17. Hypnea musciformis
Red, red-brown, orange-brown, often tangled. Branches sparse, wiry, with curved, hook-like tips. The hook tips are flattened while the branches are rounded.

18. Lomentaria baileyana
Pink-red, green, to red-purple, tangled and soft. Branches sparse, delicate, uneven, rounded, with tapering, blunt tips.

19. Sargassum filipendula
Green, brown-green, to tan. The tough, wiry, stem has few branches, but has regularly spaced long narrow blade-like "leaves" and grape-like, air filled vesicles.

20. Ulva lactuca
Green to bright or neon green, soft, and slippery. The lettuce-like structure is thin, ruffled, and delicate. Often occurring in lettuce head-like clumps but can occur as single ruffled layer.

What is algae and why is it important?
- Algae are not true plants, but a large and diverse group of eukaryotic (complex-celled) photosynthetic organisms. They provide food and shelter for many aquatic animals including small fish, crabs and shrimp.
- Algae drifting and washing ashore is a natural process.
- Seagrasses are plants and not algae.

How to report an algae event:
- Call 239-745-3052 to report large mats of algae that have washed ashore.
- On the phone recording, report the following information:
  - Where did you find the algae? You may report a close public beach access, address or description of location.
  - Day and time:
  - How much?
  - How large an area is covered by algae?
  - How deep is the algal mat?
- Based on this FGCU Seaweed Identification Guide, state which algae number located next to its photo you believe it to be. You are welcome to offer 2 or 3 best guesses if it helps!!! Please note, sometimes colorful algae will sun bleach to white or opaque.

The content of this guide was created with the help of FGCU’s Bob Wasno, Katie McFarland & Taylor Walker
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Deep red in color, stems are round, slippery, and firm. Branches are pinched or tapered at base and pointed at the tips.

Pink-red to deep red, bushy, and densely branched. Branches are fleshy, pointed at the tips, and sharply tapered at the base.

Dark red to red-brown, bushy and tough. The main branches are flattened and strap-like, with tips divided into two or more horn-like sections.

Red, red-brown, to brown, delicate, jelly-like, and slippery. The branches are short, slightly flattened or rounded, and covered in band-like constrictions.

Deep red in color, stems are round, slippery, and firm. Branches are pinched or tapered at base and pointed at the tips.

Sandy to red-brown with few branches. Branches are rounded and covered with spiny, spur-like projections.

Gold, red, or red-brown. Branches are sparse, tough, firm and cartilaginous. The main stem of the plant is often wider or swollen at the base.

Sandy to red-brown, spiny, and soft. Branches are long and covered with many fine feathery hair-like filaments.

Green to light green, delicate, creeping plant. Branches fern or feather-shaped and more compressed than Caulerpa sertularioides.

If you have any information about algae washing up on the beach, call this number: 239-745-3052. Please report the types of algae seen, (according to this guide) as well as, date, time, general location, and approximate size of the algae event.