Plant Substitution Guide for the Florida Keys

Don’t Plant A Weed!

Alter*Natives* for landscaping in the Florida Keys

GreenThumb Certified
Florida Keys

A guide to help Nurseries and their customers choose beautiful, Keys-friendly landscaping

Explore your Alter*Natives*

A Plant Substitution Guide for the Florida Keys

Peruse a Florida gardening book published before 1980, and you will find plenty of familiar plant species. Unfortunately, many of them are invasive exotic species that now are widespread in Florida's roadsides and natural areas. Some plant recommendations from the past — melaleuca, schefflera and Australian pine, for example — are no longer considered environmentally sound. Keeping these plants off your private property can eliminate a major source of invasion, either by seeds or vegetative spread, into natural areas.

There are invasive plants for sale that may serve an aesthetic function in the landscape – who can deny the shade provided by a Seaside Mahoe or the colors of an Oyster plant? Substitution of these plants may seem like a sacrifice for the homeowner, but it can be a short-term problem with long-term benefits to Florida's natural areas.

How do you convince a customer that their landscaping choice needs revision? The first step is to consider the value of the plant in the landscape. What does it do in a landscape? Does it provide shade or privacy? Does it help prevent erosion? Does the fruit stain the drive-way? Does it require lots of weeding/pruning/fertilizing/watering? Is it really that valuable?

The following guide offers suitable substitutes that closely resemble some invasive plants commonly used in landscapes. In choosing plant substitutes, consider height, growth rate, hardiness, salt tolerance, foliage texture, flowering characteristics, and light and nutritional requirements.

Please check with your local government and/or homeowner association for specific tree removal regulations. Many require permits or permission to remove or alter vegetation in your landscape.

Forward by Amy Ferriter, Provided by South Florida Water Management District

What is an *Invasive* Exotic?

Invasive exotic plants come in several categories, depending on how aggressively they invade our natural areas. The following definitions were adopted by the Florida Keys Invasive Exotic Task Force, which consists of all public and private land managers in the Keys. There are currently 62 exotic species classified as invasive in the Florida Keys. These invasive plants rankings are evaluated and updated by the Task Force every two years.

Category 1: Invasive exotics that are altering Florida Keys native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives. Category 1 plants are the most aggressive invaders. Their spread has been likened to a "green cancer" in our natural areas. Five species are still available for sale in nurseries today.

Category 2: Invasive exotics that have increased in abundance or frequency, but have not yet altered Florida Keys plant communities to the extent shown by Category 1 species. Category 2 plants tend to be unruly yard plants and often end up dumped over the fence. Many Category 2 plants are available in nurseries.

Category 3: "To be watched" invasive exotics that have not yet become a problem in the Florida Keys, but are problematic in other areas of the mainland or Caribbean.

What is an Alter*Native*?

An Alter*Native* is a native plant that resembles an invasive plant in size, shape or function. Alter*Natives* are approved substitutions for Keys invasives that, if followed, will reduce seed sources in our natural areas, increase habitat on our islands and reduce nutrients in our waters. For the homeowner, use of Alter*Natives* will reduce fertilizing costs, watering time and overall gardening hassles for homeowners.

How to Read this Guide

Some of the descriptions in this book can be interpreted in a variety of ways so the following are the working definitions of this guide:

Poor soil —The plant can live in rocky or sandy soils without organic material.

Moderately nutritious — The plant can grow in rocky, sandy, limestone or alkaline soils but needs some organic/humus material to thrive.

Rich soils — The plant must have organic material to thrive.

Moderate salt tolerance — The plant can tolerate some salt, but does not necessarily do well in a flood. If the plant is ever inundated with salt water, thoroughly rinse it with fresh water as soon as possible.

High salt tolerance — The plant lives in/very close to salt water and can tolerate being flooded with salt water either occasionally or all the time.

Drought tolerant — The plant does not need additional water once it is established.

Moderate drought tolerance — The plant generally needs moist soils, but can survive short periods without water.

Low drought tolerance — The plant needs moist soil to thrive and/or survive.

Supporters

The following entities stand behind the GreenThumb certified program:

Table of Contents

Trees

Category 1
Australian Pine *(Casuarina spp)* 6
Brazilian Pepper *(Schinus terebinthifolius)* 8
Laurel Fig *(Ficus microcarpa)* 10
Lead Tree *(Leucaena leucocephala)* 12
Melaleuca *(Melaleuca quinquenervia)* 14
Queensland Umbrella Tree *(Schefflera actinophylla)* 16
Sapodilla *(Manilkara zapota)* 18
Seaside Mahoe *(Thespesia populnea)* 20

Category 2
Carrotwood *(Cupaniopsis anacardioides)* 22
Earleaf Acacia *(Acacia auriculiformis)* 24
Common/Strawberry Guava *(Psidium guajava/lP. cattleianum)* .. 26
Sea Hibiscus *(Hibiscus tiliaceus)* 20
Sickle Bush/Marabou *(Dichrostachys cinera)* 28
Tropical Almond *(Terminalia catappa)* 30
Woman's Tongue *(Albizia lebbeck)* 32
Yellow Elder *(Tecoma stans)* 34

Category 3
Black Olive *(Bucida bucera)* 36
Spiny/Dwarf Black Olive *(Bucida spinosa)* 38
Chinaberry *(Melia azedarach)* 40
Senegal Date Palm *(Phoenix reclinata)* 42
False Banyan *(Ficus altissima)* 44
Orchid Tree *(Bauhinia variegata)* 46
Papaya *(Carica papaya)* 48
Paper Mulberry *(Broussonetia papyrifera)* 50
Pitch Apple/Autograph Tree *(Clusia rosea)* 52
Pink Shower Tree *(Tabebuia spp.)* 54
Red Sandalwood *(Adenanthera pavonina)* 56
Tamarind *(Tamarindus indicus)* 58
Chaste Tree *(Vitex trifolia)* 60
Java Plum *(Syzygium cumini)* 62

Shrubs

Category 1
Asiatic Colubrina/Latherleaf *(Colubrina asiatica)* 64
Beach Naupaka *(Scaevola sericea & S. taccada)* 66

Category 2
Central American Sisal *(Furcraea cabuya)* 68
Night-Blooming Cereus *(Hylocereus undatus)* 70
Sisal Hemp *(Agave sisalana)* 68

Category 3
Governor's Plum *(Flacourtia indica)* 72
Kopsia *(Ochrosia parviflora)* 74
Orange-Jessamine *(Murraya paniculata)* 76
Shoebutton Ardisia *(Ardisia elliptica)* 78
Bracelet Wood *(Jacquinia armillaris)* 80

*African Fire Bush *(Hamelia patens variety glabra)* 82
*Texas Necklace Pod *(Sophora tomentosa variety occidentalis)* ... 84

Grasses

Category 1
Burma Reed *(Neyraudia reynaudiana)* 86

Category 2
Green Fountain Grass *(Pennisetum setacea)* 88
Guinea Grass *(Panicum maximum)* 90
Napier Grass *(Pennisetum purpureum)* 90
Torpedo Grass *(Panicum repens)* 92

Category 3
Crowfoot Grass *(Dactyloctenium aegyptium)* 94
Natal Grass *(Rhynchelytrum repens)* 92
St. Augustine Grass *(Stenotaphrum secundatum)* 96
Zoysia Grass *(Zoysia japonica)* 96
Bahia Grass *(Paspalum notatum)* 98

Groundcovers

Category 1 (None)

Category 2
Asian Sword Fern *(Nephrolepis multiflora)* 100
Asparagus Fern *(Asparagus densiflorus)* 102
Bowstring Hemp *(Sansevieria hyacinthoides)* 104
Nettle-Leaf Porterweed *(Stachytarpheta urticifolia)* 106
Ganges Primrose *(Asystasia gangetica)* 108
Lantana/Shrub Verbena *(Lantana camara)* 110
Life Plant *(Kalanchoe spp.)* 112
Oyster Plant *(Tradescantia spathacea)* 114
Puncture Weed *(Tribulus cistoides)* 116
Wedelia *(Sphagneticola trilobata)* 120

Category 3
Madagascar Periwinkle *(Catharanthus roseus)* 122
Wandering Jew *(Tradescantia spp.)* 114
Beach Vitex *(Vitex rotundifolia)* 124
Jumbie Bean *(Macroptilium artopurpureum)* 118
Phasey Bean *(Macroptilium lathyroides)* 118
Yellow Alder *(Turnera ulmifolia)* 126

Vines

Category 1 (None)

Category 2
Air Potato *(Dioscorea bulbifera)* 128
Madagascar Rubber Vine *(Cryptostegia madagascariensis)* 128
Golden Pothos *(Epipremnum pinnatum)* 130

Category 3
Tropical Soda Apple *(Solanum viarum)* 132
Woodrose *(Merremia tuberosa)* 134

Australian Pine
(Casuarina spp)

Type/Size- 40 ft tree with narrow canopy. Long needle-like leaves filter sunlight.

Salt/Sun- Thrives in a great range of habitat types, but prefers sun and disturbed areas.

Evil Factor-Category 1
Due to their extreme height and the Keys lack of soil, Australian pines can tip over in high winds. Trees on beaches speed-up erosion and can trap nesting sea turtles. Needles produce chemicals that block growth of other plants.

During Hurricane Georges, Australian pines caused the most damage to power lines, houses, and roads.

Sabal Palm
(Sabal palmetto)

Type/Size– Typically 10-40 ft or more. Usually much taller than broad except when young. Very slow growing.

Salt/Sun– Low salt, high drought tolerance and highly versatile. Grows in full sun to light shade.

Nature Factor– Is a significant food source for several butterfly species, birds, and other animals.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of TopTropicals.com

The Sabal Palm is the Florida State Tree.

Inkwood
(Exothea paniculata)

Type/Size-25-35 ft medium tree with tall trunks and wide, dense crown.

Salt/Sun– Salt and drought tolerant. Full sun to light shade. Will grow in a wide range of conditions.

Nature Factor- Abundantly produced white, fragrant flowers. Makes a great accent tree in landscaping, especially near the coast.

Courtesy of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Courtesy of Daniel Greene

Inkwood provides a significant amount of food and shelter for wildlife.

Jamaican Dogwood
(Piscidia piscipula)

Type/Size– 25-40 ft tall with crown as half as wide as the tree is tall. Recommend for the lower keys and coastal situations.

Salt/Sun- Salt and drought tolerant. Grows in full sun and in nutrient poor soils.

Nature Factor- Flower are pea-like with white and lavender or pink. Is the larval host for several butterfly species.

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Also called the Fishfuddle tree, the Jamaican dogwood was once used to stupefy fish and aid in their capture. This practice was so successful that it has been outlawed by the state of Florida.

Brazilian Pepper
(*Schinus terebinthifolius*)

Type/Size– 30 ft tall multi stemmed spreading shrub.

Salt/Sun– Salt tolerant and can grow in a wide range of conditions.

Evil Factor– Category 1
Regarded as one of the most invasive plants in Florida. Forms dense monocultures around forest margins and beneath pine canopies.

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Courtesy of Miami-Dade County (2)

The fruits are poisonous and blooming trees are a major source of respiratory distress to many people.

Sea Grape
(Coccoloba uvifera)

Type/Size– 30 ft tree with wide branching canopy takes up a lot of room if unpruned. Flat round leaves are good for filtered shade and privacy.

Salt/Sun– Grows well in a variety of habitats, from beaches to uplands. Likes lots of sun and needs open sky.

Nature Factor– Sea Grapes can be pruned and shaped to be shrubs, hedges, or medium to large trees. Produces edible fruit, and attract many different bird species. Produces colorful fall-like foliage at many times during the year. Does drop leaves periodically.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Sea Grapes are very hardy, great for birds, and easily prunable into a variety of shapes.

Silver Buttonwood
(*Conocarpus erecta var sericeus*)

Type/Size– Can grow up to 20 ft tall with a spreading crown or can be easily maintained as a shrub or hedge.

Salt/Sun- High salt and drought tolerance. Strong wood, few insect pests and grows in nutrient poor soils. Virtually indestructible after it has been established.

Nature Factor- Flowers and fruits throughout the year.

Photos courtesy of Floridata.com

The Silver Buttonwood is extremely versatile. It can be pruned into shrubs, hedges or will naturally grow to be a medium sized tree.

Crabwood
(*Gymnanthes lucida)*

Type/Size- Accent shrub or small tree 20-30 ft tall with a narrow crown.

Salt/Sun- Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Enjoys full sun to light shade and grows in moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor- Flowers year-round with a peak during the spring and summer.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

Crabwood works well as a buffer planting.

Laurel Fig
(*Ficus microcarpa*)

Type/Size-Large tree up to 50 ft tall with a spreading canopy.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in moderately nutritious soil.

Evil Factor-Category 1
Invades hardwood forests and other native plant communities where it heavily competes with native plants for sunlight, nutrients and space.

Photos courtesy of IFAS (1)

Laurel Figs are the most frequently encountered non-native fig species found invading natural areas in Florida.

Gumbo Limbo
(Bursera simaruba)

Type/Size-40 ft wide branching canopy tree. Very versatile, fast growing and trunks do not usually blow over in hurricanes.

Salt/Sun– Salt and drought tolerant. Enjoys full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Nature Factor–Is great for wildlife and is one of the most widely recognized trees in the Florida Keys.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

The Gumbo Limbo is lovingly known as the “Tourist tree” because it’s bark is red and peeling.

Strangler Fig
(Ficus aurea)

Type/Size-Large 40-60 ft tree with a broad round crown and abundant aerial roots. Needs lots of space.

Salt/Sun-High salt and drought tolerance. Enjoys full sun in a variety of soils.

Nature Factor-Is a significant food source for a variety of wildlife. Roots can be invasive especially around water sources.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Horticopia, Inc

The Strangler Fig can withstand high winds and rarely blows over in hurricanes.

False Mastic
(Sideroxylon foetidissimum)

Type/Size-30-60 ft medium to large tree with a round crown. Great shade tree.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade and moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Has yellow fragrant flowers and provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife.

Courtesy of Don & Joyce Gann

Courtesy of Ken Cook

The False Mastic is one of the more commonly used trees in native gardens.

