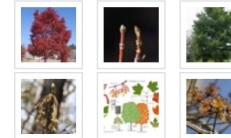
Ash-Leaf Maple, Ashleaf maple, Boxelder, Box elder



6 Cultivars/Varieties

Acer rubrum

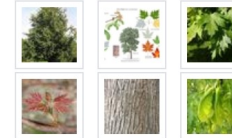
Carolina Maple, Red Maple, Scarlet Maple, Soft Maple, Swamp Maple



15 Cultivars/Varieties

Acer saccharinum

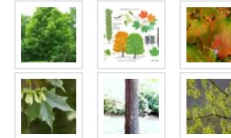
River Maple, Silverleaf Maple, Silver Maple, Swamp Maple, Water Maple, White Maple



2 Cultivars/Varieties

Acer saccharum

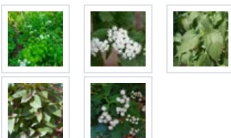
Hard Maple, Leucoderme, Northern Sugar Maple, Sugar Maple



7 Cultivars/Varieties

Ageratina altissima

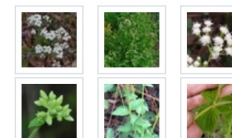
Fall Poison, Richweed, Tremetol, White Sanicle, White Snakeroot



1 Cultivar/Variety

Ageratina aromatica

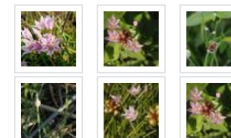
Lesser Snakeroot, Small-leaf White Snakeroot, Wild Hoarhound



1 Cultivar/Variety

Allium canadense

Meadow Garlic, Wild Garlic, Wild Onion



1 Cultivar/Variety

Allium cuthbertii

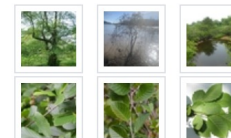
Cuthbert's Onion, Striped Garlic



1 Cultivar/Variety

Alnus serrulata

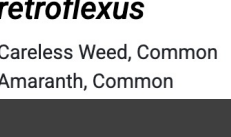
Alder, Hazel Alder, Smooth Alder, Tag Alder



1 Cultivar/Variety

Amaranthus retroflexus

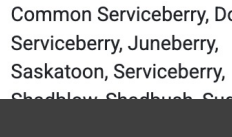
Careless Weed, Common Amaranth, Common



1 Cultivar/Variety

Amelanchier

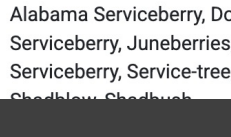
Common Serviceberry, Downy Serviceberry, Juneberry, Saskatoon, Serviceberry, Shadblow, Shadbush, Sugarplum



1 Cultivar/Variety

Amelanchier arborea

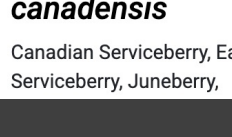
Alabama Serviceberry, Downy Serviceberry, Juneberries, Serviceberry, Service-tree, Shadblow, Shadbush



1 Cultivar/Variety

Amelanchier canadensis

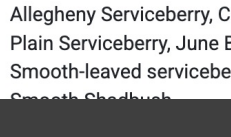
Canadian Serviceberry, Eastern Serviceberry, Juneberry,



1 Cultivar/Variety

Amelanchier laevis

Allegheny Serviceberry, Coastal Plain Serviceberry, June Berry, Smooth-leaved serviceberry, Smooth Shadbush



1 Cultivar/Variety



Plant Detail

Ampelaster carolinianus is often confused with:

Erigeron pulchellus



Plants that fill a similar niche:

Acer rubrum



Acer saccharinum



Monarda didyma



Ampelaster carolinianus

Common Name(s): Climbing Aster

Previously known as: Aster carolinianus ; Symphyotrichum carolinianum

Phonetic Spelling
am-pel-ASS-ter kay-ro-lin-ee-AY-nus

Description
Climbing Aster is a sprawling herbaceous perennial that produces long stems and can climb to heights greater than 10 feet. It prefers to sprawl over the top of fence posts or other plants or can be located and allowed to use a trellis for its support. The side branches grow horizontally, allowing them to use adjoining plants for support of the plant structure.

It can be found growing in marshy shores, stream banks, edges of swamps, moist thickets or wet woodlands. Standing water may affect the plant's health, so a location where good drainage can be accomplished is desirable. It will tolerate seasonal flooding.

Deadhead this plant in the fall, but refrain from any additional trimming at that time. Delaying until spring when the plant is showing signs of awakening is a better alternative.

In the late summer and fall, it produces pink to purple blooms with yellow centers.

