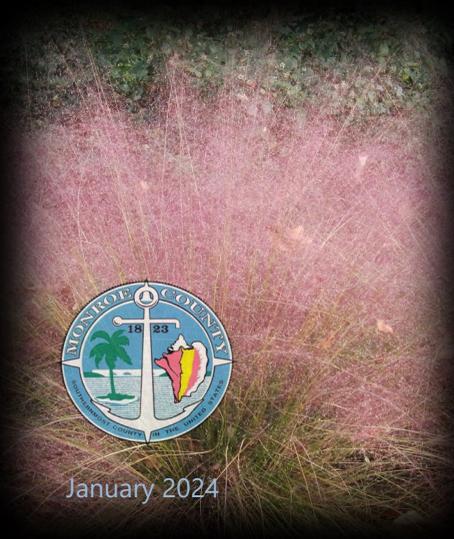
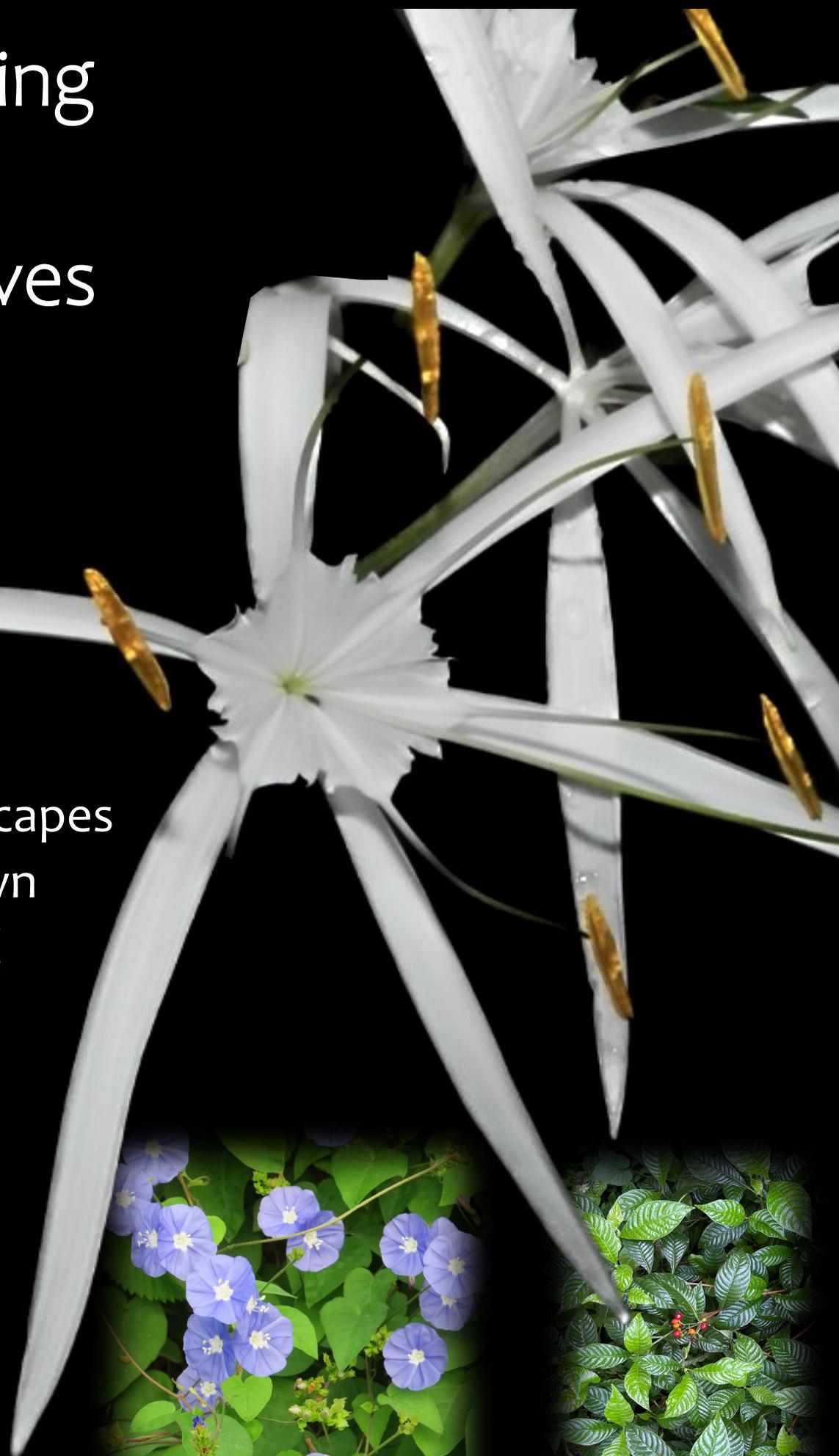