Lead Tree
(*Leucaena leucocephala*)

Type/Size-Shrub or small tree up to 25 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in moderately nutritious soil.

Evil Factor-Category 1
Extremely fast growing. Readily invades coastal strand, pine rockland, the margin of hardwood forests and open disturbed sites.

Courtesy of Miami-Dade County (2)

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Lead Tree reproduces rapidly and grows in dense populations.

Lancewood
(Ocotea coriacea)

Type/Size- Medium tree often 20-30 ft tall with narrow rounded canopy. Recommend for the upper Keys.

Salt/Sun- High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Enjoys nutrient rich soils and shade to full sunlight.

Nature Factor- Provides a significant amount of food for wildlife and attracts insect pollinators.

Courtesy of Keith A. Bradley

Courtesy of Jackie Degayner

Lancewood produces creamy white flowers in the spring and miniature avocado like fruits in the late summer and fall.

Sweet Acacia
(*Acacia farnesiana*)

Type/Size– Grows as a multiple stemmed shrub in clumps or a small tree 10-12 ft tall. Good as screening or a shade tree.

Salt/Sun– Moderate salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The striking yellow flowers bloom primarily in the spring.

Courtesy of Geoff Stein (29)

Courtesy of Daniel Greene

Sweet Acacia has an amazing fragrance and is cultivated as a source of perfume in Europe.

Limber Caper
(*Capparis flexuosa)*

Type/Size- Accent flowering vine like shrub usually 10-20 ft tall and broader than wide. Useful in buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun– High salt and drought tolerance. Grows in shade to full sun and moderately nutritious soils.

Nature Factor– Provides food for birds and is a larval host for some butterflies.

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Fragrant flowers open at night and experience their peak season during the summer.

Melaleuca
(*Melaleuca quinquenervia*)

Type/Size-Large tree up to 100 ft.

Salt/Sun-Low drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 1
Is a prolific seed producer and grows in dense stands.

Courtesy IFAS (1)

Courtesy of Miami-Dade County (2)

The flower and new foliage of Melaleuca produce airborne emanations that can cause severe asthma-like symptoms in sensitive people.

Willow Bustic
(Sideroxylon salicifolium)

Type/Size– Medium accent tree 20-30 ft tall with a rounded or narrow canopy.

Salt/Sun– High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Thrives in full sun and moderately nutritious soil

Nature Factor– Is a nectar plant for some butterflies, produces small flowers that are attractive to insects, and a variety of wild-life enjoys the berry-like fruit.

Courtesy of Eric Fleites

Courtesy of Ken Cook

This resilient tree is great for tight places and near buildings because of its narrow canopy.

Florida Cupania
(*Cupania glabra*)

Type/Size– Small to medium tree up to 30 ft tall. Recommended for the lower Keys.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Birds enjoy the black fruit.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of Katie Norris

The Florida Cupania is listed as an endangered species and only found in the Florida Keys.

Satin Leaf
(Chrysophyllum oliviforme)

Type/Size– Medium tree 20-30 ft with narrow canopy in the shade, spreading more in the sun. Recommended for the upper Keys.

Salt/Sun– Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Enjoys light shade to full sun in moderate to rich soil.

Nature Factor– Edible, gummy fruits are attractive to wildlife. Fruits may stain walkways and other objects.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

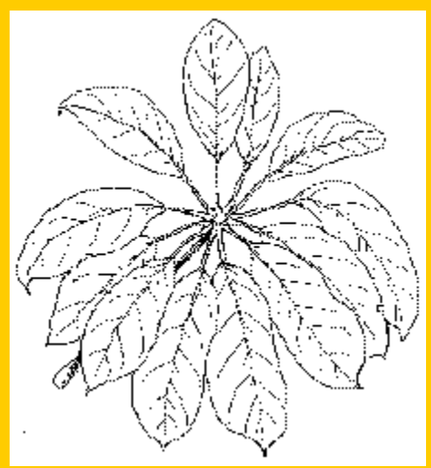
Satin Leaf is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Queensland Umbrella Tree
(*Schefflera actinophylla*)

Type/Size-Medium to large tree up to 40 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Salt and drought tolerant. Grows in full sun to deep shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 1
The roots quickly clog septic tank drain fields.



Courtesy of Miami-Dade County(2)

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Because the fruits are transported by birds, Queensland Umbrella trees are invading pristine hammocks.

Sabal Palm
(Sabal palmetto)

Type/Size– Typically 10-40 ft or more. Usually much taller than broad except when young. Very slow growing.

Salt/Sun– Low salt, high drought tolerance and highly versatile. Grows in full sun to light shade.

Nature Factor– Is a significant food source for several butterfly species, birds, and other animals.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of TopTropicals.com

The Sabal Palm is the Florida State Tree.

Milkbark
(*Drypetes diversifolia*)

Type/Size-Medium 20-30 ft specimen or accent tree. Milk white bark often marked by colorful lichens.

Salt/Sun-Moderate salt and drought tolerance. Needs moderately nutritious soil in lightly shaded areas.

Nature Factor-Flowers all year with a peak in the summer and is the larval host plant for the Florida white butterflies.

Courtesy of FIU Biology Dept

Courtesy of FIU Biology Dept

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Milkbark is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida.

Black Ironwood
(Krugiodendron ferreum)

Type/Size-15-25 ft small to medium tree with slender branches and narrow crown. Slow growing and sometimes difficult to establish.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Enjoys moderately nutritious soil in full sun to light shade.

Nature Factor- A variety of birds and other wildlife enjoy the fruit.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

True to its name, Black Ironwood has the densest wood of all South Florida natives and will sink in water.

Sapodilla
(*Manilkara zapota*)

Type/Size-Medium to large tree growing up to 50 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a wide range of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 1
Once mature, trees produce a prolific amount of seeds which grow in low light conditions.

Courtesy of Proscitech (4)

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Sapodillas invade hardwood hammocks and compete with natives for space and limited resources.

Wild Dilly
(Manilkara jaimiqui-emarginata)

Type/Size-10-15 ft tall small to medium tree or dense shrub with round crown. Specimen tree or shrub and great for buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Needs full sunlight and moderately nutritious soil to thrive but can grow in poor conditions.

Nature Factor-Light brown berry is edible by all.

Photos courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Wild Dilly is listed as threatened by the State of Florida and makes a healthy replacement for its relative, Sapodilla.

Satin Leaf
(*Chrysophyllum oliviforme*)

Type/Size– Medium tree 20-30 ft with narrow canopy in the shade, spreading more in the sun. Recommended for the upper keys.

Salt/Sun– Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Enjoys light shade to full sun in moderate to rich soil.

Nature Factor– Edible, gummy fruits are attractive to wildlife. Fruits may stain walkways and other objects.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

Satin Leaf is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Bahama Strongbark
(Bourreria succulenta)

Type/Size-Large shrub or small tree 10-15 ft tall. Great accent or specimen flowering shrub.

Salt/Sun-Moderate salt and high drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soils but thrives with some organic material.

Nature Factor-Is adored by a variety of wildlife including hummingbirds and butterflies.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

Bahama Strongbark is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida.

Seaside Mahoe & Sea Hibiscus
(*Thespesia populnea & Hibiscus tiliaceus*)

Type/Size-Medium to large trees up to 40 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-High salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Evil Factor-Category 1 & 2
Floating seeds travel to and disrupt pristine backcountry islands.

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Courtesy of Bob Bierman

Both trees are extremely salt tolerant and have been out competing the ecologically important beach grasses which stabilize the shore.

Sea Grape
(Coccoloba uvifera)

Type/Size– 30 ft tree with wide branching canopy takes up a lot of room if unpruned. Flat round leaves are good for filtered shade and privacy.

Salt/Sun– High salt and drought tolerance. Grows well in a variety of habitats, from beaches to uplands. Likes lots of sun and needs open sky.

Nature Factor– Sea Grapes can be pruned and shaped to be shrubs, hedges, or medium to large trees. Produces edible fruit, and attract many different bird species. Produces colorful fall-like foliage at many times during the year. Does drop leaves periodically.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Sea Grapes are very hardy, great for birds, and easily prunable into a variety of shapes.

Black Mangrove
(*Avicennia germinans*)

Type/Size-Medium to large tree or shrub 20-40 ft tall with round canopy.

Salt/Sun-Low drought and very high salt tolerance. Needs moist, moderately nutritious soil in full sunlight.

Nature Factor-Is a keystone species of tidal swamps. Bees make honey from the flower nectar. Provides nesting habitat for many different bird species.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of Horticopia, Inc

In need of some salt? Lick the underside of a black mangrove leaf and you will meet your daily sodium allowance.

White Mangrove
(Languncularia racemosa)

Type/Size-Medium tree or large shrub 15-30 ft tall. Highly recommend for costal areas.

Salt/Sun-High salt and low drought tolerance. Needs moist, moderately nutritious soil in full sunlight.

Nature Factor-Is a key element of tidal swamps. Mangroves provide protective habitat for fish and other aquatic species.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of Alison Higgins

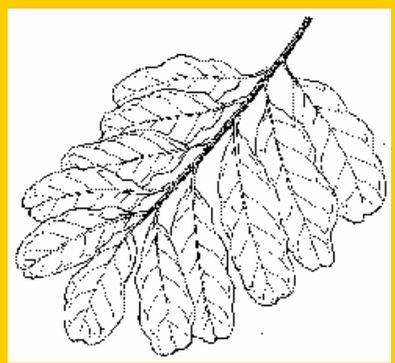
The dense mangrove roots help to reduce coastal erosion.

Carrotwood
(*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*)

Type/Size-Medium tree up to 33 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Extremely aggressive and can tolerate a wide range of conditions.



Courtesy of Miami-Dade County (2)

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Carrotwood is prohibited in Miami-Dade County for its aggressiveness and ability to alter native plant communities in different habitats.

Silver Buttonwood
(Conocarpus erecta var sericeus)

Type/Size– Can grow up to 20 ft tall with a spreading crown or can be easily maintained as a shrub or hedge.

Salt/Sun- High salt and drought tolerance. Strong wood, few insect pests and grows in nutrient poor soils. Virtually indestructible after it has been established.

Nature Factor- Flowers and fruits throughout the year.

Courtesy of Floridata.com

Courtesy of Katie Norris

The Silver Buttonwood is extremely versatile. It can be pruned into shrubs, hedges or will naturally grow to be a medium sized tree.

Willow Bustic
(*Sideroxylon salicifolium*)

Type/Size– Medium accent tree 20-30 ft tall with a rounded or narrow canopy.

Salt/Sun– High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Thrives in full sun and moderately nutritious soil

Nature Factor– Is a nectar plant for some butterflies, produces small flowers that are attractive to insects, and a variety of wild-life enjoys the berry-like fruit.

Courtesy of Eric Fleites

Courtesy of Ken Cook

This resilient tree is great for tight places and near buildings because of its narrow canopy.

Wax Myrtle
(Myrica cerifera)

Type/Size–Medium to large accent or specimen shrub or small tree usually 8-15 ft tall with a narrow canopy. Recommended for the lower keys.

Salt/Sun-Moderate salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife.

Courtesy of Don & Joyce Gann

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

The fruits are coated with a bluish wax that is used to make fragrant candles.

Earleaf Acacia
(*Acacia auriculiformis*)

Type/Size-Medium to large tree up to 50 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Drought and moderate salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade in a wide range of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Has formed significant populations and is shading out rare plant species in South Florida.

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Courtesy of Miami-Dade County (2)

Earleaf Acacia is prohibited in Miami-Dade County because of its ability to invade pine rocklands and hammocks.

Soapberry
(Sapindus saponaria)

Type/Size-Medium tree with a broad round canopy 15-30 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of food and some cover for wildlife.

Courtesy of Forest & Kim Starr, USGS

Courtesy of Horticopia, Inc

When rubbed between the hands, the fruits produce a light cleansing lather.

Buttonwood
(*Conocarpus erecta*)

Type/Size-Medium tree or large shrub 20-40 ft tall. Can be trimmed to make a great hedge. Used in buffer plantings near the coast.

Salt/Sun-High salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sunlight in poor soils.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Eric Fleites

Buttonwood is virtually indestructible like its relative, Silver Buttonwood.

Soldierwood
(Colubrina elliptica)

Type/Size-Small tree or large shrub 10-20 ft tall with a Spreading, open canopy. Great for buffer plantings and recommended for the upper keys.

Salt/Sun-High drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Has delicate foliage and would be great in a formal garden situation.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of FIU Biology Dept

Soldierwood is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida.

Common/Strawberry Guava
(*Psidium guajava/P. cattleianum*)

Type/Size-Small tree up to 33 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in range of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Is invading pinelands and hammocks displacing native species.

Photos courtesy of Identification & Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas by K.A Langeland, K. Craddock Burks (5)

With its rapid growth and shade tolerance, Guava forms dense thickets seriously impacting native vegetation.

Spanish Stopper
(Eugenia foetida)

Type/Size-Accent shrub or small tree typically 8-15 ft tall with dense round crown. Can be pruned to any desired shape and height.

Salt/Sun-Moderate salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Birds and other wildlife love the fruit.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

Spanish Stopper makes an excellent foundation or specimen plant.

Spicewood
(Calyptranthes pallens)

Type/Size-Accent shrub or small tree 15-20 ft tall. Dense foliage and round narrow crown. Great for buffer plantings. Can be maintained at any desired shape and height.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and low salt tolerance. Thrives in moderately nutritious soil and in full sun to shady conditions.

Nature Factor-Provides food and cover for wildlife.

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of Keith Bradley

Spicewood is named after its aromatic foliage.
It is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Myrtle-of-the-River
(Calptranthes zuzygium)

Type/Size-Accent shrub or small tree 15-20 ft tall with dense foliage and a round canopy. Great for buffer plantings. Recommended for the upper keys.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and slight salt tolerance. Enjoys full sun to light shade in moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Provides food and cover for birds and other wildlife. The fragrant flowers are a nectar source for

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

The Myrtle-of-the-River is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida.

Sickle Bush/Marabou
(*Dichrostachys cinera*)

Type/Size-Medium tree up to 25 ft tall. Thorny along the branches.

Salt/Sun-Salt and drought tolerant. Grows in full sun to shade and in a wide range of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Marabou's tolerance for extreme conditions allow it to invade numerous different habitats.