The rapid growing-spreading habit may require frequent division.

Insects, Diseases and Other Plant Problems: Common diseases of the climbing aster include wilt disease, powdery mildew, and botrytis.

See this plant in the following landscape :

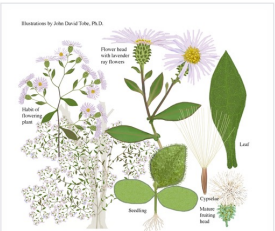
Cultivars / Varieties:

- Tags:
- #ncemgva2018
 - #deciduous
 - #highly beneficial coastal plants
 - #purple
 - #Pearl Crescent butterfly
 - #small mammals
 - #full sun tolerant
 - #fall flowers
 - #pollinator plant
 - #native garden
 - #fall interest
 - #native wildflower
 - #larval host plant
 - #native perennial
 - #yellow flowers
 - #food source nectar
 - #food source pollen
 - #Piedmont Mountains FACW
 - #Coastal OBL
 - #food source herbage
 - #fast growing
 - #bird friendly
 - #heat tolerant
 - #deer resistant
 - #dry soils tolerant
 - #butterfly friendly
 - #summer flowers
 - #pink flowers
 - #Audubon
 - #partial shade tolerant
 - #bee friendly
 - #wet soils tolerant
 - #food source winter
 - #vine
 - #fence
 - #perennial
 - #wildlife friendly
 - #wildflower
 - #climber
 - #illustration
 - #NC native

Add



Flower
Everglades National Park Service
CC0
Download Image



Ampelaster carolinianus
John Tobé
CC BY-NC 4.0
Download Image

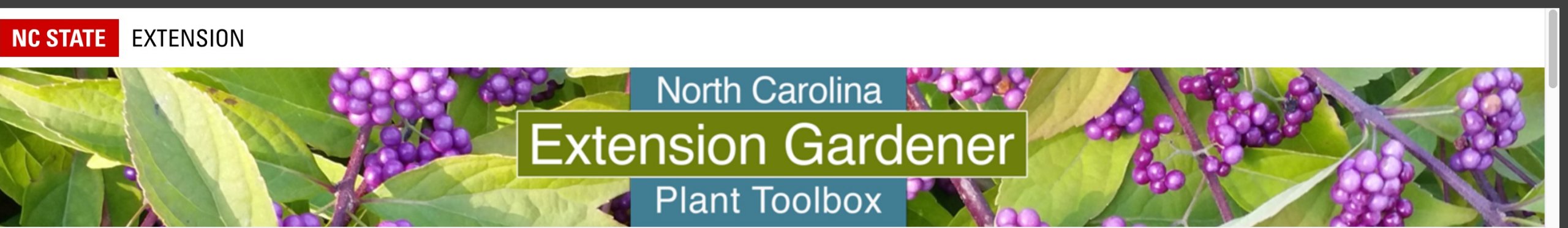


Attributes:	Cultural Conditions:	Leaves:
Genus: Aster	Light: Full sun (6 or more hours of direct sunlight a day)	Woody Plant Leaf Characteristics: Deciduous
Species: carolinianis	Partial Shade (Direct sunlight only part of the day, 2-6 hours)	Leaf Color: Green
Family: Asteraceae	Soil Texture: Clay Loam (Silt)	Deciduous Leaf Fall Color: Purple/Lavender
Life Cycle: Perennial	Soil pH: Neutral (6.0-8.0)	Leaf Type: Simple
Woody	Soil Drainage: Moist	Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Recommended Propagation Strategy: Division Root Cutting Seed Stem Cutting	Available Space To Plant: 3 feet-6 feet	Leaf Shape: Ovate
Country Or Region Of Origin: SE. U.S.A	NC Region: Coastal Piedmont	Hairs Present: No
Wildlife Value: This plant is a larval host to Pearl Crescent (Phyciodes tharos) caterpillars which have several broods and appear from April through November in the north and throughout the year in the deep south and Mexico. Adult Pearl Crescent butterflies feed on a large variety of flower nectars. Its flowers are attractive to bees and butterflies. Songbirds and small mammals eat the seeds.	USDA Plant Hardiness Zone: 6a, 6b, 7a, 7b, 8a, 8b, 9a, 9b	Leaf Description: The veined leaves of the Climbing aster are simple, alternate and narrowly oval.
Play Value: Wildlife Food Source	Fruit:	Stem:
Particularly Resistant To (Insects/Diseases/ Other Problems): Wet soil, dry soil, moderately deer resistant	Display/Harvest Time: Winter	Stem Color: Brown/Copper
Climbing Method: Scrambler	Fruit Description: Displays from November to January	Stem Is Aromatic: No
		Stem Form: Straight
Whole Plant Traits:	Flowers:	Landscape:
Plant Type: Ground Cover Herbaceous Perennial Native Plant Vine Wildflower	Flower Color: Pink Purple/Lavender	Landscape Location: Meadow Naturalized Area Patio Pool/Hardscape Slope/Bank Walkways
Woody Plant Leaf Characteristics: Deciduous	Flower Value To Gardener: Fragrant	Landscape Theme: Butterfly Garden Cottage Garden Native Garden Pollinator Garden
Habit/Form: Climbing Erect Irregular	Flower Bloom Time: Fall	Design Feature: Accent Hedge Mass Planting Screen/Privacy
Growth Rate: Rapid	Flower Shape: Wheel	Attracts: Bees Butterflies Pollinators Songbirds
Maintenance: Low	Flower Petals: 7 - 20 petals/rays	Resistance To Challenges: Deer Dry Soil Wet Soil
Texture: Medium	Flower Size: 1-3 inches	
	Flower Description: The Climbing aster has pink to purple flowers with yellow centers in late summer into fall (September - November).	



