



# Recommended Florida Native Beach and Dune Plants for Beachfront Properties and Dune Restoration

## Description

This plant list has been compiled by Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) staff to inform homeowners and professionals on attractive native plants expected to grow well on Florida dunes and to be available for sale in Florida nurseries. Beach dune plants are adapted to harsh environments, yet require a moderate level of protection from drought, saltspray, wind, sunburn and being eaten before the newly planted plants “harden off” and start growing on their own.

## Notes:

1. Salt tolerance: high (tolerant of heavy and frequent salt spray, salt water flooding); moderate (tolerant of salt spray but subject to leaf burn from heavy salt spray or root damage from flooding); low (tolerant of salt laden air and short duration, infrequent salt water flooding but usually in protected areas).
2. Region: NW = northwest Florida Panhandle; SW = Pinellas to Collier counties; NE = Nassau to Volusia counties; SE = Brevard to Dade counties; Keys = restricted to the Florida Keys and adjacent Dade and Monroe County islands. Regions have primarily been determined by the historic distribution of the plant in Florida’s coastal upland natural communities, not necessarily by the range of areas or habitats where the plant could survive.
3. Soil Moisture: moist (subject to flooding as within low dune swales); moderate (not subject to frequent flooding but not adapted to deepest sands or driest conditions); dry (adapted to deep sands, dune ridges, or well drained rocky soils); and variations for plants adapted across a range of conditions.
4. The native status of plants noted with an asterisk “\*” has been questioned due to use of cultivars or artificial introduction of plant populations in Fla.

## References:

1. Nelson, Gil. 2003. Florida’s Best Native Landscape Plants: 200 readily available species for homeowners and professionals. Florida Association of Native Nurseries. University Presses of Florida.
2. Williams, M.J. 2007. Native Plants for Coastal Dune Restoration: what, when and how for Florida. USDA, NRCS, Brooksville Plant Materials Center, Brooksville, Florida.
3. Wunderlin, Richard P., et.al. Plant Atlas. University of South Florida.



## Dune Grasses

Scientific Name	Common Name	Salt tolerance	NW/SW/NE/SE/Keys	Soil Moisture
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	salt grass	high	all	moist
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> var. <i>filipes</i>	Gulf hairawn muhly grass	moderate	all	moderate
<i>Panicum amarum</i>	bitter panic grass	high	all	dry
<i>Paspalum vaginatum</i>	seashore paspalum* (not sod)	high	all	moderate
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	coastal bluestem	high	all	moderate
<i>Spartina patens</i>	marshhay	high	all	moderate
<i>Sporobolus virginicus</i>	seashore dropseed	high	all	moist
<i>Uniola paniculata</i>	sea oats	high	all	dry

## Groundcovers

Scientific Name	Common Name	Salt tolerance	NW/SW/NE/SE/Keys	Soil Moisture
<i>Borrichia arborescens</i>	sea oxeye	high	SW, SE, Keys	moist
<i>Borrichia frutescens</i>	sea oxeye	high	all	moist
<i>Conradina canescens</i>	beach rosemary	moderate	NW	dry
<i>Ernodea littoralis</i>	golden beach creeper	high	SW, SE, Keys	moderate - dry
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i> *	blanket flower	moderate	all	dry
<i>Helianthus debilis</i>	East Coast dune sunflower	high	NE, SE, Keys	dry
<i>Helianthus debilis</i> spp. <i>cucumerifolius</i>	cucumber leaf dune sunflower	high	NW, SW	dry
<i>Helianthus debilis</i> ssp. <i>vestitus</i>	West Coast dune sunflower	high	SW	dry
<i>Hymenocallis latifolia</i>	beach spider lily	high	SW, NE, SE, Keys	moist - dry
<i>Ipomoea imperati</i>	beach morning glory	high	all	moderate, dry
<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>	railroad vine	high	all	moderate, dry
<i>Iva imbricata</i>	beach elder	high	all	moist - dry
<i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i>	sea purslane	high	all	moist - moderate
<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	seaside goldenrod	high	NW, SW, NE, SE	moist - moderate
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	Adam's needle	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	dry



## Vines

Scientific Name	Common Name	Salt tolerance	NW/SW/NE/SE/Keys	Soil Moisture
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	cross vine	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	moderate
<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	Carolina jessamine	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	moderate – dry
<i>Ipomoea alba</i>	moonflower	high	SW, SE, Keys	moist – dry
<i>Pentalinon luteum</i>	wild allamanda	high	SW, SE, Keys	dry
<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>	muscadine	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	moderate – dry