Courtesy of Desert-tropicals.com (6)

Courtesy of Bushveld (7)

Marabou forms dense, impenetrable thickets.

Sweet Acacia
(Acacia farnesiana)

Type/Size– Grows as a multiple stemmed shrub in clumps or a small tree 10-12 ft tall. Good as screening or a shade tree.

Salt/Sun– Moderate salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The striking yellow flowers bloom primarily in the spring.

Courtesy of Geoff Stein (29)

Courtesy of Daniel Greene

Sweet Acacia has an amazing fragrance and is cultivated as a source of perfume in Europe.

Mayten
(*Maytenus phyllanthoides*)

Type/Size-Medium to large shrub usually 3-10 ft tall with a round crown. Usually recommended for natural landscapes and habitat restorations.

Salt/Sun-High salt and moderate drought tolerance. Enjoys full sun to light shade in moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Easily prunable to be screens or hedges. Red berries are a nice contrast to the bright green foliage.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of Horticopia, Inc

Mayten is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Lignumvitae
(Guajacum sanctum)

Type/Size-Highly ornamental specimen shrub or small tree 8-20 ft tall with round canopy.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun in poor soils.

Nature Factor-Provides food and cover for birds, butterflies and bees. Ranks as one of the most beautiful flowering trees in North America.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Don & Joyce Gann

Lignumvitae was formerly logged to near extinction and is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida.

Tropical Almond
(*Terminalia catappa*)

Type/Size-Large tree up to 90 ft tall with broad canopy.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
The fruit stains cars as well as other surfaces. The leaves produce a significant amount of ground litter.

Courtesy of Identification & Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas by K.A Langeland, K. Craddock Burks (5)

Courtesy of Toptropicals.com

The planting of Tropical Almond trees is limited in Miami-Dade county because of its known ability to invade coastal and freshwater wetlands.

Shortleaf Fig
(Ficus citrifolia)

Type/Size-Medium to large specimen tree 30-40 ft tall with a spreading, rounded canopy. Be aware of its falling fruits and large roots.

Salt/Sun-High drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soils.

Nature Factor-Provides food and cover for wildlife.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

The Shortleaf Fig has a neater appearance than its relative the Strangler Fig.

West Indian Mahogany
(*Swietenia mahagoni*)

Type/Size-50 ft tall tree with a wide branching canopy. Makes a great shade tree. Recommended for the upper keys and should not be planted in the lower keys near pine rockland habitat.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Likes full sun and moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor- The fragrant flowers experience their peak season during the spring.

Courtesy of Floridata.com

Courtesy of George D. Gann

The West Indian Mahogany is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Paradise Tree
(Simarouba glauca)

Type/Size-Medium to large accent, specimen or shade tree 30-50 ft tall with a round canopy.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Can grow in poor soil but prefers some organic material. Likes full sunlight.

Nature Factor-New growth are beautiful shades of red and gold.

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of Horticopia, Inc

This highly ornamental tree is considered to be one of the most visually striking native trees to the US.

Woman's Tongue
(*Albizia lebbeck*)

Type/Size-Large tree up to 65 ft tall with long, linear pods.

Salt/Sun- Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade and in a wide range of soil types, but does not do well in waterlogged soil

Evil Factor-Category 2
Forms large populations from excessive seed production and through root suckers.

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Courtesy of Miami-Dade County (8)

Woman's Tongue is prohibited in Miami-Dade County because of its ability to invade pine rocklands and hammock habits.

Wild Tamarind
(Lysiloma latisiliquum)

Type/Size-Medium to large specimen shade tree 30-50 ft tall with a wide, flat canopy. Fast growing.

Salt/Sun-High salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Has fragrant flowers and provides some food and a significant amount of cover for wildlife.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

Wild Tamarind is a highly recommend shade tree because of its wide canopy and fast growth.

Jamaican Dogwood
(*Piscidia piscipula*)

Type/Size– 25-40 ft tall with crown as half as wide as the tree is tall. Recommend for the lower keys and coastal situations.

Salt/Sun- Moderate salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun and in nutrient poor soils.

Nature Factor- Flower are pea-like with white and lavender or pink. Is the larval host for several butterfly species.

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Also called the Fishfuddle tree, the Jamaican dogwood was once used to stupefy fish and aid in their capture. This practice was so successful that it has been outlawed by the state of Florida.

Gumbo Limbo
(Bursera simaruba)

Type/Size-40 ft wide branching canopy tree. Very versatile, fast growing and trunks do not usually blow over in hurricanes

Salt/Sun– Moderate salt and drought tolerance. Enjoys full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Nature Factor–Is great for wildlife and is one of the most widely recognized trees in the Florida Keys.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

The Gumbo Limbo is lovingly known as the “Tourist tree” because it’s bark is red and peeling.

Yellow Elder
(*Tecoma stans*)

Type/Size-Small tree 15 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Is moving into hammocks from disturbed edges.

Photos courtesy of Forest & Kim Starr, USGS

Yellow Elder can grow in dense stands preventing the establishment of other species.

Spicewood
(Calyptranthes pallens)

Type/Size-Accent shrub or small tree 15-20 ft tall. Dense foliage and round narrow crown. Great for buffer plantings. Can be maintained at any desired shape and height.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and low salt tolerance. Thrive in moderately nutritious soil and in full sun to shady conditions.

Nature Factor-Provides food and cover for wildlife.

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of Keith Bradley

Spicewood is named after its aromatic foliage.
It is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Jamaican Caper
(*Capparis cynophallophora*)

Type/Size-Accent or specimen shrub or small tree 6-12 ft tall with slender canopy. Great in buffer plantings or as a hedge.

Salt/Sun-High drought and relatively high salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Has fragrant flowers and provides food and cover for wildlife.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

Jamacian Caper is recommended for coastal and low-maintenance xeriscape gardens.

Lignumvitae
(Guajacum sanctum)

Type/Size-Highly ornamental specimen shrub or small tree 8-20 ft tall with round canopy.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun in poor soils.

Nature Factor-Provides food and cover for birds, butterflies and bees. Ranks as one of the most beautiful flowering trees in North America.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Don & Joyce Gann

Lignumvitae was formerly logged to near extinction and is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida.

Black Olive
(*Bucida bucera*)

Type/Size-Large tree up to 45 ft tall with a wide crown.

Salt/Sun-Drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Has started to naturalize in Key Largo hammocks

Photos courtesy of Floridagardener.com (9)

This messy tree is often mistakenly referred to and recommended as a native of the keys.

Blolly
(Guapira discolor)

Type/Size-Small to medium accent tree or large shrub 10-25 ft tall with a round, dense canopy. Great for buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and relatively high salt tolerance. Needs moderately nutritious soil in full sun to light shade.

Nature Factor-Birds and other wildlife enjoy the fruit and the cover that it provides.

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of George D. Gann

The Bolly is a tough tree that needs minimal care.

Pigeon Plum
(*Coccoloba diversifolia*)

Type/Size-Medium to large accent or specimen tree usually 30-40 ft tall with a small round canopy. Beware of falling fruit.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade and needs nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Edible fruit provides a significant amount of food for wildlife.

Courtesy of Don & Joyce Gann

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Fine jellies and wines are made from the juice of the fruit.

Black Ironwood
(Krugiodendron ferreum)

Type/Size-15-25 ft small to medium tree with slender branches and narrow crown. Slow growing and sometimes difficult to establish.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Enjoys moderately nutritious soil in full sun to light shade.

Nature Factor- A variety of birds and other wildlife enjoy the fruit.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

True to its name, Black Ironwood has the densest wood of all South Florida natives and will sink in water.

Spiny/Dwarf Black Olive
(*Bucida spinosa*)

Type/Size-Small to medium tree up to 20 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Although the fruits are consumed by birds, they are not as nutritious as the fruits from native plants.

Courtesy of Horticopia, Inc

Courtesy of FIU Biology Dept

This messy tree is often recommended for South Florida landscaping.

Coffee Colubrina
(Colubrina arborescens)

Type/Size-Small accent tree or large shrub 10-20 ft tall. Great for buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in full sun in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Flowers all year and provides food for birds.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Alison Higgins

Coffee Colubrina is listed as an endangered by the State of Florida.

Varnishleaf
(*Dodonaea viscosa*)

Type/Size- Small, woody tree, rarely to 16 ft tall.
Recommended for the lower keys.

Salt/Sun– Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor– Large hardy accent, hedge or foundation plant with shiny leaves and showy winged fruit.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Forest & Kim Starr, USGS

The Keys Varnish leaf is a state listed endangered species.

Fiddlewood
(Citharexylum spinosum)

Type/Size-Small to medium tree or large shrub 15-25 ft tall with an irregular canopy. Recommended for natural landscapes, habitat restorations and buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade and needs moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Provides food and cover for wildlife and is a nectar plant for butterflies. Bees make honey from the white fragrant flowers

Photos courtesy of Forest & Kim Starr, USGS

Fiddlewood is an overall tough tree and is enjoyed by all who plant it.

Chinaberry
(*Melia azedarach*)

Type/Size-Medium to large tree up to 50 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
It's fast growth and readily spreading thickets make it a troublesome pest.

Courtesy of Identification & Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas by K.A Langeland, K. Craddock Burks

Chinaberry is invading forests, fence lines and disturbed areas of Florida.

Paradise Tree
(Simarouba glauca)

Type/Size-Medium to large accent, specimen or shade tree 30-50 ft tall with a round canopy.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Can grow in poor soil but prefers some organic material. Likes full sunlight.

Nature Factor-New growth are beautiful shades of red and gold.

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of Horticopia, Inc

This highly ornamental tree is considered to be one of the most visually striking native trees to the US.

West Indian Mahogany
(*Swietenia mahagoni*)

Type/Size-50 ft tall tree with a wide branching canopy. Makes a great shade tree. Recommended for the upper keys and should not be planted in the lower keys near pine rockland habitat.

Salt/Sun-High drought and low salt tolerance. Likes full sun and moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor- The fragrant flowers experience their peak season during the spring.

Courtesy of Floridata.com

Courtesy of George D. Gann

The Mahogany is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Florida Cupania
(Cupania glabra)

Type/Size– Small to medium tree up to 30 ft tall. Recommended for the lower keys.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Birds enjoy the black fruit.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of Katie Norris

The Florida Cupania is listed as an endangered species and is only found in the Florida Keys.

Senegal Date Palm
(*Phoenix reclinata*)

Type/Size-Small to medium tree up to 20 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Salt and drought tolerate. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Easily hybridizes with other palms. Wide canopy can shade out other species.

Courtesy of Communitywebshots.com (8)

Senegal Date Palms are increasing in numbers in Central and South Florida and have the potential to cause problems.

Silver Palm
(Coccothrinax argentata)

Type/Size-Medium accent shrub or small tree 3-8 ft tall. Great for narrow spaces. Grows very slowly.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor, well drained soil.

Nature Factor-Provides food for a variety of wildlife.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Fairchild
Tropical Botanic Garden

The Silver Palm is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Florida Thatch Palm
(*Thrinax radiata*)

Type/Size-Small accent tree or shrub like tree, usually 10-20 ft tall. Great for buffer plantings. Slow growing and can live up to 150 years. Requires little maintenance.

Salt/Sun-Moderate salt and drought tolerance. Likes full sun to light shade in moderately nutritious soils.

Nature Factor– Provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife.

Photos of courtesy of Ken Cook

The Florida Thatch Palm is listed as endangered by the State of Florida.

Keys Thatch Palm
(Thrinax morrisii)

Type/Size-Small tree or shrub-like accent or specimen 8-15 ft tall. Great for buffer plantings. Requires little maintenance.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor, well drained soil.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

The Key Thatch Palm is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida.

False Banyan
(*Ficus altissima*)

Type/Size-Large spreading tree up to 80 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Grows to be very large and heavily competes with native hard-wood trees.

Courtesy of Miami-Dade County (2)

Courtesy of Communitywebshots.com (10)

False Banyan trees are prohibited in Miami-Dade County because their disruption of natural areas.

Strangler Fig
(Ficus aurea)

Type/Size-Large 40-60 ft tree with a broad round crown and abundant aerial roots. Needs lots of space.

Salt/Sun-Relatively high salt and drought tolerance. Enjoys full sun in a variety of soils.

Nature Factor-Is a significant food source for a variety of wild-life. Roots can be invasive especially around water sources.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Horticopia, Inc

The Strangler Fig can withstand high winds and rarely blows over in hurricanes.

Shortleaf Fig
(*Ficus citrifolia*)

Type/Size-Medium to large specimen tree 30-40 ft tall with a spreading, rounded canopy. Be aware of its falling fruits and large roots.

Salt/Sun-High drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soils.

Nature Factor-Provides food and cover for wildlife.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

The Shortleaf Fig has a neater appearance than its relative the Strangler Fig.

False Mastic
(Sideroxylon foetidissimum)

Type/Size-30-60 ft medium to large tree with a round crown. Great shade tree.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade and moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Has yellow fragrant flowers and provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife.

Courtesy of Don & Joyce Gann

Courtesy of Ken Cook

The False Mastic is one of the more commonly used trees in native gardens.

Orchid Tree
(*Bauhinia variegata*)

Type/Size-Large tree up to 50 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Is fast growing and has a wide canopy with the ability to shade out native species.

Courtesy of Identification & Biology of Non-Native
Plants in Florida's Natural Areas by
K.A Langeland, K. Craddock Burks (5)

Courtesy of IFAS (8)

The planting of Orchid Trees in Miami-Dade County is limited near hammocks because of their known invasiveness in these areas.

Jamaican Caper
(Capparis cynophallophora)

Type/Size-Accent or specimen shrub or small tree 6-12 ft tall with slender canopy. Great in buffer plantings or as a hedge.

Salt/Sun-High drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Has fragrant flowers and provides food and cover for wildlife.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

Jamaican Caper is recommended for coastal and low-maintenance xeriscape gardens.

Fiddlewood
(*Citharexylum spinosum*)

Type/Size-Small to medium tree or large shrub 15-25 ft tall with an irregular canopy. Recommended for natural landscapes, habitat restorations and buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade and needs moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Provides food and cover for wildlife and is a nectar plant for butterflies. Bees make honey from the white fragrant flowers

Courtesy of Forest & Kim Starr, USGS

Fiddlewood is an overall tough tree and is enjoyed by all who plant it.

