

Alligator Flag and Purple Gallinules go Together at the Celery Fields



Wetlands are important bird habitats and plants play an important role in attracting them. Birds use plants for food, not only by providing seeds, fruits, flowers or vegetative parts to eat, but by attracting other sources of food such as insects, snails, fish and frogs. Plants also provide a place for birds to rest, hide, breed, nest, and raise their young.



Alligator Flag *Thalia geniculata*



Purple Gallinules have remarkably large feet. They are members of the rail family, which gives a clue to where their long toes prove useful.

They are able to walk on floating vegetation, and clamber across reeds in wetlands. They also use their feet to grab young shoots and bring the food towards their beak. Even with these long toes, they are very good swimmers, appearing to swim like a duck in the water.

To see all of the Common Plants of the Celery Fields visit [this link](#) at www.sarasotaaudubon.org and search under the SAS Nature Center tab.