



## Get the facts on pine rocklands

South Florida's **pine rockland** plant community is a unique mix of tropical and temperate species. With high biodiversity, pine rocklands support over 400 native plant species and dozens of native animals species. Some of these species are **endemic**, meaning they are found nowhere else in the world.

### Animals endemic to Florida pine rocklands

Bartram's hairstreak*	Keys short-winged
Big Pine conehead	conehead katydid
katydid	Lower Keys rabbit
Florida leafwing*	Miami tiger beetle*
Key deer	
Key rice rat	
Key ringneck snake	

\*Animals with an asterisk are pine rockland exclusive

### Plants endemic to Florida pine rocklands:

Big Pine partridge pea	Keys wedge sandmat
Blodgett's wild mercury	Pineland poinsettia
Brickell bush	Pineland lantana
Carter's flax	Pineland sandmat
Crenulate lead plant	Rocklands noseburn
Deltoid spurge	Sand flax
Florida prairie clover	Small's milkpea
Goulds wedge sandmat	

Historically, the pine rocklands of Miami were found on the **Miami Rock Ridge**, and extended continuously from downtown Miami south, and west into Everglades National Park, covering a total of 185,000 acres. Less than 2% of pine rockland remains in urban Miami-Dade County, outside of the National Park. Pine rocklands are also found in Monroe County (primarily on Big Pine key) and Collier County (in Big Cypress National Preserve), as well as in The Bahamas and in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Pine rocklands are considered to be **globally critically imperiled** by Florida Natural Areas Inventory due to "extreme rarity and vulnerability to extinction." The primary cause of imperilment has been **development** for homes, businesses, farms, nurseries, and roads. **Invasive species** are a significant secondary effect, as they can displace natives or disrupt their biology through disease, predation, or ecosystem alterations. **Fragmentation** of remaining pine rocklands is another major threat; isolated populations have reduced gene flow (via pollen) and dispersal (of seeds). It also increases edge effects, whereby the exterior of a pine rockland is highly subject to negative impacts from invasive species and human activities, and much less likely to experience **wildfires**, upon which the community depends.

### What can YOU do to help our remaining pine rocklands?

- 1 - Join Fairchild's Connect to Protect Network (contact [ConnectToProtect@fairchildgarden.org](mailto:ConnectToProtect@fairchildgarden.org)) and encourage friends, family, school, or business to join.
- 2 - Support preservation and especially prescribed fire in pine rocklands.
- 3 - Volunteer with Miami's EEL Program ([www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp](http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp))
- 4 - Visit a pine rockland! (E.g: Rockdale Preserve, Larry & Penny Thompson Park or Long Pine Key in Everglades NP).
- 5 - Learn more. Visit our website for further reading.