Seven-Year Apple
(Genipa clusiifolia)

Type/Size– Medium to large accent or specimen shrub usually 5-15 ft tall.

Salt/Sun– Relatively high salt and moderate drought tolerance. Grows in moderately nutritious soils in full sun to light shade. Overall tough shrub.

Nature Factor-Is a nectar plant for several butterfly species.

Courtesy of Don & Joyce Gann

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Birds love the fruit from the Seven-Year Apple.

Papaya
(*Carica papaya*)

Type/Size-Small tree up to 15 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Salt and drought tolerant. Grows in full sun to shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Is being found on coastal berms, disturbed areas and in hammocks.

Photos courtesy of Floridata.com (11)

Florida Thatch Palm
(Thrinax radiata)

Type/Size-Small accent tree or shrub like tree, usually 10-20 ft tall. Great for buffer plantings. Slow growing and can live up to 150 years. Requires little maintenance.

Salt/Sun-Moderate salt and drought tolerance. Likes full sun to light shade in moderately nutritious soils.

Nature Factor– Provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

The Florida Thatch Palm is listed as endangered by the State of Florida.

South Florida Slash Pine
(*Pinus elliottii var densa*)

Type/Size-Medium to large accent or specimen tree 30-50 ft tall with a small, irregular canopy. Recommended for the lower keys

Salt/Sun-High drought and slight salt tolerance. Loves the full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides some food and cover for wildlife, but is highly utilized by cavity nesters.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Wilcox Nursery

The Slash Pine is only found in South Florida and the Florida Keys.

Seven-Year Apple
(Genipa clusiifolia)

Type/Size– Medium to large accent or specimen shrub usually 5-15 ft tall.

Salt/Sun– Relatively high salt and moderate drought tolerance. Grows in moderately nutritious soils in full sun to light shade. Overall tough shrub.

Nature Factor-Is a nectar plant for several butterfly species.

Courtesy of Don & Joyce Gann

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Birds love the fruit from the Seven-Year Apple.

Paper Mulberry
(*Broussonetia papyrifera*)

Type/Size-Small to medium tree up to 20 ft tall. Wide spreading with a broad, round crown.

Salt/Sun-Drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Has started to escape cultivation in the keys and is a serious problem in Dade county.

Courtesy of Biologicalresearch.com (8)

Courtesy of Plantatlas.usf.edu (13)

Wild Cotton
(Gossypium hirsutum)

Type/Size-Medium to large accent shrub 6-12 ft tall with a broad crown and wide spreading branches. Great for buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Flowers year round and is adaptable to a variety of garden situations.

Courtesy of Forest & Kim Starr, USGS

Courtesy of Karen & Tom Stroblel

Wild Cotton is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida.

Rough Velvetseed
(*Guettarda scabra*)

Type/Size-Medium accent shrub or small tree 5-15 ft tall with an open canopy. Great for buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in full sun in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The white with pale pink flowers make a nice contrast to the dark leaves. Birds enjoy the red fruit.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of FIU Biology Dept

Rough Velvetseed is a versatile shrub or small tree.

Lancewood
(Ocotea coriacea)

Type/Size- Medium tree often 20-30 ft tall with narrow rounded canopy. Recommend for the upper keys.

Salt/Sun- High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Enjoys nutrient rich soils and shade to full sunlight.

Nature Factor- Provides a significant amount of food for wildlife and attracts insect pollinators.

Courtesy of Keith A. Bradley

Courtesy of Jackie DeGayner

Lancewood produces creamy white flowers in the spring and miniature avocado like fruits in the late summer and fall.

Pitch Apple/Autograph Tree
(*Clusia rosea*)

Type/Size-Medium to large tree up to 50 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-High salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Has been found growing epiphytically in the branches of other trees.

Photos courtesy of Plantatlas.usf.edu (13)

Once considered to be native to the Florida Keys, this mainland native is exhibiting weedy characteristics.

Poisonwood
(Metopium trifoliata)

Type/Size-Small to medium tree 10-40 ft tall with a broad canopy. Recommended for natural landscapes and habitat restorations. Caution: Poisonwood can cause a rash.

Salt/Sun-Salt and drought tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Daniel Greene

Keep your eye out for the White-crowned pigeon! They feast on the fruit during nesting season.

Seven-Year Apple
(*Genipa clusiifolia*)

Type/Size– Medium to large accent or specimen shrub usually 5-15 ft tall.

Salt/Sun– Relatively high salt and moderate drought tolerance. Grows in moderate nutritious soils in full sun to light shade. Overall tough shrub.

Nature Factor-Is a nectar plant for several butterfly species.

Courtesy of Don & Joyce Gann

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Birds love the fruit from the Seven-Year Apple.

Cinnamonbark
(Canella winterana)

Type/Size-Accent or specimen shrub or small tree 15-20 ft tall with a broad round canopy. Recommended for the upper keys.

Salt/Sun-Relatively high salt and moderate drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor–Provides food and cover for wildlife. Crushed leaves have a spicy fragrance.

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Keith Bradley

The outer bark is toxic. Cinnamon-bark is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida.

Pink Shower Tree
(*Tabebuia spp*)

Type/Size-Medium to tall tree up to 45 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderately drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade in variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Escaping cultivation and causing localized problems in a number of the keys.

Photos courtesy of University of HI Botany Dept (14)

The wood dust from Pink Shower trees have been known to cause occupational asthma in some people.

Cinnamonbark
(Canella winterana)

Type/Size-Accent or specimen shrub or small tree 15-20 ft tall with a broad round canopy. Recommended for the upper keys.

Salt/Sun-Relatively high salt and moderate drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor–Provides food and cover for wildlife. Crushed leaves have a spicy fragrance.

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Keith Bradley

The outer bark is toxic. Cinnamon-bark is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida.

Bahama Strongbark
(*Bourreria succulenta*)

Type/Size-Large shrub or small tree 10-15 ft tall. Great accent or specimen flowering shrub.

Salt/Sun-Moderate salt and high drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soils but thrives with some organic material.

Nature Factor-Is adored by a variety of wildlife including hummingbirds and butterflies.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

Bahama Strongbark is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida.

Blackbead
(Pithecellobium keyense)

Type/Size-Large accent or specimen shrub or small tree 8-15 ft tall with an irregular canopy. Great for along the coast and in buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides food and cover for wildlife especially birds and butterflies.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Blackbead is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Red Sandalwood
(*Adenanthera pavonina*)

Type/Size-Medium tree up to 30 ft with a broad, open canopy.

Salt/Sun-Moderately drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade in moderate nutritious soil.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Is fast growing and aggressively spreading where planted.

Courtesy of University of HI Botany Dept (14)

Courtesy of Miami-Dade County (2)

The planting of Red Sandalwood is prohibited in Miami-Dade County because of its invasive nature.

Florida Cupania
(Capania glabra)

Type/Size– Small to medium tree up to 30 ft tall.
Recommended for the lower keys.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Birds enjoy the black fruit.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of Katie Norris

The Florida Cupania is listed as an endangered species and is only found in the Florida Keys.

Potato Tree
(*Solanum erianthum*)

Type/Size-Medium to large shrub 6-10 ft tall with round canopy.

Salt/Sun-High drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in full sun in poor soil.

Nature Factor– Provides food and cover for wildlife.

Courtesy of John Hayden

Courtesy of George D. Gann

White crowned pigeons love the fruit from the Potato Tree.

White Ironwood
(Hypelate trifoliata)

Type/Size-Medium shrub to small tree up to 25 ft tall. Has dense growth in the upright position. Recommended for the upper keys.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in moderate nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Birds love the fruit. The small white flowers are slightly fragrant.

Courtesy of Jackie DeGayner

Courtesy of FIU Biology Dept

White Ironwood is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Tamarind
(*Tamarindus indicus*)

Type/Size-Medium to large tree 25-45 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
While most non-native fruit trees require human assistance to thrive, Tamarind has shown its face in Key Largo hammocks.

Courtesy of Duke University (15)

A popular fruit tree that might just become unpopular in the native Keys landscape.

Wild Tamarind
(Lysiloma latisiliquum)

Type/Size-Medium to large specimen shade tree 30-50 ft tall with a wide, flat canopy. Fast growing.

Salt/Sun-Relatively high salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Has fragrant flowers, provides some food and a significant amount of cover for wildlife.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

Wild Tamarind is a highly recommend shade tree because of its wide canopy and fast growth.

Spanish Stopper
(*Eugenia foetida*)

Type/Size-Accent shrub or small tree typically 8-15 ft tall with dense round crown. Can be pruned to any desired shape and height.

Salt/Sun-Moderate salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in moderate nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Birds and other wildlife love the fruit.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

Spanish Stopper makes an excellent foundation or specimen plant.

Green Buttonwood
(Conocarpus erecta)

Type/Size-Medium tree or large shrub 20-40 ft tall. Can be trimmed to make a great hedge. Used in buffer plantings near the coast.

Salt/Sun-High salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sunlight in poor soils.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Eric Fleites

Green Buttonwood is virtually indestructible like its Relative the Silver Buttonwood.

Chaste Tree
(*Vitex trifolia*)

Type/Size-Small shrubby tree 10-12 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Readily planted as costal landscape for its tolerance of drought and salt.

Courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden (16)

Courtesy of ANBG.gov (17)

Chaste Trees are increasing in numbers and are escaping cultivation in Central and South Florida.

Torchwood
(Amyris elemifera)

Type/Size-Small specimen tree or large shrub 10-15 ft tall with a round canopy. Great for coastal locations and in buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and relatively high salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife including birds, butterflies and small mammals.

Courtesy of W. D. Hawthorne

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Lost in the dark? Torchwood has been used to make torches and the twigs are burned as incense.

Florida Boxwood
(*Schaefferia frutescens*)

Type/Size-Large accent shrub or small tree 10-20 ft tall. Great for buffer plantings. Is easily pruned to be a screen or hedge.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Birds love the berries!

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

Florida Boxwood is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida.

Locustberry
(Byrsonima lucida)

Type/Size-Small tree or medium to large accent flowering shrub 5-15 ft tall with flat canopy. Great for buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The beautiful flowers are present year round and the plant provides food and cover for birds and butterflies.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

Locustberry is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Java Plum
(*Syzygium cumini*)

Type/Size-Medium to large tree 40-50 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 4
Is known to invade native plant communities. Forms a dense cover shading out other species.

Courtesy of Horticopia, Inc

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

The planting of Java Plum trees has been legally limited in Miami-Dade County because of its potential to negatively alter natural communities.

Pigeon Plum
(Coccoloba diversifolia)

Type/Size-Medium to large accent or specimen tree usually 30-40 ft tall with a small round canopy. Beware of falling fruit.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade and needs nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Edible fruit provides a significant amount of food for wildlife.

Courtesy of Don & Joyce Gann

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Fine jelly and wine are made from the juice of the fruit.

Blolly
(*Guapira discolor*)

Type/Size-Small to medium accent tree or large shrub 10-25 ft tall with a round, dense canopy. Great for buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and relatively high salt tolerance. Needs moderately nutritious soil in full sun to light shade.

Nature Factor-Birds and other wildlife enjoy the fruit and the cover that it provides.

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of George D. Gann

The Blolly is a tough tree that needs minimal care.

Soapberry
(Sapindus saponaria)

Type/Size-Medium tree with a broad round canopy 15-30 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of food and some cover for wildlife.

Courtesy of Forest & Kim Starr, USGS

Courtesy of Horticopia, Inc

When rubbed between the hands, the fruits produce a light cleansing lather.

Asiatic Colubrina/Latherleaf
(*Colubrina asiatica*)

Type/Size-Sprawling shrub 10 ft tall with spreading branches.

Salt/Sun-High salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade and in poor soil.

Evil Factor-Category 1
Viciously invades costal strands, dunes, mangrove forests, pine rockland, and margins of hardwood forests. Seeds float to and disrupt backcountry islands.

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Courtesy of Miami-Dade County (2)

Asiatic Colubrina's sprawling growth habit enables it to smother native vegetation.

Coinvine
(Dalbergia ecastaphyllum)

Type/Size-Scrambling and climbing vine with stems up to 20-30 ft long.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The extensive branches and roots stabilize coastal sand dunes.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Coin Vine is a durable vine that can grow in a variety of habitats.

Saltbush
(*Baccharis halimifolia*)

Type/Size-Medium accent shrub 5-10 ft tall with a narrow canopy. Great for buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-High salt and moderate drought tolerance. Needs full sun in moist, moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of cover and some food for wildlife.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

The fragrant, showy heads make their presence known during the fall and winter.

White Mangrove
(Languncularia racemosa)

Type/Size-Medium tree or large shrub 15-30 ft tall. Highly recommend for costal areas.

Salt/Sun-High salt and low drought tolerance. Needs moist, moderately nutritious soil in full sunlight.

Nature Factor-Is a key element of tidal swamps. Mangroves provide protective habitat for fish and other aquatic species.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of Alison Higgins

The dense mangrove roots help to reduce coastal erosion.

Beach Naupaka
(*Scaevola sericea & S. taccada*)

Type/Size– 15 ft tall sprawling, bushy shrub with white berries.

Salt/Sun- High salt and sun tolerance. Recommended widely for coastal properties.

Evil Factor– Category I
Floating, salt tolerant seeds can travel long distances to pristine islands.

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Courtesy of Identification & Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas by K.A Langeland, K. Craddock Burks (5)

One of the more recently introduced plants to the nursery industry, Beach Naupaka has already shown up in Florida Bay.

Inkberry
(Scaevola plumieri)

Type/Size-Small accent shrub 2-5 ft tall with thick, succulent leaves. Great for coastal landscapes.

Salt/Sun-High drought and salt tolerance. Loves full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Has a very unique white half flower and black fruit. Provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Inkberry is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida due to habitat destruction.

Mayten
(*Maytenus phyllanthoides*)

Type/Size-Medium to large shrub usually 3-10 ft tall with a round crown. Usually recommended for natural landscapes and habitat restorations.

