



Do you know what the plant way up in the tree is called?

You are probably looking at an epiphyte! An epiphyte is a plant that grows on another plant, but is not parasitic. Epiphytes gain their moisture and nutrients from the air, rain, and water. They use aerial roots to attach onto their host plant and continue to grow.

Examples of epiphytes that you may see include air plants, Spanish moss, ferns, and bromeliads. They can be a variety of sizes, and grow based on how well they are adapting to their new environment.

Go out into your backyard or a nearby nature trail and use the guide attached to identify the epiphytes you find!



What type of epiphyte did you find?			
How many did you find?			
Which location did you find your plant in?			
Draw a sketch of each one you found!			

Airplant Identification Guide

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw205>



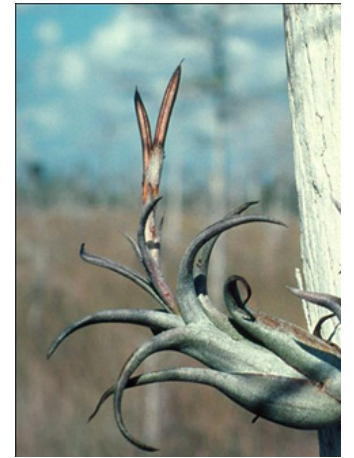
Cardinal airplant



Northern needleleaf



West Indian tufted
airplant



Potbelly airplant



Ball moss



Spanish moss



Bartram's airplant