Download Print-Friendly QR Code





North Carolina
Extension Gardener
Plant Toolbox

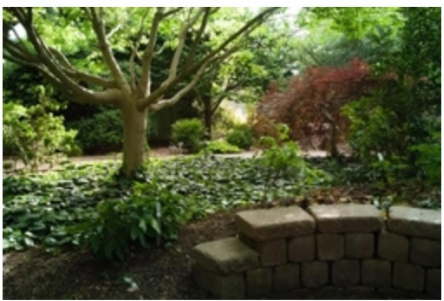
Design Gallery

Landscape

- ✓ Landscape Theme
- ✓ Landscape Location
- ✓ Design Feature
- ✓ Attracts
- ✓ Resistance To Challenges

106 gardens

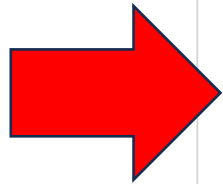
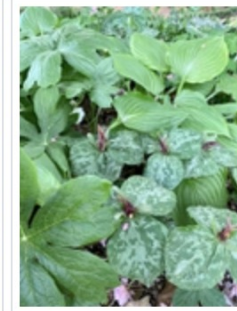
A Sampling of Shade Gardens



Asian Garden - Zen Garden



Shaded Slope



Sun to Shade Garden in Craven County



Woodland Backyard Garden Walk





North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox

Garden Detail

This garden also serves other functions:

Landscape Theme

- Cottage Garden
- Drought Tolerant Garden
- Native Garden
- Shade Garden

Landscape Location

- Coastal
- Naturalized Area
- Woodland

Design Feature

- Mass Planting
- Small groups
- Specimen

Attracts

Sun to Shade Garden in Craven County

Description

Name: Sun to Shade Garden in Craven County

Open to the public: No

County: Craven

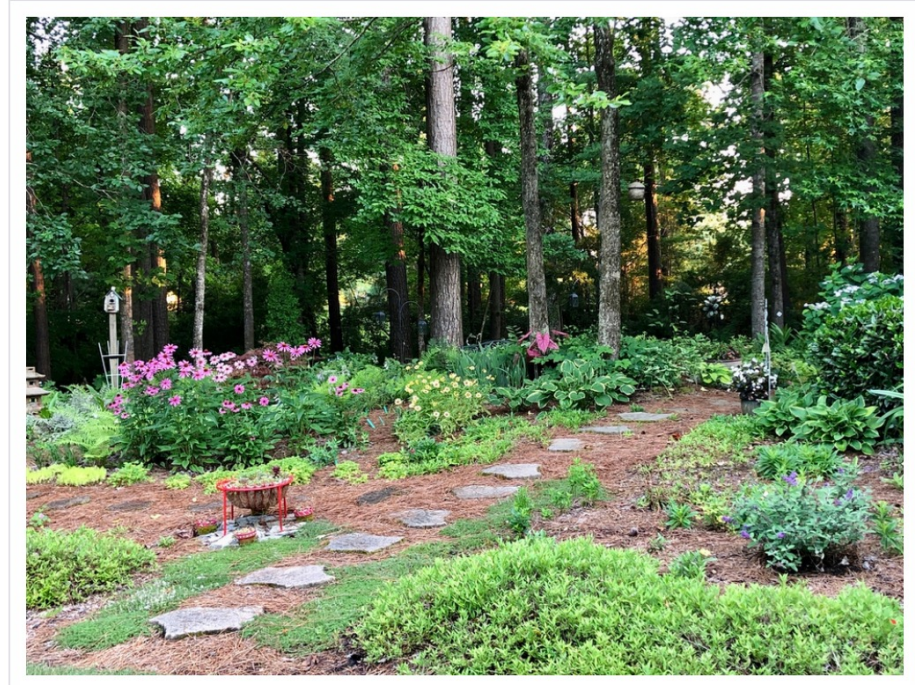
USDA Hardiness Zone: 8b (2023)