Salt/Sun-Relatively high salt and moderate drought tolerance. Enjoys full sun to light shade in moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Easily prunable to be screens or hedges. Red berries are a nice contrast to the bright green foliage.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of Horticopia, Inc

Mayten is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Bay Cedar
(Suriana maritima)

Type/Size-Medium to large accent or specimen shrub 6-10 ft tall with a conical crown.

Salt/Sun-High salt and drought tolerance. Loves full sun in poor soils.

Nature Factor-Is loved by and home to many butterfly species.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Bay Cedar is a hardy shrub that would make a great addition to coastal locations.

Central American Sisal &Sisal Hemp
(*Furcraea cabuya & Agave sisalana*)

Type/Size-Medium shrub up to 6 ft tall with sword like fibrous leaves.

Salt/Sun-Salt and drought tolerant. Grows in full sun to deep shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Spreads from landscaping and from where it is dumped.

Courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden (18)

Courtesy of Kaita Frank

These plants are escaping cultivation and increasing in numbers in Central and South Florida.

Saw Palmetto
(*Serenoa repens*)

Type/Size-Large accent or specimen shrub 4-6 ft tall. Great as a hedge or in a barrier planting. Recommended for the lower keys.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of food and cover for a variety of wildlife including birds, deer, butterflies and more!

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

The Saw Palmetto is very durable and extremely fire resistant.

False Sisal/Century Plant
(*Agave decipiens*)

Type/Size-Medium shrub with prickly leaves usually 4-8 ft tall. Great as an accent shrub in rock gardens or in spiny barrier plantings.

Salt/Sun-High drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Looks almost identical to the invasive exotic but it is native to South Florida.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

This unique looking shrub will add an exotic flare to your landscape.

Spanish Bayonet
(Yucca aloifolia)

Type/Size-Medium to large accent or specimen shrub 3-8 ft tall. Great along the coast and for spiny barrier plantings.

Salt/Sun-High drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides food and cover for wildlife, especially butterflies.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

The showy, white, fragrant flowers are present year round.

Night-Blooming Cereus
(*Hylocereus undatus*)

Type/Size-High climbing cactus up to 20 ft.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Is spreading from landscapes and from where it is dumped.

Courtesy of Cal Lemke, University of Oklahoma (19)

Courtesy of Communitywebshots.com (10)

The Night Blooming Cereus is also sold under the common name Dragon Fruit

Mangrove Rubber Vine
(Rhabdadenia biflora)

Type/Size-High climbing or horizontal vine with long stems 10 ft or more.

Salt/Sun-Low drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The showy white flowers are present year round.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Walter Kingsley Taylor (30)

Do you want more flowers? Regular pruning or planting it in a pot will stimulate more flowering.

Moonflower Vine
(Ipomoea alba)

Type/Size-Twining herbaceous vine with stem 15 ft or more long.

Salt/Sun-Moderate salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor– Beautiful white flowers are present year round.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Sharon Cook (29)

The Moonflower Vine can be a little aggressive in the garden, but it behaves elsewhere.

Doctor/Medicine Vine
(Hippocratea volubilis)

Type/Size-Climbing woody vine with stems up to 20 ft or more.

Salt/Sun-Relatively high salt and low drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The small flowers are in bloom from March until July.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Doctor Vine is appropriately named for its medicinal uses.

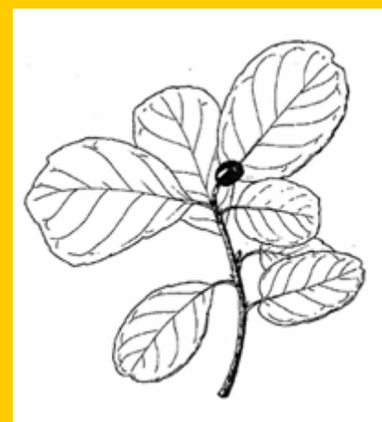
Governor's Plum
(*Flacourtia indica*)

Type/Size-Large shrub or medium tree 20-50 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Highly invasive in South Florida. Animals spread the fruit.

Courtesy of Plantatlas.usf.edu (13)



Courtesy of Miami-Dade County (2)

Governor's Plum has been outlawed in Miami-Dade County because of its ability to displace natural communities.

Hog Plum
(*Ximenia americana)*

Type/Size-Large shrub or small to medium tree 10-20 ft tall with vine-like thorny branches.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife.

Photos by T. Ann Williams

Try the bright yellow fruit. They are quite tasty.

Darling Plum
(*Reynosia septentrionalis*)

Type/Size-Large accent or specimen shrub or small tree 10-15 ft tall with an irregular canopy.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The edible fruits are loved by humans and wildlife alike.

Photo courtesy of Ken Cook

Darling Plum is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Guiana Plum
(Drypetes lateriflora)

Type/Size-Medium tree 20-30 ft tall. Recommended for the middle to upper keys.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Enjoys light shade and moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Provides food and cover for wildlife.

Photos courtesy of FIU Biology Dept

Guiana Plum is listed as a threatened Species by the State of Florida.

Kopsia
(*Ochrosia parviflora*)

Type/Size-Large shrub or small spreading tree 15-30 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Salt and drought tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade and a variety of soils. Tolerates environmental extremes.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Because of its environmental tolerance, it has the potential to spread into a variety of habits.

Courtesy of Australian National Botanical Gardens (20)

Courtesy of Horticopia, Inc

Kopsia is problematic in other areas and has the potential to be damaging to the fragile Keys environment.

Black Torch
(Erithalis fruticosa)

Type/Size-Medium to large accent shrub 4-8 ft tall. Great for buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Flowers year round and provides food and cover for wildlife.

Courtesy Shirley Denton

Courtesy of FIU Biology Dept

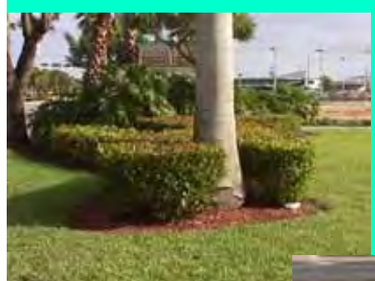
Blacktorch is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Green Cocoplum
(*Chrysobalanus icaco*)

Type/Size-Large accent or specimen shrub or medium tree 10-15 ft tall with dense foliage and round canopy. Great as hedges or in buffer plantings. Recommended for the lower keys.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and relatively high salt tolerance. Enjoys full sun in moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife.



Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

The fruit is used to make jellies and preserves.

Poisonwood
(Metopium toxiferum)

Type/Size-Small to medium tree 10-40 ft tall with a broad canopy. Recommended for natural landscapes and habitat restorations. Caution: Poisonwood can cause a rash.

Salt/Sun-Salt and drought tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Daniel Greene

Keep your eye out for the endangered White-crowned pigeon! They feast on the fruit during nesting season.

Orange-Jessamine
(*Murraya paniculata*)

Type/Size-Small tree or shrub up to 20 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in some sun to light shade in moderately nutritious soil.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Birds are eating and spreading the seeds which aren't nutritious for them.

Courtesy of Kaita Frank

Courtesy of Desert-tropicals (6)

Orange-Jessamine is escaping cultivation in South Florida and it is currently being planted in the keys.

Joewood
(Jacquinia keyensis)

Type/Size-Medium to large specimen shrub 4-10 ft tall with a round, compact canopy.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and relatively high salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Flowers year round and provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Joewood is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Cat's Claw & Blackbead
(*Pithecellobium unguis-cati & guadalupense*)

Type/Size-Large accent or specimen shrub or small tree 10-15 ft tall with spiny branches. Great in buffer plantings.
Cat's Claw recommended for the upper keys and Blackbead recommended for the lower keys.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides food and cover for wildlife, including a variety of butterfly species.

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Cat's Claw and Blackbead are almost identical except Cat's Claw has thorns.

Marlberry
(Ardisia escallonioides)

Type/Size-Large accent or specimen shrub or small tree 8-15 ft tall with a narrow canopy. Great for buffer or mass plantings.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Flowers year round and provides a significant amount of food and cover for birds and wildlife.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Marlberry is very adaptable and is one of the best shrubs for the garden.

Shoebutton Ardisia
(*Ardisia elliptica*)

Type/Size-Shrub or small tree up to 15 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Very shade tolerant and can grow in poor soil.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Is fast growing and shade tolerant. Forms dense monotypic stands that prevent the establishment of native species.

Courtesy of Identification & Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas by K.A Langeland, K. Craddock Burks (5)

Courtesy of Miami-Dade County (2)

Shoebutton Ardisia has escaped cultivation in South Florida and is disturbing natural areas.

Marlberry
(Ardisia escallonioides)

Type/Size-Large accent or specimen shrub or small tree 8-15 ft tall with a narrow canopy. Great for buffer or mass plantings.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Flowers year round and provides a significant amount of food and cover for birds and wildlife.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Marlberry is very adaptable and is one of the best shrubs for the garden.

Myrsine
(*Myrsine floridana or Rapanea punctata*)

Type/Size-Large accent shrub or small tree 10-15 ft tall with narrow canopy. Great in buffer plantings. Recommended for the lower keys.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Flowers year round.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Myrsine makes a great screen or hedge.

Blacktorch
(Erithalis fruticosa)

Type/Size-Medium to large accent shrub 4-8 ft tall. Great for buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Flowers year round and provides food and cover for wildlife.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of FIU Biology Dept

Blacktorch is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Bracelet Wood
(*Jacquinia armillaris*)

Type/Size-Small tree or shrub up to 12 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and slight salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
The seeds are spread by birds.

Courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden (16)

Courtesy of USDA Forest Service (21)

Braceletwood is being found in disturbed sights on a number of different keys.

Joewood
(Bursera simaruba)

Type/Size-Medium to large specimen shrub 4-10 ft tall with a round, compact canopy.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and relatively high salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Flowers year round and provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Joewood is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

American or Bahama Nightshade
(*Solanum americanum & bahamense*)

Type/Size-Medium shrub 4-6 ft tall with an erect stem.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Little purple flowers are present year round.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Charles T. Bryson (31)

Bahama Nightshade's bright red berries look very appealing!

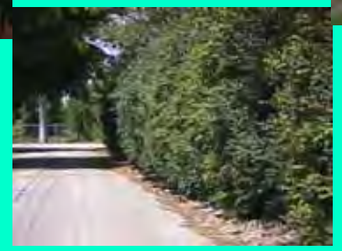
Red Stopper/Redberry Stopper
(Eugenia rhombea & E. confusa)

Type/Size-Large accent shrub or small specimen tree 8-12 ft tall with a narrow rounded canopy. Redberry Stopper is 15-25 ft tall and recommended for the upper keys. Great in buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in light shade to sun and nutrient poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides food and cover for a variety of wildlife and birds love the fruit.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook



Red Stopper and Redberry Stopper are listed as endangered species by the State of Florida.

African Firebush
(*Hamelia patens var glabra*)

Type/Size-Large shrub or small tree up to 12 ft tall. Flowers are yellow and red.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor– Alert
Is hybridizing with and poses a threat to the native Firebush.

Courtesy of Keith A. Bradley

African Firebush is marked with yellow, red and orange flowers. The native Firebush has red flowers only.

Florida Firebush
(Hamelia patens)

Type/Size-Large accent or specimen shrub or small tree 10-12 ft tall with round canopy. Great for buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of food and cover for a variety of wildlife including hummingbirds and butterflies.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Florida Firebush is one of the best bird and butterfly shrubs in South Florida.

Rouge Plant
(*Rivina humilis*)

Type/Size-Medium to large fast growing herb 1-4 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The pink flowers and bright red berries create a striking contrast in a sea of green.

Courtesy of Allen Boatman

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

The bright red fruits were once used to make red dye and rouge.

Wild Coffee
(Psychotria nervosa)

Type/Size-Medium accent shrub 4-6 ft tall. Great as hedges or in buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Birds and other wildlife love the fruit. Is a nectar plant for a variety of butterflies.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Horticopia, Inc

The red fruit is edible!

Texas Necklace Pod
(*Sophora tomentosa var occidentalis*)

Type/Size-Medium to large shrub up to 10 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-High drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Evil Factor-Alert
Is being sold as the native Yellow Necklace Pod.

Courtesy of Roger Hammer

The Texas Necklace Pod is very similar to the Yellow Necklace Pod except it has silvery, hairy leaves.

Bay Cedar
(Suriana maritima)

Type/Size-Medium to large accent or specimen shrub 6-10 ft tall with a conical crown.

Salt/Sun-High salt and drought tolerance. Loves full sun in poor soils.

Nature Factor-Is loved by and home to many butterfly species.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Bay Cedar is a hardy shrub that would make a great addition to coastal locations.

Yellow Necklace Pod
(*Sophora tomentosa var truncata*)

Type/Size-Medium to large accent or specimen shrub 8-10 ft tall with a round, irregular canopy. Great along the coast and for buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-High drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is a nectar plant for hummingbirds and butterflies and is enjoyed by a variety of wildlife.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Yellow Necklace Pod is indispensable for its hardiness and adaptability.

Sea Lavender
(*Argusia gnaphalodes*)

Type/Size-Medium accent or specimen shrub 3-6 ft tall that forms a round mound. Makes an amazing oceanfront shrub.

Salt/Sun-High drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Has beautiful flowers year round and is a nectar plant for butterflies.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Sea Lavender is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida.

Burma Reed
(*Neyraudia reynaudiana*)

Type/Size-Large grass with stems ranging from 3-12 tall.

Salt/Sun-High drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 1
Can cover large areas with dense growth. Very fire prone.

Courtesy of Miami-Dade County (2)

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Burma Reed constitutes a serious threat the globally imperiled pine rockland habitat.

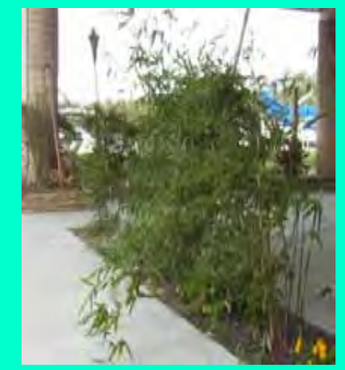
Wild Bamboo
(Lasiacis divaricata)

Type/Size-Large herbaceous, almost woody grass 3-6 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in light shade and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Flowers in the summer and fall.