Landscaping with Keys Natives

Create
Vibrant Landscapes
In Your Own
Backyard



January 2024



Introduction

This guide is designed to assist property owners in selecting native landscape plants to suit their needs while creating stunning landscapes. Whether selecting a single plant or planning for an entire yard, this guide serves as a valuable resource for property owners, aiding them in selecting species ideally suited for their specific location.

To facilitate the selection process, the guide is organized by plant size. Where species fall into two categories, the larger category is typically used for classification. The first few pages of the guide are dedicated to a handy classification table to help you quickly identify qualities you desire such as butterfly plants, showy flowers, salt tolerance, light requirements and more. The remainder of the guide provides photos, descriptions and additional details to help you find the perfect plant. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact a Monroe County Biologist, (305) 289-2500, for additional information on any of these species.

The species included in this guide are commonly found in commercial nurseries, though availability may vary. Please note that this list does not encompass the entire inventory of native species found in the Florida Keys.

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This resource is brought to you by Monroe County’s Planning and Environmental Resources Department. Special thanks goes to Beth Bergh, Monroe County Land Steward, for her insightful review and Key deer planting contributions.

Cover Photos:

Center: mangrove spiderlily (p. 32)

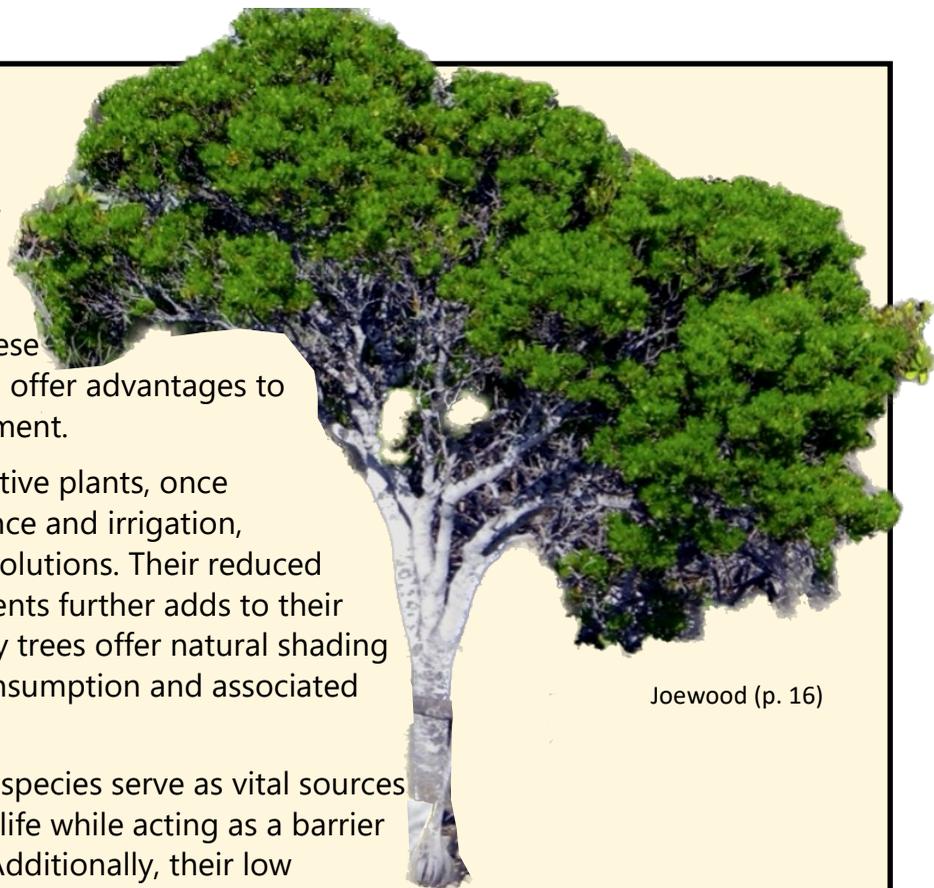
Left to Right: muhly grass (p. 38), skyblue clustervine (p. 39), wild coffee (p. 28)

