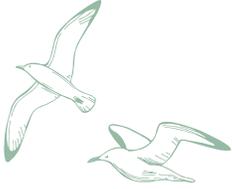




## ORANGES

Oranges are synonymous with Florida, and according to the [University of Florida Museum of Natural History](#), they arrived in Florida in the 1500s courtesy of Spanish colonists. In 1909, the state of Florida officially designated the orange blossom its state flower.



## SEAGULLS

Although the laughing gull's typical diet consists of insects, fish and horseshoe crab, these boisterous birds are more familiar to Sarasota County beachgoers for their stealth in boosting any human snacks not tied down or safely stowed away. Learn more from the [National Audubon Society](#).



## PALMS

Just 10 species of palms account for 98% of those found in the Tampa Bay region. Learn more about which palms are in your neighborhood and how to identify them with [this handy article](#) from the University of Florida.



## LIME BLOSSOM

Don't be fooled by its stature! The Key lime may be tiny compared to other limes, but its sour tang packs a punch that makes it a favorite for Key lime pie. It flowers mainly in the spring with small, white, aromatic blossoms. No longer a commercial powerhouse plant for the state of Florida, the Key lime remains a popular home landscape fruit tree. [Learn more here](#).



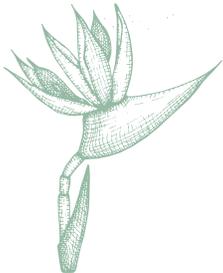
## SUN

Sarasota gets more sunshine in May than any other month – an average of 11 hours a day – while December offers the fewest hours of sunshine – just 6.5 on average – so plan those vacations accordingly.



## LEMONS

According to the [Englewood Chamber of Commerce](#), in the late 1890s, three brothers purchased almost 2,000 acres bordering Lemon Bay with hopes of developing a major lemon grove. At the time, lemons were highly prized for their medicinal properties, and the brothers saw potential for great profit. Several consecutive hard freezes killed the young plants and those dreams, but the legacy lives on in the form of Lemon Bay Fest, which takes place each February in Englewood.



## BIRD OF PARADISE

According to the [University of Florida](#), the flamboyant bird of paradise is native to South Africa and closely related to the banana plant. These hardy plants can survive temperatures as low as 24 degrees Fahrenheit. They bloom mostly year-round, and those blooms can last up to two weeks after cutting.



## MONSTERA

This transplant from the steamy tropical forests of South America arrived in the U.S. in 1874, and it has become popular for its unusual ornamental value and ability to grow well indoors and out. More commonly known as the Swiss cheese plant, or split-leaf philodendron, monstera can often be seen snaking up the trunks of other trees. [Learn more here](#).