Courtesy of George D. Gann



Courtesy of Katie Norris

Wild Bamboo looks like miniature bamboo and would add a unique flare to a landscape.

Beach Grass
(*Panicum amarum*)

Type/Size-Medium to large herbaceous accent grass 2-5 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Salt and drought tolerant. Grows in full sun in poor soils.

Nature Factor-Beach grass helps to stabilize beach dunes.

Photos courtesy of George D. Gann

Beach Grass seeds provide food for native beneficial insects.

Sea Oats
(Uniola paniculata)

Type/Size-Accent grass in coastal locations. 3-4 ft tall and up to 6 ft when in flower.

Salt/Sun-High salt and drought tolerance. Loves full sun in poor soils.

Nature Factor-Is the most important stabilizer of sand on beach dunes.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Hands off! It is illegal to collect the flower spike or seed head in Florida.

Green Fountain Grass
(*Pennisetum setacea*)

Type/Size-Clumped grass with stems up to 3 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category2
Can crowd many other native grass and wildflower species. Seeds are wind dispersed.

Courtesy of Br. Brousseau, Saint Mary's College (22)

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Fountain Grass is spreading from landscaping onto roadsides and other natural areas.

Saltmeadow & Gulf Cordgrass
(Spartina patens & S. spartinae)

Type/Size-Accent groundcover in coastal locations. 2–4 ft tall. Forms large, open, or dense patches.

Salt/Sun-High salt and moderate drought tolerance. Grows in the full sun in poor soils.

Nature Factor– Helps prevent the erosion of sand dunes and other landscapes.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of George D. Gann

The detritus produced from the Saltmeadow Cord Grass greatly adds to the productivity of salt marshes.

False Mint
(*Dicliptera sexangularis*)

Type/Size-Medium to large annual herb 1-4 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is the nectar and larval host for a variety of butterflies.

Courtesy of Jackie DeGayner

Courtesy of Walter Kingsley Taylor (30)

The unusually shaped red flowers are attractive to hummingbirds.

Saltmarsh & Sand Cordgrass
(Spartina alterniflora var glabra & S. bakeri)

Type/Size-Large herbaceious grass 3-4 ft tall. Sand cordgrass great for water gardens and along pond edges. Saltmarsh cordgrass is best along marsh edges.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil. Saltmarsh cordgrass has low drought and high salt tolerance.

Nature Factor-These grasses are great substrate stabilizers.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

These Cordgrasses are a great choice if you are looking for an addition to your water's edge.

Guinea & Napier Grass
(*Panicum maximum & Pennisetum purpureum*)

Type/Size-Clumping grass that grows up to 10 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Napier grass is aggressively invading freshwater wetlands, canal banks, and other areas with moist soil. Guinea grass produces a large amount of seeds.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Both grasses can spread through rhizomes and can quickly crowd out native species.

Sea Oats
(*Uniola paniculata*)

Type/Size-Accent grass in coastal locations. 3-4 ft tall and up to 6 ft when in flower.

Salt/Sun-High salt and drought tolerance. Loves full sun in poor soils.

Nature Factor-Is the most important stabilizer of sand on beach dunes.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Hands off! It is illegal to collect the flower spike or seed head in Florida.

Saltmeadow Cord Grass & Beach Grass
(*Spartina patens & Panicum amarum)*

Type/Size-Accent groundcover in coastal locations. 2–4 ft tall. Forms large, open, or dense patches.

Salt/Sun-High salt and moderate drought tolerance. Grows in the full sun in poor soils.

Nature Factor– These coastal grasses help to stabilize beach dunes.

Courtesy of Stacey Carr Cyrus

Courtesy of George D. Gann

The detritus produced from the Saltmeadow Cord Grass greatly adds to the productivity of salt marshes.

False Mint
(*Dicliptera sexangularis*)

Type/Size-Medium to large annual herb 1-4 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is the nectar and larval host for a variety of butterflies.

Courtesy of Jackie DeGayner

Courtesy of Walter Kingsley Taylor (30)

The unusually shaped red flowers are attractive to hummingbirds.

Torpedo & Natal Grass
(*Panicum repens & Rhynchelytrum repens*)

Type/Size-Grass up to 3 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade and in poor soil.

Evil Factor-Category 2 & 3
Found on roadsides and other disturbed areas.

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Courtesy of Plantatlas.usf.edu (13)

These grasses are environmentally and economically damaging in the state of Florida.

Blue-Eyed Grass
(*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*)

Type/Size-Small herbaceous wildflower 1 ft tall. Grows in clumps.

Salt/Sun-Low drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and moist, poor soil.

Nature Factor-The purple flowers bloom from July to August.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

The flowers are eye catching and would look amazing in your wildflower garden.

Muhly Grass
(*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)

Type/Size-Medium to large accent grass or groundcover 2-3 ft tall. Also good for wildflower gardens.

Salt/Sun-High salt and moderate drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Great hardy native grass.

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Muhly grass is an elegant ornamental grass with feathery pink flower spikes.

Coral/Yellow Bristlegrass
(*Setaria macrosperma & S. parviflora*)

Type/Size-Grass up to 2 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to partial shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Grow in a wide range of conditions and habitats.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Yellow Bristlegrass grass has an attractive yellow inflorescence at the top of their stems.

Crowfoot Grass
(*Dactyloctenium aegyptium*)

Type/Size-Grass up to 2 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Found in disturbed sites and along roadsides.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Plantatlas.usf.edu (13)

Crowfoot grass is a fast colonizer of disturbed sites.

Cowpea
(*Vigna luteola*)

Type/Size-Creeping vine with stems up to 6 ft long.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun and in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is a larval host plant for numerous butterfly species.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

The delicate yellow flower is in bloom year round.

Scorpion Tail
(*Heliotropium angiospermum*)

Type/Size-Medium herbaceous shrub like wildflower 1-3 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Loved by a host of butterflies.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Scorpion Tail is a must have for butterfly gardens.

Elliott's Fanpetals
(Sida elliottii)

Type/Size-Small herbaceous wildflower 6-12 inches tall and spreading. Forms small open patches.

Salt/Sun-High drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-The red to yellow flowers bloom in the summer.

Courtesy of Keith Bradley

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

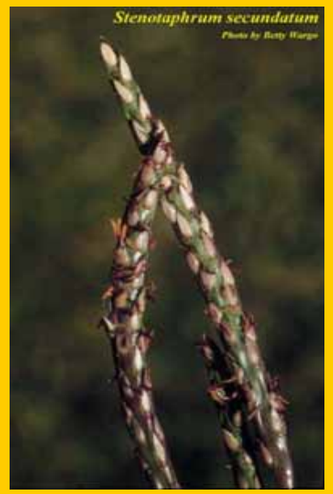
Elliott's Fanpetals are easy to grow and add a unique color to the landscape.

St. Augustine& Zoysia Grass
(*Stenotaphrum secundatum & Zoysia japonica*)

Type/Size-Low lying groundcover. Can be up to 12 inches tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Has been planted and beginning to invade hammocks.



Courtesy of Plantatlas.usf.edu (13)

Courtesy of Kaita Frank

These grasses spread uncontrollably and prevent the growth of some native plants.

Dominican Signalgrass
(*Urochloa adspersa*)

Type/Size-Annual herb groundcover.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is very a versatile and adaptable grass.

Courtesy of John Kunzer

Dominican Signalgrass is a typical, hardy Florida Keys grass.

Creeping Charlie/Frog fruit
(*Phyla nodiflora*)

Type/Size-Small creeping wildflower 1-6 inches tall. Great for water gardens and along lake edges.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is a larval host and nectar plant for numerous butterfly species.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Creeping Charlie blooms year round and the butterflies know it!

Pencil Flower
(Stylosanthes calcicola)

Type/Size-Small creeping herb 3-6 inches tall. Forms small open patches.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and low salt tolerance. Enjoys full sun in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Yellow flower blooms year round and is the larval host for barred yellow butterflies.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Pencil Flower is listed as endangered by the State of Florida.

Bahia Grass
(*Paspalum notatum*)

Type/Size-Grass up to 2 ft tall with a mat-like growth pattern.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Very persistent and difficult to control.

Photos courtesy of IFAS (1)

Bahia Grass is known to prevent the regeneration of some forests.

Salt Grass
(Distichlis spicata)

Type/Size-Medium to tall salt grass up to 2 ft tall. Can form large stands.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and high salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and moist soil.

Nature Factor-Can handle a lot of traffic if used as a lawn grass.

Photos by: Shirley Denton

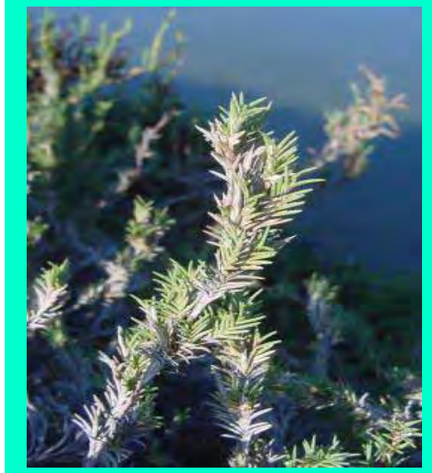
Salt grass is an important food source for geese and other birds.

Key Grass
(Monanthochloe littoralis)

Type/Size-Creeping, perennial grass up to 10 inches tall. Usually forms a dense mat. Has short, stiff leaves

Salt/Sun-High salt and moderate drought tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Helps to stabilize shoreline soils.



Courtesy of Michael Charters

Courtesy of Alison Higgins

This tough grass can survive periodic inundations by seawater.

Dropseed
(Sporobolus virginicus)

Type/Size-Creeping perennial grass 1-2 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Salt and drought tolerant. Grows in full sun and in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Helps to protect sand dunes.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Dropseed can grow in a wide range of conditions and soil types.

Asian Sword Fern
(*Nephrolepis multiflora*)

Type/Size-Small fern 2-3 ft tall

Salt/Sun-Low drought and salt tolerance. Prefers shade and moderately nutritious soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Is invading hammocks and disrupting natural communities.

Photos courtesy of Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County Foundation (23)

The Asian Sword Fern is being sold and often confused with native ferns.

Giant Leather Fern
(Acrostichum danaeifolium)

Type/Size-Large herbaceous accent or specimen fern 6-12 ft tall. Great for along the edges of ponds and marshes.

Salt/Sun-Low drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in moist, nutrient rich soil.

Nature Factor-Grows to be big and bold so allow for its potential size.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

True to its name, the Giant Leather Fern is Florida's largest fern.

Pine Fern
(*Anemia adiantifolia*)

Type/Size-Small herbaceous fern 6-12 inches tall and forms small clumps. Recommended for the lower keys.

Salt/Sun-High drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is a great addition to your understory.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

The Pine Fern is a hardy and grows in minimal soil.

Golden Leather Fern
(Acrostichum aureum)

Type/Size-Large accent shrub like herbaceous fern 4-6 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Low drought and high salt tolerance. Needs shade and moist, nutrient rich soil.

Nature Factor-Great for along the edges of brackish ponds or marshes.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

The Golden Leather Fern is listed as threatened by the State of Florida.

Asparagus Fern
(*Asparagus densiflorus*)

Type/Size-Up to 2 ft tall with largely lateral growth.

Salt/Sun-Drought tolerant and grows in a wide range of light conditions.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Displaces native ground cover and understory shrubs.

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Courtesy of Identification & Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas by K.A Langeland, K. Craddock Burks (5)

Birds and wildlife are helping the spread of Asparagus Fern from landscaping to pristine areas.

Beach Creeper
(Ernodea littoralis)

Type/Size-Sprawling groundcover 1-3 ft tall in dry, open areas usually near the coast. Also in wildflower and rock gardens.

Salt/Sun-High salt and drought tolerance. Loves full sunlight in poor soils.

Nature Factor-Provides food for birds and Gopher tortoises.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of Ken Cook

The Beach Creeper helps to prevent wind and water erosion of beach dunes.

Rhacoma
(*Crossopetalum rhacoma*)

Type/Size-Medium accent shrub or small tree 3-8 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soils.

Nature Factor-Provides food for wildlife.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of Alison Higgins

Rhacoma is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Whisk Fern
(Psilotum nudum)

Type/Size-Small herb usually 6-12 inches tall and is often epiphytic.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in light shade and in poor, moist soil.

Nature Factor-Easily propagated and lives in a variety of places.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Gerald D. Carr

Whisk Ferns make great accents for unique places like rocks and trees!

Bowstring Hemp
(*Sansevieria hyacinthoides*)

Type/Size-Grows up to 4 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Spreads from landscaping and establishes where dumped

Courtesy of Bob Bierman

Photo courtesy of University of HI Botany Dept (14)

Bowstring Hemp grows in dense populations and competes with native plants for limited resources.

Spider Lily
(Hymenocallis latifolia)

Type/Size-Medium herbaceous wildflower 2-3 ft tall. Used in wildflower gardens and moist coastal locations.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor– The fragrant flower blooms from March until September.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

The Spider Lily's unique flower and its tolerance for the elements make it a great addition to any yard.

Barbwire Cactus
(*Acanthocereus tetragonus*)

Type/Size-Medium vine like shrub usually 6-8 ft tall but can climb higher in some vegetation. Great for spiny barrier plantings.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in the shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The showy flowers open at night.

Courtesy of Gerard Ardisson

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Barbwire Cactus is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Prickly Pear Cactus
(Opuntia stricta)

Type/Size-Medium bushy succulent accent or specimen shrub 3-6 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The edible fruits are enjoyed by humans and wildlife alike.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Prickly Pear Cactus is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Nettle-leaf Porterweed
(*Stachytarpheta urticifolia*)

Type/Size-Medium herbeaous wildflower up to 6 ft tall and 6 ft wide.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Shrub that is commonly sold as native and has the potential to hybridize with the native. Grows aggressively and takes over large patches of ground quickly.

Courtesy of Gerald D. Carr

Courtesy of Plantatlas.usf.edu (13)

Beware of those who try to pass this off as a native. Highly quilted veins and deep serrations are tell tale signs, even when small.