Background

The Florida Keys host a diverse array of unique sub-tropical species, many of which have adeptly adjusted to the challenging conditions prevalent on these islands. These distinctive characteristics offer advantages to both property owners and the environment.

Advantages for Property Owners: Native plants, once established, require minimal maintenance and irrigation, presenting cost-effective landscaping solutions. Their reduced need for pesticide and fertilizer treatments further adds to their appeal. Thoughtfully positioned canopy trees offer natural shading for homes, cutting down on energy consumption and associated cooling expenses.

Benefits for the Environment: Native species serve as vital sources of food and shelter for indigenous wildlife while acting as a barrier against invasive species' infestations. Additionally, their low requirements for pesticides and fertilizers reduce nutrient contamination in nearshore waters, contributing positively to the ecosystem's health.



Joewood (p. 16)

Plant Selection Considerations

Congratulations on choosing native plants! To further enhance the vitality of your landscape, it's important to tailor your plant selection to suit your specific property. While factors like mature height and light requirements should always be considered, paying attention to salt tolerance, both from wind and water, becomes particularly important for properties directly situated on the water. Besides potential saltwater inundation, it's vital to account for the detrimental effects of salt-laden winds. You can find information about the tolerance of plants to both conditions in the Quick Glance Table provided in the following pages. Although many plants thrive across the Keys, the table indicates their natural occurrences in either the Upper or Lower Keys, providing additional guidance for making more tailored selections for your landscape. Links to planting guides are provided in the references and resources section on page 41. Happy Planting!



Muhly grass (p. 38)

John Winder (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Quick Glance - Sorted By Category

Common	Scientific	Category					Location (Upper/ Lower Keys)
		Canopy	Palm	Under story	Shrub	Ground- covers, Vines, Grasses	
Black ironwood	<i>Krugiodendron ferreum</i>	C		U			Up & Low
Buttonwood	<i>Conocarpus erectus</i>	C		U	S		Up & Low
Geiger tree	<i>Cordia sebestena</i>	C		U			Up & Low
Gumbo limbo	<i>Bursera simaruba</i>	C					Up & Low
Inkwood	<i>Exothea paniculata</i>	C					Up & Low
Jamaica dogwood	<i>Piscidia piscipula</i>	C					Up & Low
Lancewood	<i>Damburneya coriacea</i>	C		U			Upper
Mastic	<i>Sideroxylon foetidissimum</i>	C					Upper
Milkbark	<i>Drypetes diversifolia</i>	C		U			Up & Low
Paradise tree	<i>Simarouba glauca</i>	C					Up & Low
Pigeon plum	<i>Coccoloba diversifolia</i>	C					Up & Low
Princewood	<i>Exostema caribaeum</i>	C		U			Upper
Satinleaf	<i>Chrysophyllum oliviforme</i>	C		U			Up & Low
Seagrape	<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	C			S		Up & Low
Slash pine	<i>Pinus elliotii var. densa</i>	C					Lower
Wild tamarind	<i>Lysiloma latisiliquum</i>	C					Up & Low
Willow bustic	<i>Sideroxylon salicifolium</i>	C		U			Up & Low
Buccaneer palm	<i>Pseudophoenix sargentii</i>		P	U			Upper
Cabbage Palm	<i>Sabal Palmetto</i>		P				Up & Low
Thatch palm, Florida	<i>Thrinax radiata</i>		P	U	S		Up & Low
Thatch palm, Keys	<i>Leucothrinax morrisii</i>		P	U	S		Up & Low
Silver palm	<i>Coccothrinax argentata</i>		P	U	S		Up & Low
Saw palmetto	<i>Serenoa repens</i>		P		S		Up & Low
Blackbead, catclaw	<i>Pithecellobium unguis-cati</i>			U	S		Up & Low
Blackbead, Fl. Keys	<i>Pithecellobium keyense</i>			U	S		Up & Low