Extension Demonstration Garden? No

Approximate year the garden/landscape was established: 2010

What to look for: This is on the edge of the woods. Part of the garden is sunny, and part is in the shade. The same is true for moisture, part of the garden is dry and part damp. The challenge in this garden was to choose plants that enjoy growing in these conditions. With a little experimenting this homeowner has found plants that thrive in the garden.

Horticulture:



Summer

Overall View
Garden age: 9 years

- Moths
- Pollinators
- Predatory Insects
- Songbirds
- Specialized Bees
- Resistance To Challenges
- Dry Soil



Summer

Japanese Painted Fern 'Silver Falls'
Garden age: 9 years
Carole McHale
CC BY 4.0

Plants in this photo:

Athyrium niponicum

Black Lady Fern
Japanese Black
Lady Fern
Japanese
Painted Fern



Geranium 'Rozanne'

Cranesbill
Rozanne
Cranesbill
Rozanne
Geranium





Summer

Woodland Mix
Garden age: 9 years
Carole McHale
CC BY 4.0

Plants in this photo:

Dryopteris ludoviciana

Southern
Woodfern



Echinacea purpurea

Coneflower
Eastern Purple
Coneflower
Purple
Coneflower



Platycodon grandiflorus

Balloon Flower
Chinese Balloon
Flower
Chinese
Bellflower



Sedum mexicanum

'Lemon Coral'
Lemon Coral
Stonecrop
Stonecrop



Tulbaghia violacea

Society Garlic





Summer

Foliage Texture
Garden age: 9 years
Carole McHale
CC BY 4.0

Plants in this photo:

Dryopteris x australis

Dixie Woodfern
Southern
Shieldfern
Southern
Woodfern



Hydrangea macrophylla

Bigleaf
Hydrangea
French
Hydrangea
Hortensia



Sambucus nigra

Black Elder
Elder
Elderberry



Woodwardia areolata

Netted Chain
Fern



Other Great Apps/Sites

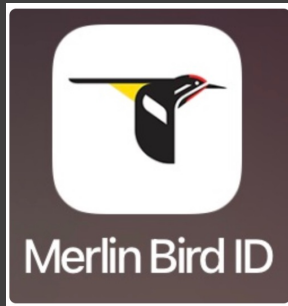
- FloraQuest: Carolinas and Georgia



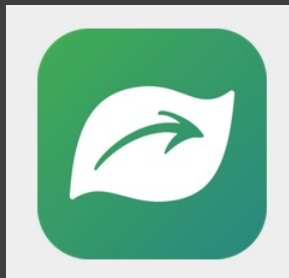
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



- Merlin



- Seek



NEW! FloraQuest: South-Central

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play

FloraQuest: Florida

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play

FloraQuest: Carolinas & Georgia

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play

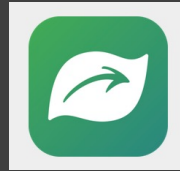
FloraQuest: Northern Tier

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play

iNaturalist vs Seek

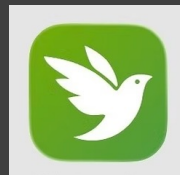
- Seek

- Any age
- No account
- Records not shared
- No research support
- Real time ID



- iNaturalist

- >13yo 
- Records are shared
- Supports research
- Community driven




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What is the difference between iNaturalist and Seek by iNaturalist?

Modified on Tue, 19 Aug, 2025 at 9:34 AM

iNaturalist (app and website)	Seek (app)
iNaturalist is an online community that allows you to publicly share and discuss observations from nature in order to identify organisms and create research-quality data for science and conservation.	Seek allows curious naturalists of all ages to privately earn badges and participate in challenges to observe organisms with instant, AI-assisted identifications based on data from iNaturalist.
Best choice if you want to connect with others, share data, and are interested in natural history and contributing to citizen science	Best choice if you do not want to create an account or share data, or are just getting started exploring nature
Users must be at least 13 years old to make an account	No account required, designed to be safe for children. Users aged 13+ or with parental permission can optionally log in with their iNaturalist account and post observations to iNaturalist through Seek
iNaturalist's identification model provides initial suggestions, but other people in the iNaturalist community help you identify and confirm your observations	Seek's identification model provides an identification in real-time on screen
Records observations as publicly-available biodiversity data that contribute to citizen science	The data you record does not leave your device and the app does not require an internet connection to work
Photo, location, and time are recorded with each of your observations in the iNaturalist database	No personally-identifiable information is collected from users who do not log in with their iNaturalist account
When connected to the internet, iNaturalist uses the most recently released Computer Vision model for identification suggestions	Seek's Computer Vision model is generally going to be older than the current online model

