



Yellow Jessamine can easily be trained across the split rail fence to form a dense and attractive year-round foliage cover. This species is an evergreen vine indigenous throughout South Carolina, which has been celebrated for its showy yellow flowers in March. In addition, the fragrant flowers are a first annual source of nectar to many of our desirable native insects, such as butterflies and bees.

A **Carolina Wren House**, mounted on the fence or on a post nearby, creates a home for our state bird. Wrens are one of the most common visitors to backyards and readily adapt to man made nest boxes. You can build your own Carolina Wren house – contact SCWF for some building plans.

Blue Granite, the official stone of South Carolina, adds another aesthetic and official state symbol to your Carolina Fence. Plus, butterflies will use it to bask in the sun!

Indian Grass, *Sorghastrum nutans*, is our State Grass. The flowers are often visited by bees, and birds love the seeds. The foliage is also often used for grazing by other wildlife.

Our State Wildflower, **Goldenrod**, (*Solidago spp.*) is a great food source for many different kinds of wildlife. It has beautiful flowers that provide nectar for butterflies and bees. The seeds are eaten by Goldfinches and other birds.

Native Wildflowers in a mulched bed around your fence can be very attractive to the official state butterfly, the **Eastern Tiger Swallowtail**. The Garden Club of South Carolina has identified this butterfly species to be of particular interest to South Carolinians because it serves as a pollinator in orchards and gardens.

A Carolina Fence™ Wildlife Habitat:

To turn your *Carolina Fence™* into a *complete* wildlife habitat, you will need to have a source of water. This can be as simple as adding a bird bath or a more involved procedure, such as creating a small pond in your yard. With this minor modification, a Carolina Fence™ can be certified as a Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Designs for large and small Carolina Fence™ Gardens are available from the SCWF with suggestions of additional shrubs, vines, perennials and annuals that will attract a multitude of wildlife.



Carolina Fence™ Gardens

Utilizing some very basic elements, the Carolina Fence™ incorporates both natural and cultural elements, which have been designated as symbols of our state. The Carolina Fence™ is a landscape component that can function as a valuable habitat element while showcasing symbols of natural and cultural history. Most importantly, as a habitat device, the Fence attracts and supports native animal species.

Creating your own Carolina Fence™

So simple, yet filled with natural value, the Carolina Fence™ is a concept that involves plantings and landscaping materials that are readily found in local garden shops and nurseries.

The **split rail fence** represents a commonly used device by South Carolinians in the late 1800's as farmers and landowners responded to the new laws that called for fencing in livestock. It can be laid out in "snake fashion" with no vertical posts, or as a post-and-rail fence.



For More Information:
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