Blue Porterweed
(Stachytarpheta jamaicensis)

Type/Size-Medium herbaceous wildflower groundcover 1-3 ft tall. Good in open, dry areas and wildflower gardens.

Salt/Sun-Salt and drought tolerant. Likes full sun in poor soil.

Nature Factor–Is a nectar plant and larval host for numerous butterfly species.

Courtesy of Pam Juttelstad

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Attention butterfly lovers! If you plant this they will come!

Seashore Ageratum
(Ageratum littorale)

Type/Size-Sprawling small to medium wildflower 10-15 inches tall.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The beautiful purple flowers bloom year round.

Photos courtesy of Keith A. Bradley

Seashore Ageratum is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida.

Yellowtop
(Flaveria linearis)

Type/Size-Small to medium herb 1-2 ft tall with beautiful heads of yellow flowers. Great for wildflower gardens.

Salt/Sun-High drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is a nectar plant for a host of butterfly species.

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

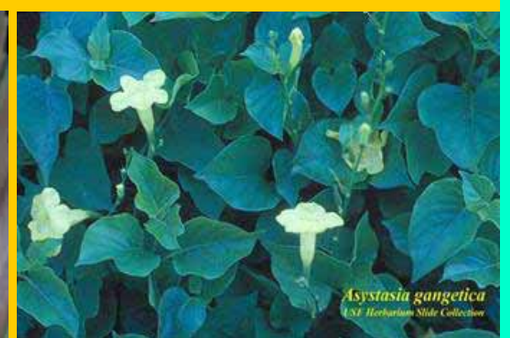
This plant is for the butterfly lovers!

Ganges Primrose
(*Asystasia gangetica*)

Type/Size-Shrubby herb which grows up to 3 ft but can grow over shrubs up to 10 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Drought and slight salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Spreads from disturbed sites and climbs forest edges.



Photos courtesy of Plantatlas.usf.edu

Ganges Primrose grows over and smothers out native vegetation.

Beach Creeper
(Ernodea littoralis)

Type/Size-Sprawling groundcover 1-3 ft tall in dry, open areas usually near the coast. Also in wildflower and rock gardens.

Salt/Sun-High salt and drought tolerance. Loves full sunlight in poor soils.

Nature Factor-Provides food for birds and Gopher tortoises love to eat it as well.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of
Ken Cook

Courtesy of Ken Cook

The Beach Creeper out competes other plants, thus eliminating the need to pull pesky weeds.

Long-Stalked Stopper
(*Psidium longipes*)

Type/Size-Medium to large accent shrub 3-6 ft tall with wide-spreading branches. Recommended for the lower keys.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade and poor soil.

Nature Factor-The unique flowers are in bloom year round.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

The Long-Stalked Stopper is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Rhacoma
(*Crossopetalum rhacoma*

Type/Size-Medium accent shrub or small tree 3-8 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soils.

Nature Factor-Provides food for wildlife.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of Alison Higgins

Rhacoma is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Lantana/Shrub Verbena
(*Lantana camara*)

Type/Size-Medium flowering shrub 6 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Forms thickets in open areas and readily invades disturbed sites.

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Courtesy of Identification & Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas by K.A Langeland, K. Craddock Burks (5)

Lantana is very adaptable and has been found in pinelands, hammocks and on beach dunes.

Locustberry
(Brysonima lucida)

Type/Size-Small tree or medium to large accent flowering shrub 5-15 ft tall with flat canopy. Great for buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-High drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The beautiful flowers are present year round and the plant provides food and cover for birds and butterflies.

Photos courtesy of Ken Cook

Locustberry is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Pineland Lantana & Wild Sage
(*Lantana depressa & L. involucrata*)

Type/Size-Small to medium herbaceous shrub up to 6 ft tall. Wild Sage is great for buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor moist soil.

Nature Factor-Both are nectar plants for butterflies. Wild Sage also provides food for birds.

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of Horticopia, Inc

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Lantana's colorful flowers are abundant from an early age.

American Beautyberry
(*Callicarpa americana)*

Type/Size-Medium bushy accent flowering shrub 5-9 ft tall. Great for buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife including birds and butterflies.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

American Beautyberry is a hardy adaptable shrub with beautiful berries and flowers.

Life Plant
(*Kalanchoe spp*)

Type/Size-Numerous species and growth habits but some up to 7 ft tall. Most are considerably shorter.

Salt/Sun-Drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade and in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Is fast growing and can appear just about anywhere.

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Courtesy of Kate Hadden

Each point on a dropped Life Plant leaf can produce a new individual plant.

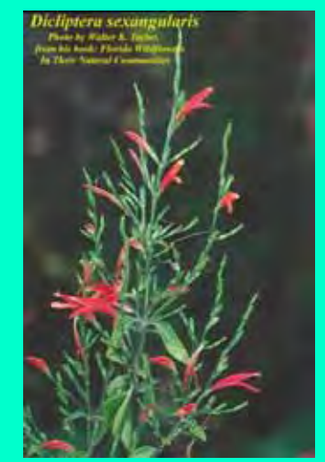
False Mint
(Dicliptera assurgens)

Type/Size-Medium to large annual herb 1-4 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is a nectar and larval host for a variety of butterflies.

Courtesy of Jackie DeGayner



Courtesy of Walter Kingsley Taylor (30)

The unusually shaped red flowers are attractive to hummingbirds.

Silver & Green Sea-Oxeye Daisy
(*Borrichia frutescens & B. aborescens*)

Type/Size-Small to medium accent coastal wildflower shrub 2-3 ft tall. Also works well as a bedding plant.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Flowers year round and is a nectar plant for many butterfly species.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

The Sea-Oxeye Daisy would make a great addition to your butterfly garden or coastal landscape.

Poeppig's Rosemallow
(Hibiscus poeppigii)

Type/Size-Medium to large herbaceous wildflower 1-4 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in nutrient poor soil.

Nature Factor-Flowers year round and ants love the nectar.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of Jackie DeGayner

Poepigg's Rosemalllow is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida and is only found in Monroe and Miami-Dade counties.

Oyster Plant & Wandering Jew
(*Tradescantia spathacea &Tradescantia spp*)

Type/Size-Small perennial herbs. Grows in clumps and up to about 1 foot tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade and in a variety of soils or lack thereof.

Evil Factor-Category 2 & 3
Oyster plant can colonize rock walls, gutters, and hardwood hammocks. Both form dense, clumpy ground covers.

Courtesy of Identification & Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas by K.A Langeland, K. Craddock Burks (5)

Courtesy of Plantatlas.usf.edu (13)

Oyster Plant invades both hammock floors and the surrounding trees.

Saltwort
(*Batis maritima*)

Type/Size-Small to medium spreading succulent shrub 2-4 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Low drought and high salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is a larval and nectar host for a variety of butterfly species.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Saltwort is a pioneer of salt marshes and can tolerate very high levels of salt. Hungry? You can eat it as an herb salad.

Seaside Heliotrope
(*Heliotropium curassavicum*)

Type/Size-Spreading dwarf ground cover 1 ft tall

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Lush, blue-green foliage offers contrast in the landscape. Blooms year-round.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of Br. Alfred Brousseau, Saint Mary's College (22)

The flowers attract small butterflies especially Blues, Crescents, and Hairstreaks.

Spider Lily
(Hymenocallis latifolia)

Type/Size-Medium herbaceous wildflower 2-3 ft tall. Used in wildflower gardens and moist coastal locations.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor– The fragrant flowers bloom from March until September.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

The Spider Lily's unique flower and its tolerance for the elements make it a great addition to any yard.

Puncture Weed
(*Tribulus cistoides*)

Type/Size-Short, trailing groundcover.

Salt/Sun-High salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade and in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Invades dunes and coastal strand. Colonizes medians, road swales and other disturbed sites.

Courtesy of Kaita Frank

Courtesy of Miami-Dade County (2)

True to its name, Puncture Weed can puncture rubber sandals and bicycle tires.

Pink Purslane
(Portulaca pilosa)

Type/Size-Small, spreading herbaceous wildflower 1-4 inches tall. Forms small patches and looks lovely in wildflower and rock gardens.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sunlight in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides food for wildlife.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Bob Bierman

This hardy wildflower would be a great addition to your coastal landscape or your wildflower garden.

Quailberry
(*Crossopetalum ilicifolium*)

Type/Size-Small spreading shrubby groundcover 6-12 inches tall. Great for wildflower and rock gardens.

Salt/Sun-High drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides food for wildlife and quail love it!

Photos courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Quailberry is one of our most attractive native woody groundcovers. It is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida.

Sea Purslane
(Sesuvium portulacastrum)

Type/Size-Small prostrate herb groundcover 3-8 inches tall in open, coastal areas.

Salt/Sun-High drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is an important stabilizer of beach dunes.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Sea Purslane's succulent leaves are edible and have been utilized as a source of vitamin C.

Jumbie Bean & Phasey Bean
(*Macroptilium atropurpureum & M. lathyroides*)

Type/Size-Perennial with trailing or creeping stems up to 3 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-High drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Brought in as cattle fodder. Wind spread seeds are helping the spread to disturbed edges and coastal berms.

Courtesy of Geocities.com (24)

Courtesy of Archbold Biological Station (25)

These seemingly harmless weeds can form dense infestations in disturbed areas and have been known to smother young trees.

Scorpion Tail
(*Heliotropium angiospermum*)

Type/Size-Medium herbaceous shrub like wildflower 1-3 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Absolutely loved by a variety of butterflies.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Scorpion Tail is a must have for butterfly gardens.

Spanish Needles
(*Bidens alba*)

Type/Size-Perennial herb 1-4 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Butterflies love these tough little flowers.

Photos courtesy of Katie Norris

Spanish Needles are tough wildflowers that are happy just about anywhere.

Wild/Pineland Poinsettia
(Poinsettia cyathohpora)

Type/Size-Medium herbaceous wildflower 1-3 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-High drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in nutrient poor soil.

Nature Factor-The unique pink areas in the center of the plant look as though they have been painted on the leaf.

Courtesy of Katie Norris

Courtesy of Tony Presley, www.inspirezone.org

Wild Poinsettia's ease of growth and long flowering season make it a great addition to any garden.

Wedelia
(*Sphagneticola trilobata*)

Type/Size-Small trailing herb seldom taller than 1 foot.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Invades beaches and disturbed site.

Photos courtesy of Plantatlas.usf.edu (13)

Wedelia forms dense mats crowing out and preventing the regeneration of native species.

Elliott's Fanpetals
(Sida elliottii)

Type/Size-Small herbaceous wildflower 6-12 inches tall and spreading. Forms small open patches.

Salt/Sun-High drought and low salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-The red to yellow flowers bloom in the summer.

Courtesy of Keith Bradley

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Elliott's Fanpetals are easy to grow and add a unique color to the landscape.

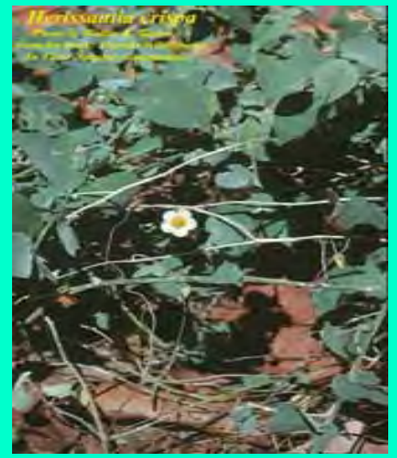
Bladdermallow
(*Herissantia crispa*)

Type/Size-Small herbaceous perennial 3 inches tall. Great for coastal landscaping.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is the larval host for several butterfly species.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton



Courtesy of Walter Kingsley Taylor (30)

You will want to go home for lunch so you can see the flowers open at midday.

Seashore Ageratum
(Ageratum littorale)

Type/Size-Sprawling small to medium wildflower 10-15 inches tall.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The beautiful purple flowers bloom year round.

Photos courtesy of Keith A. Bradley

Seashore Ageratum is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida.

Madagascar Periwinkle
(*Catharanthus roseus*)

Type/Size-Fast growing annual up to 1 foot tall.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade

Evil Factor-Category 3
Often sold as ground cover, it is moving to disturbed sites and beach dunes.

Photos courtesy of Floridata.com (11)

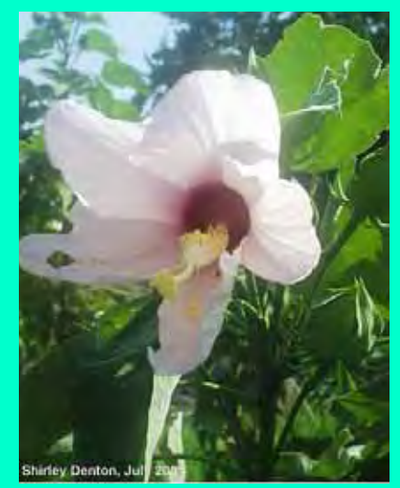
Parts of the Madagascar Periwinkle are poisonous if ingested.

Swamp Rosemallow
(Hibiscus grandiflorus)

Type/Size-Medium accent shrub 6-8 ft tall. Great along pond and lake edges. Recommended for the upper keys.

Salt/Sun-Low drought and salt tolerance. Needs full sun in moist, nutrient rich soil.

Nature Factor-Provides nectar for hummingbirds, orioles and other birds.



Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Swamp Rosemallow is a very attractive shrub when in flower.

Silver & Green Sea-Ox-Eye Daisy
(*Borrichia arborescens & B. frutescens*)

Type/Size-Medium accent wildflower shrub 2-4 ft tall. Works well as a bedding plant.

Salt/Sun-Low drought and high salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in moist, nutrient poor soil.

Nature Factor-Flowers year round and is a nectar plant for a variety of butterfly species.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Dense stands of the Green Sea Oxeye Daisy help to stabilize soil and prevent wind and water erosion.

Blue Porterweed
(Stachytarpheta jamaicensis)

Type/Size-Medium herbaceous wildflower groundcover 1-3 ft tall. Good in open, dry areas and wildflower gardens.

Salt/Sun-Salt and drought tolerant. Likes full sun in poor soil.

Nature Factor–Is a nectar plant for numerous butterfly species.