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Upcoming Events



Join Habitat Builders at Marvin Efield Park

August 21, 22, 2026, 1pm-3pm each day

Join a giant Citizen Science project.

Learn to identify pollinators and the plants they love. Great for all ages.

Scan QR code to register for the event.



More info about the census at www.gsepc.org

[Home](#)[Calendar](#)[About](#)[Volunteer](#)[Resources](#)[Donate](#)



August 21, 22, 2026
1pm-3pm each day
Great Southeast Pollinator Census
Join a giant Citizen Science project. Learn to identify pollinators and the plants they love.
Various locations
Registration link [here](#)

September 22, 2026
6:30pm-7:30pm
Create a Butterfly Garden now for Spring
Learn about pollinators and pollinator gardens
Marvin, NC
Registration link [here](#)



October 24, 2026
10am-12pm
Marvin Arbor Day, Plant Exchange and Nature Walk
Learn how to plant a tree, pick up some new plants and join us for a Nature Walk
Marvin, NC
Registration link coming soon

October - December, 2026 TBD
1pm-3pm
Invasive Plant Removal Workshop
Learn how to identify and remove invasive plants
Marvin, NC
More info [here](#)
Registration link coming soon



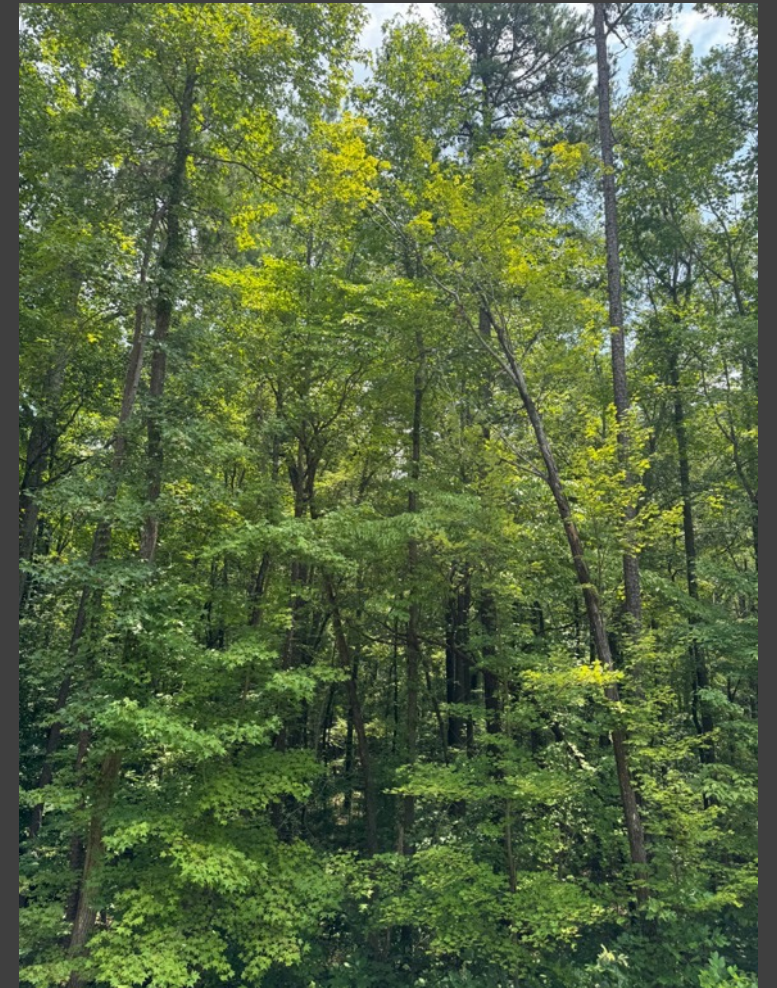
Nature PSAs



Cats stay indoors



Outside Lights off at 10p



Feel Bad? Go Outside



QUESTIONS?

Contact me at
info@habitatbuilders.org

Slides posted to
[www.habitatbuilders.org/
resources](http://www.habitatbuilders.org/resources)