*Status Key - E = Endangered, T = Threatened, RI = Regionally Important

**Approved for use as a Street Tree by Monroe County

^Tolerance to temporary saltwater inundation

	Special Status*	Street Tree**	Salt Tolerant (Water)^	Salt Tolerant (Wind)+	Light Needs	Swale Suitable#	Screening Suitable∞	Showy Flower/ Fruit Season	Butterfly Plant	Page
	RI	x	Low	Moderate						1
		x	Moderate	High		x	x		Nectar	1
	RI	x	Low	Mod/High				Sum-Fall	Nectar	2
			Low/Mod	High					Host	2
	RI	x	Low	Moderate		x		Wint-Sum		3
		x	Low/Mod	Moderate				Spring	Host	3
	RI	x	Low	Mod/High			x	Spring-Fall		4
	RI	x	Low	Mod/High		x				4
	E	x	Low	Low					Host	5
	RI	x	Low	Mod/High		x				5
		x	Low	Moderate			x		Nectar	6
	E	x	Low	Low				Year Round		6
	T	x	Low	Moderate				Year Round		7
		x	Moderate	Moderate		x		Sprg-Sum	Nectar	7
	RI		Low	Moderate						8
		x	Low	Low					Host	8
		x	Low	Moderate					Nectar	9
	E		Low	Mod/High						9
	N		Low/Mod	Mod/High					Host/Nectar	10
	E		Low	Mod/High		x	x		Host	10
	T		Low	Mod/High			x		Host	11
	T		Low	Mod/High					Host	11
			Low/Mod	Moderate					Host	12
			Low	Moderate		x	x	Sum	Host/Nectar	12
	T		Low	Moderate		x	x	Sprg-Sum	Host/Nectar	12

*Tolerance to salt-laden winds

#Approved for use in swales by Monroe County

∞Provides privacy

Quick Glance - Sorted by Category

Common	Scientific	Category					Location (Upper/ Lower Keys)
		Canopy	Palm	Under story	Shrub	Ground- covers, Vines, Grasses	
Blolly	<i>Guapira discolor</i>			U	S		Up & Low
Cinnamonbark	<i>Canella winterana</i>			U	S		Up & Low
Cinnecord	<i>Vachellia choriophylla</i>			U			Up & Low
Crabwood	<i>Gymnanthes lucida</i>			U			Up & Low
Darlingplum/Red iron- wood	<i>Reynosa septentrionalis</i>			U			Up & Low
Fiddlewood	<i>Citharexylum spinosum</i>			U			Up & Low
Jamaica caper	<i>Quadrella jamaicensis</i>			U			Up & Low
Joewood	<i>Jacquinia keyensis</i>			U	S		Up & Low
Lignumvitae	<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>			U	S		Up & Low
Limber caper	<i>Cynophalla flexuosa</i>			U			Up & Low
Marlberry	<i>Ardisia escallonioides</i>			U	S		Up & Low
Myrsine	<i>Myrsine cubana</i>			U	S		Up & Low
Myrtle-of-the-River	<i>Myrcia zuzygium</i>			U	S		Upper
Rhacoma	<i>Crossopetalum rhacoma</i>			U	S		Up & Low
Seven-year apple	<i>Casasia clusiifolia</i>			U			Up & Low
Soldierwood	<i>Colubrina elliptica</i>			U	S		Upper
Spicewood, Pale lidflow- er	<i>Myrcia neopallens</i>			U	S		Up & Low
Stopper, Red	<i>Eugenia rhombea</i>			U	S		Up & Low
Stopper, Redberry	<i>Eugenia confusa</i>			U	S		Upper
Stopper, Spanish	<i>Eugenia foetida</i>			U	S		Up & Low
Stopper, White	<i>Eugenia axillaris</i>			U			Up & Low
Strongback, pineland	<i>Bouyeria cassinifolia</i>			U	S		Lower
Strongback, rough	<i>Bouyeria radula</i>			U	S		Lower
Strongback, Bahama	<i>Bouyeria succulenta</i>			U	S		Up & Low

