



FloraQuest

A Beginner's Guide to Plant ID in Your Pocket

This is a key-based ID tool, not a photo-recognition app — you won't just snap a picture like Seek or iNaturalist. Instead, you'll answer a few visual questions and let the app narrow things down. It works fully offline, anywhere in the field.

1

What FloraQuest Is

- Offline plant ID app from the UNC Herbarium — built on Alan Weakley's Flora of the Southeastern US
- Regional editions: Carolinas & Georgia, Florida, South Central US, Northern Tier
- Key-based, not AI photo-matching — no "snap a photo" button

2

Set Up Your Preferences

- Choose sort order: Scientific name, Common name, or Family
- Filter by state and physiographic province (Coastal Plain, Piedmont, Mountains) to see only local species
- Pop out the on-screen ruler for real measurements on key and species pages

3

The Graphic Key

- Pick a plant group first — ferns, grasses, orchids, woody plants, and more
- Tap icons for leaf shape, arrangement, flower color, growth form, size
- Each tap narrows your list of possible matches
- Down to 10 species or fewer? The app auto-builds a custom dichotomous key to finish the ID
- No botanical jargon required — built for beginners

4

The Dichotomous Key

- Classic paired-choice, branching key format
- Where the graphic key hands off for a final, precise ID
- Good to know it's there — not essential on day one

5

Confirm With Photos, Description, & Range

- 30,000+ photos to compare look-alikes (first 2 per plant included; download more if space allows)
- Range maps — is this plant even found in your area?
- Phenology — bloom/fruit timing as a cross-check
- Any blue term links to the built-in glossary
- Full description covers distribution, habitat & status, conservation rank, and heliophily (sun/shade needs)
- Direct links back to the dichotomous key and graphic search characteristics