Courtesy of Pam Juttelstad

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Attention butterfly lovers! If you plant this they will come!

Beach Vitex
(*Vitex rotundifolia*)

Type/Size-1-3 ft ground cover.

Salt/Sun-High salt and drought tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Is crowding out native dune plants up the East coast and is working its way south.

Photos courtesy of North Inlet-Winyah Bay (26)

Beach Vitex spreads through runners and can quickly displace native coastal vegetation.

Seaside Gentian
(Eustoma exaltatum)

Type/Size-Medium annual herbaceous wildflower 1-3 ft tall. Great for natural landscapes and wildflower gardens.

Salt/Sun-Low drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun in moist, moderately nutritious soil.

Nature Factor-The beautiful purple and white flowers are present from December until August.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Seaside Gentian is a hardy, gorgeous wildflower that would make a great addition to any landscape.

Coin Vine
(*Dalbergia ecastaphyllum*)

Type/Size-Scrambling and climbing vine with stems up to 20-30 ft long.

Salt/Sun-Drought and salt tolerant. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The extensive branches and roots stabilize coastal sand dunes.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Coin Vine is a durable vine that can grow in a variety of habitats.

Railroad Vine
(Ipomoea pescaprae subsp brasiliensis)

Type/Size-Herbaceous vine with very long stems. Great ground-cover for coastal uplands.

Salt/Sun-High drought and salt tolerance. Loves full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is one of the most important pioneer species for beaches and is a nectar source for butterflies.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Railroad Vine is an attractive groundcover that can take a beating and still look good.

Yellow Alder
(*Turnera ulmifolia*)

Type/Size-Small shrub up to 3 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Is being found in disturbed areas and it is thought to invade beach dunes.

Courtesy of Greenhouse Management & Production (27)

Courtesy of TAMU (28)

Yellow Alder easily propagates through seeds, cuttings or by division.

Silver & Green Sea-Oxeye Daisy
(*Borrichia frutescens & B. arborescens*)

Type/Size-Small to medium accent coastal wildflower shrub 2-3 ft tall. Also works well as a bedding plant.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Flowers year round and is a nectar plant for many butterfly species.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

The Sea-Oxeye Daisy would make a great addition to your butterfly garden or coastal landscape.

Yellowtop
(*Flaveria linearis*)

Type/Size-Small to medium herb 1-2 ft tall with beautiful heads of yellow flowers. Great for wildflower gardens.

Salt/Sun-High drought and relatively high salt tolerance. Grows in full sun in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is a nectar plant for a host of butterfly species.

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

This plant is for the butterfly lovers!

Christmasberry
(Lycium carolinianum)

Type/Size-Medium accent shrub 6-8 ft tall occasionally has spiny branches.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and high salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife, especially butterflies.

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Ken Cook

Christmasberry is an attractive shrub that will grow in harsh conditions.

Air Potato & Madagascar Rubber Vine
(*Dioscorea bulbifera & Cryptostegia madagascariensis*)

Type/Size-Air potato is a twining vine that can climb up trees and grow up to 66 ft or more in length. Madagascar rubber a vigorously climbing vine that can also be shrub like.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Air potato can quickly cover native vegetation and climb into mature tree canopies. Madagascar Rubber Vine is appearing in transitional wetlands.

Courtesy of IFAS (1)

Courtesy of Kaita Frank

Air Potato is extremely aggressive and has the potential to greatly impact the native Keys environment.

Snowberry
(*Chiococca alba*)

Type/Size-Large vine-like shrub 6-10 ft or more tall. Great for buffer plantings.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in light shade and poor soil.

Nature Factor-The beautiful white berries provide a significant amount of food for wildlife, including birds and butterflies.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Snowberry is breathtaking while in flower and fruit.

Wild Allamanda
(*Pentalinon luteum*)

Type/Size-Clambering or woody accent vine 10 ft or more long.

Salt/Sun-High drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The beautiful yellow flowers bloom from spring until fall.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Wild Allamanda ranks as one of the showiest vines native to the US.

Devil's Potato
(Echites umbellata)

Type/Size-Clambering or climbing vine with stems 5 ft or more. Great on fences and in wildflower and rock gardens.

Salt/Sun-High drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-The beautiful white flower is present year round.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Devil's Potato is a very attractive vining wildflower.

Golden Pothos
(*Epipremnum pinnatum*)

Type/Size-Large vine that creeps up trees. The leaves get larger the higher it climbs.

Salt/Sun-Drought and moderate salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade.

Evil Factor-Category 2
Has spread from landscaping and dump sites into the hammock. Competes with native trees for resources.

Golden Pothos climbs up and smothers native trees.

Corkystem & Fuzzy Passionflower
(Passiflora suberosa & multiflora)

Type/Size-Low climbing, fast growing herbaceous vine with stems 2 ft more in length spreading horizontally and forming large open or dense patches. Fuzzy is high climbing with stems up to 10 ft long and recommended for the upper keys.

Salt/Sun-Corkystem has a high drought and moderate salt tolerance. Fuzzy has a moderate drought and low salt tolerance. Both grow in in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is one of the best larval host plants for butterflies.

Courtesy of George D. Gann

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

The Corkystem Passionflower Vine is ideal for small gardens and make great pot plants.

Mouse's Pineapple
(*Morinda royoc*)

Type/Size-Vine or clambering shrub 3-10 ft.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The small white flowers in bloom year round.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of FIU Biology Dept

A variety of butterfly species absolutely love the Mouse's Pineapple.

Soldierbush Vine
(Tournefortia volubilis)

Type/Size-High climbing, twining vine. Can be up to 20 ft or more.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is a hardy, high climbing vine.

Courtesy of John Hayden

Courtesy of Daniel Greene

Soldierbush Vine is a great way to add some green to a landscape as shown above.

Tropical Soda Apple
(*Solanum viarum*)

Type/Size-Small bush 3-7 ft tall.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Host to several viral diseases that attack vegetable crops. Spread by livestock or wildlife. Consequently manure and sod are also means of dispersal. Tropical Soda Apple fruit can betoxic to humans.

Tropical Soda Apple is prohibited in Miami-Dade County.

Bahama or American Nightshade
(Solanum bahamense & S. americanum)

Type/Size-Medium shrub 4-6 ft tall with an erect stem.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Little purple flowers are present year round.

Courtesy of Charles T. Bryson (31)

Courtesy of James H. Miller (32)

Bahama Nightshade's bright red berries add a striking contrast to the dark green foliage.

White Indigoberry
(*Randia aculeata*)

Type/Size-Medium to large accent shrub 6-8 ft tall. Great for buffer plantings as hedges.

Salt/Sun-High drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Provides a significant amount of food and a moderate amount of cover for wildlife. Great for butterflies.

Courtesy of T. Ann Williams

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

White Indigoberry is a very hardy shrub and would make a great addition to a variety of landscapes.

Inkberry
(Scaevola plumieri)

Type/Size-Small accent shrub 2-5 ft tall with thick, succulent leaves. Great for coastal landscapes.

Salt/Sun-High drought and salt tolerance. Loves full sun and poor soil.

Nature Factor-Has a very unique white half flower and black fruit. Provides a significant amount of food and cover for wildlife.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Inkberry is listed as a threatened species by the State of Florida due to habitat destruction.

Woodrose
(*Merremia tuberosa*)

Type/Size-High climbing woody vine.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to shade in a variety of soils.

Evil Factor-Category 3
Is an extremely aggressive vine in hardwood forests where it smothers native trees and shrubs. Is causing problems in Miami-Dade.

Courtesy of University of HI Botany Dept (14)

Courtesy of Miami-Dade County (2)

The Woodrose seeds are toxic to humans.

Soldierbush Vine
(*Tournefortia volubilis*)

Type/Size-High climbing, twining vine. Can be up to 20 ft or more.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun to light shade in poor soil.

Nature Factor-Is a hardy, high climbing vine.

Courtesy of John Hayden

Courtesy of Daniel Greene

Soldierbush Vine is a great way to add some green to a landscape as shown above.

Skyblue Cluster Vine
(*Jacquemontia pentanthos*)

Type/Size-Twinning accent or specimen vine with stems up to 6 ft or more.

Salt/Sun-Moderate drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The light blue flowers are present year round. Provides food for birds and butterflies

Courtesy of Shirley Denton

Courtesy of Jackie DeGayner

Sky Blue Cluster Vine is listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida.

Wild Allamanda
(Pentalinon luteum)

Type/Size-Clambering or woody accent vine 10 ft or more long.

Salt/Sun-High drought and salt tolerance. Grows in full sun in poor soil.

Nature Factor-The beautiful yellow flowers bloom from spring until fall.

Photos courtesy of Shirley Denton

Wild Allamanda ranks as one of the showiest vines native to the US.

To learn more about Florida Keys native plants and landscaping techniques

A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants by Rufino Osorio
A Handbook of Landscape Palms by Jan Allyn
Florida Keys Wildflowers by Roger Hammer
Florida Wild Flowers and Roadside Plants by C. Ritchie Bell & Bryan J. Taylor
Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Web site: www.monroe.ifas.ufl.edu
Green Living Energy Education Web site: www.keysglee.com
GreenThumb Certified Nurseries Web site: www.KeysGreenThumb.net
Native Trees and Shrubs of the Florida Keys by J. Paul Scurlock
Pine Rockland Plant Guide by Daniel F. Austin
Seashore Plants of South Florida and the Caribbean by David W. Nellis
The Institute for Regional Conservation Web site: www.regionalconservation.org
Your Florida Guide to Shrub by Edward F. Gilman & Robert J. Black

A Very Special Thank You to Our Contributing Photographers!

	Photographer	**Affiliation**	**Web site**	**Notes**
	Alison Higgins	The Nature Conservancy		
	Allen Boatman	Contributing photographer	www.plantatlas.usf.edu	
	Bob Bierman	Contributing photographer	www.plantatlas.usf.edu	
22	Brother Alfred Brousseau	Saint Mary's College		Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
19	Cal Lemke	University of Oklahoma		
31	Charles T. Bryson	USDA Agricultural Research Service	www.forestryimages.com	
	Daniel Greene	John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park		
	David Strobel	Contributing photographer	www.keysplants.com	
	Don Gann	Contributing photographer	www.regionalconservation.org	
	Eric Fleites	Contributing photographer	www.regionalconservation.org	
	Forest Starr	USGS	www.hear.org	
29	Geoff Stein	Contributing photographer	www.davesgarden.com	Used by permission of Plant Files
	George D. Gann	Contributing photographer	www.regionalconservation.org	
	Gerald D. Carr	Oregon State University	www.botany.hawaii.edu	
	Gerard Ardisson	University of Nice	www.cactus-succulents.com	
	Horticopia, Inc	Horticopia, Inc	www.horticopia.com	
	Jackie DeGayner	Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park Nursery		

	Photographer	Affiliation	Web site	Notes
32	James H. Miller	USDA Forest Service	www.forestryimages.com	
	John Hayden	University of Richmond	www.oncampus.richmond.edu	
	John Kunzer	University of South Florida Herbarium	www.plantatlas.usf.edu	
	Joyce Gann	Contributing photographer	www.regionalconservation.org	
	Kaita Frank	Contributing photographer		
	Karen Strobel	Contributing photographer	www.keysplants.com	
	Kate Hadden	Contributing photographer		
	Katie Norris	The Nature Conservancy		
	Keith A. Bradley	The Institute for Regional Conservation	www.regionalconservation.org	
	Ken Cook	Plant Creations, Inc	www.plantcreations.com	
	Kim Starr	USGS	www.hear.org	
	Matthew Merritt	Contributing photographer	www.plantatlas.usf.edu	
	Michael Charters	Contributing photographer	www.calflora.net	
	Pam Juttelstad	Central Florida Flowers	www.netpamj.com	
	Roger Hammer	Contributing Photographer	www.plantatlas.usf.edu	
29	Sharon Cook	Contributing photographer	www.davesgarden.com	Used by permission of Plant Files
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	Tony Presley	Contributing photographer	www.inspirezone.org	
30	Walter Kingsley Taylor	University of Central Florida	www.plantatlas.usf.edu	Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities, University Press of Florida
	W. D. Hawthorne	Oxford University	www.herbaria.plants.ox	
	Wilcox Nursery	Wilcox Nursery	www.wilcoxnursery.com	
25	Unknown	Archbold Biological Station	www.archbold-station.org	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004

	Photographer	Affiliation	Web site	Notes
17	Unknown	Australian Government	www.anbg.gov.au	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
20	Unknown	Australian National Botanical Gardens		Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
12	Unknown	Biological Research Associates	www.biologicalresearch.com	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
28	Unknown	Center for the Study of Digital Libraries	www.csdl.tamu.edu	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
10	Unknown	Community Webshots	www.communitywebshots.com	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
6	Unknown	Desert Tropicals.com	www.desert-tropicals.com	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
15	Unknown	Duke University	www.bibliofile.mc.duke.edu	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
	Unknown	Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden	www.fairchildgarden.org	
9	Unknown	Florida Gardener	www.floridagardner.com	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
11	Unknown	Floridata	www.floridata.com	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
5	Unknown	Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council	www.fleppc.org	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
	Unknown	Florida International University Biology Department	www.bio.fiu.edu/trees	
27	Unknown	Greenhouse Management & Production	www.greenbeam.com	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
13	Unknown	Institute for Systematic Botany	www.plantatlas.usf.edu	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
2	Unknown	Miami-Dade County	www.co.miami-dade.fl.us	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
16,18	Unknown	Missouri Botanical Garden	www.mobot.org	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
24	Unknown	Morwell Park	www.geocities.com/morwellpark.html	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
3	Unknown	National Park Service	www.nps.gov	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
23	Unknown	Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County Foundation		Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
26	Unknown	North Inlet-Winyah Bay NERR	www.northinlet.sc.edu	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
4	Unknown	ProSciTech	www.proscitech.com	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
7	Unknown	Silent Valley Ranch	www.bushveld.co.za	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
	Unknown	TopTropicals	www.toptropicals.com	
1	Unknown	University of FL IFAS Extension	www.ifas.ufl.edu	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
14	Unknown	University of HI Botany Department		Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004
21	Unknown	USDA Forest Service	www.fs.fed.us	Obtained from the Invasive Exotics ID Guide with permission granted 2004