*Status Key - E = Endangered, T = Threatened, RI = Regionally Important

**Approved for use as a Street Tree by Monroe County

^Tolerance to temporary saltwater inundation

	Special Status*	Street Tree**	Salt Tolerant (Water)^	Salt Tolerant (Wind)+	Light Needs	Swale Suitable#	Screening Suitable∞	Showy Flower/ Fruit Season	Butterfly Plant	Page
		X	Low	Mod/High			X	Sum-Fall		13
E		X	Moderate	Moderate				Sprg-Sum	Nectar	13
E			Low	Moderate			X	Sprg-Sum		14
RI		X	Low	Mod			X		Host	14
T			Low	Moderate		X				15
RI			Low	Low				Year Round	Nectar	15
		X	Low	Mod/High			X	Sprg-Sum		16
T			Moderate	High		X		Sum-Fall		16
E		X	Low	Moderate				Year Round	Host	17
			Low	Mod/High				Sprg-Sum	Host	17
			Low	Mod/High				Fall		18
			Low	Mod/High		X				18
E			Low	Moderate						19
T			Low	Low						19
RI			Low	Moderate			X		Nectar	20
			Low	low						20
RI			Low	Moderate			X			21
			Low	Low						21
E			Low	Low						21
			Low/Mod	Mod/High			X			21
		X	Low/Mod	Moderate						21
E			Low	Moderate						22
			Low	Moderate						22
E			Low	Moderate						22

+Tolerance to salt-laden winds

#Approved for use in swales by Monroe County

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Quick Glance - Sorted by Category

Common	Scientific	Category					Location (Upper/ Lower Keys)
		Canopy	Palm	Under story	Shrub	Ground- covers, Vines, Grasses	
Torchwood	<i>Amyris elemifera</i>			U			Up & Low
Velvetseed, Everglades	<i>Guettarda elliptica</i>			U			Up & Low
Velvetseed, rough	<i>Guettarda scabra</i>			U	S		Up & Low
Wax-Myrtle	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>			U	S		Up & Low
White ironwood	<i>Hypelate trifoliata</i>			U			Up & Low
Wild dilly	<i>Manilkara jaimiqui subsp. emarginata</i>			U			Up & Low
Wild lime	<i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>			U	S		Up & Low
Bahama senna	<i>Senna mexicana var. chap- manii</i>				S		Up & Low
Bay cedar	<i>Suriana maritima</i>				S		Up & Low
Beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>				S		Upper
Blacktorch	<i>Erithalis fruticosa</i>				S		Up & Low
Cocoplum	<i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i>				S		Upper
Coffee, Bahama	<i>Psychotria ligustrifolia</i>				S		Up & Low
Coffee, wild	<i>Psychotria nervosa</i>				S		Up & Low
Coontie	<i>Zamia integrifolia</i>				S	GC	Up & Low
Firebush	<i>Hamelia patens var. patens</i>				S		Up & Low
Florida boxwood	<i>Schaefferia frutescens</i>				S		Up & Low
Florida swampprivet	<i>Forestiera segregata</i>				S		Up & Low
Inkberry	<i>Scaevola plumieri</i>				S		Up & Low
Locustberry	<i>Byrsonima lucida</i>				S		Up & Low
Maidenbush	<i>Heterosavia bahamensis</i>				S		Lower
Mangrove spiderlily	<i>Hymenocallis latifolia</i>				S		Up & Low
Mayten	<i>Maytenus phyllanthoides</i>				S		Up & Low
Pearlberry	<i>Vallesia antillana</i>				S	GC	Up & Low