## Shrubs

Scientific Name	Common Name	Salt tolerance	NW/SW/NE/SE/Keys	Soil Moisture
<i>Ardisia escallonioides</i>	marlberry	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	moderate
<i>Argusia gnaphalodes</i>	sea lavender	high	SE, Keys	dry
<i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i>	coco plum	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	moderate - dry
<i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	coral bean	low	all	moderate - dry
<i>Eugenia axillaris</i>	white stopper	low	SW, SE, Keys	moderate
<i>Eugenia foetida</i>	Spanish stopper	low	SW, SE, Keys	moderate
<i>Forestiera segregata</i>	Florida privet	low	SW, NE, SE, Keys	moist -moderate
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	yaupon	moderate	NW/SW, NE, SE	moderate - dry
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	wax myrtle	moderate	all	moist - moderate
<i>Quercus geminata</i>	sand live oak	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	dry
<i>Quercus myrtifolia</i>	myrtle oak	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	dry
<i>Rapanea punctata</i>	myrsine	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	moist - dry
<i>Serenoa repens</i>	saw palmetto	high	all	moist - dry
<i>Suriana maritima</i>	bay cedar	high	SW, SE, Keys	dry
<i>Zamia pumila</i>	coontie	moderate	SW, NE, SE, Keys	dry

## Thorn/Scrub Plants

Scientific Name	Common Name	Salt tolerance	NW/SW/NE/SE/Keys	Soil Moisture
<i>Agave decipiens</i>	false sisal	high	SW, SE, Keys	dry
<i>Guilandina bonduc</i>	gray nickerbean	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	moderate - dry



Scientific Name	Common Name	Salt tolerance	NW/SW/NE/SE/Keys	Soil Moisture
Erythrina herbacea	coral bean	low	all	dry
Opuntia spp.	prickly pears	high	all	moderate - dry
Serenoa repens	saw palmetto	high	all	moist - dry
Sideroxylon tenax	tough bully	low	NE, SE	dry
Smilax auriculata	earleaf catbrier	moderate	all	dry
Ximenia americana	hog plum	low	NE, SE	dry
Yucca aloifolia	Spanish bayonet	high	all	dry
Yucca filamentosa	Adam's needle	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	dry
Yucca gloriosa	moundlily yucca	moderate	NW, SW, NE	dry
Zanthoxylum clava-hercules	Hercules' club	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	dry
Zanthoxylum fagara	wild lime	moderate	SW, NE, SE, Keys	moderate - dry

## Trees

Scientific Name	Common Name	Salt tolerance	NW/SW/NE/SE/Keys	Soil Moisture
Acacia farnesiana	sweet acacia	moderate	all	moist - dry
Baccharis halimifolia	salt bush	high	all	moist - moderate
Bursera simaruba	gumbo limbo	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	moderate - dry
Capparis cynophallophora	Jamaica caper	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	dry
Celtis laevigata	hackberry	low	NW, SW, NE, SE	moist - moderate
Chrysophyllum oliviforme	satinleaf	moderate	SE, Keys	moderate - dry
Citharexylum spinosum	fiddleleaf	moderate	SE, Keys	dry
Coccoloba diversifolia	pigeon plum	high	SW, SE, Keys	moderate - dry
Coccoloba uvifera	sea grape	high	SW, SE, Keys	moderate - dry
Conocarpus erectus	buttonwood	high	SW, SE, Keys	moist - moderate
Cordia sebestena	Geiger tree	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	moderate - dry
Ficus aurea	golden fig	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	moderate
Ilex x. attenuata	East Palatka holly	low	NW, SW, NE, SE	moderate
Ilex cassine	dahoon holly	low	NW, SW, NE, SE	moist - moderate
Ilex opaca	American holly	low	NW, SW, NE, SE	moderate
Ilex vomitoria	yaupon holly	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	moderate - dry



Scientific Name	Common Name	Salt tolerance	NW/SW/NE/SE/Keys	Soil Moisture
<i>Juniperus silicicola</i>	southern red cedar	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	moderate
<i>Laguncularia racemosa</i>	white mangrove	high	SW, SE, Keys	moist - moderate
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	southern magnolia	moderate	NW, SW, NE	moderate
<i>Pinus clausa</i>	sand pine	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	dry
<i>Pinus elliottii</i> (S. Fla = var. <i>densa</i> )	slash pine	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE, Keys	moist - moderate
<i>Quercus geminata</i>	sand live oak	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	moderate - dry
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	live oak	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE, Keys	moderate - dry
<i>Sideroxylon foetidissimum</i>	False mastic	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	moderate

## Palms

Scientific Name	Common Name	Salt tolerance	NW/SW/NE/SE/Keys	Soil Moisture
<i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i>	Everglades palm	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	moist - moderate
<i>Coccothrinax argentata</i>	silver palm	high	SE, Keys	dry
<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	cabbage palm	high	all	moist - moderate
<i>Serenoa repens</i>	saw palmetto	high	all	moist - dry
<i>Leucothrinax morrisii</i>	brittle thatch palm	moderate	Keys	dry
<i>Thrinax radiata</i>	Florida thatch palm	moderate	Keys	dry

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