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	Special Status*	Street Tree**	Salt Tolerant (Water)^	Salt Tolerant (Wind)+	Light Needs	Swale Suitable#	Screening Suitable∞	Showy Flower/ Fruit Season	Butterfly Plant	Page
	RI		Low	Moderate					Host	22
	RI	X	Low	Low						23
			Low	Low				Wint-Sprg		23
			Low	Moderate		X			Host	24
	E	X	Low	Moderate						24
	T		Moderate	Low						25
	RI		Low	Moderate			X		Host/Nectar	25
	T		Low	Low			X	Year Round	Host	26
	RI		Moderate	High		X			Host	26
			Low	Moderate				Sprg-Sum		27
	T		Moderate	High			X		Nectar	27
			Low	Moderate		X	X		Nectar	28
	E		Low	Moderate		X	X	Sprg-Sum	Nectar	28
			Low	Mod/High		X	X	Sprg-Sum	Nectar	28
			Low	Mod/High					Nectar/Host	29
			Low	Moderate		X	X		Nectar/Host	29
	E		Low	Low						30
	RI		Low	Mod/High			X			30
	T		Low	High						31
	T		Low	Moderate			X	Sprg-Sum	Nectar/Host	31
	E		Low	Moderate			X			32
			Moderate	Moderate		X		Sprg-Sum		32
	T		Moderate	Moderate		X				33
	E		Moderate	Moderate						33

*Tolerance to salt-laden winds

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Quick Glance - Sorted by Category

Common	Scientific	Category					Location (Upper/ Lower Keys)
		Canopy	Palm	Under story	Shrub	Ground- covers, Vines, Grasses	
Randia, White indigoberry	<i>Randia aculeata</i>				S		Up & Low
Sea lavender	<i>Heliotropium gnaphalodes</i>				S		Up & Low
Sea-oxeye-daisy, green	<i>Borrichia arborescens</i>				S		Up & Low
Sea-oxeye-daisy, silver	<i>Borrichia frutescens</i>				S		Up & Low
Wild lantana	<i>Lantana involucrata</i>				S		Up & Low
Blue porterweed	<i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>					GC	Up & Low
East coast dune sunflower	<i>Helianthus debilis</i> <i>subsp. debilis</i>					GC	Up & Low
Elliott's lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis elliottii</i>					Grass	Up & Low
Golden creeper	<i>Ernodea littoralis</i>					GC	Up & Low
Muhly grass	<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>					Grass	Up & Low
Railroad vine	<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae subsp.</i> <i>brasiliensis</i>					GC	Up & Low
Saltmeadow cordgrass	<i>Spartina patens</i>				S	Grass	Up & Low
Skyblue clustervine	<i>Jacquemontia pentanthos</i>					V	Up & Low
Snowberry, small-leaved	<i>Chiococca parvifolia</i>				S	GC	Up & Low
Snowberry, common	<i>Chiococca alba</i>				S	GC	Up & Low
Snowberry, pineland	<i>Chiococca pinetorum</i>				S	GC	Lower

*Status Key - E = Endangered, T = Threatened, RI = Regionally Important

**Approved for use as a Street Tree by Monroe County

^Tolerance to temporary saltwater inundation

Special Status*	Street Tree**	Salt Tolerant (Water)^	Salt Tolerant (Wind)+	Light Needs	Swale Suitable#	Screening Suitable°	Showy Flower/Fruit Season	Butterfly Plant	Page
		Low	Moderate		X			Nectar	34
E		Low	High			X		Nectar	34
		Moderate	High					Nectar	35
		Moderate	High					Nectar	35
		Low	Mod/High				Year Round	Nectar	35
		Low	Moderate				Year Round	Host/Nectar	36
		Low	High				Year Round		36
		Low	High		X				37
		Low	Moderate		X				37
		Moderate	High				Sum-Wint		38
		Moderate	High				Year Round		38
		High	Mod/High		X			Nectar	39
E		Low	High				Fall		39
		Low	Low				Year Round	Nectar	40
		Low	Mod/High				Sprg-Sum	Nectar	40
		Low	Low				Year Round	Nectar	40

*Tolerance to salt-laden winds

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Black Ironwood (*Krugiodendron ferreum*)

This **underutilized** tree may reach to 30 feet but is slow growing and often seen as a smaller understory tree. Species has attractive shiny green leaves with distinctive notched apices. The characteristic grey bark becomes furrowed with vertical ridges. Prefers full sun to light shade. The tree will grow taller than wider and would be a nice fit for a canopy tree in a narrower space.

Fun fact: This is one of the densest woods in the world.



© kmpetteruti, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)



Bark of Mature Black Ironwood
Credit: Sandra Lee



Black Ironwood in Understory Phase.
Credit: Tree World Wholesale

<u>Status</u>	<u>Street</u>	<u>Salt Water</u>	<u>Salt Wind</u>
Regionally Important	<u>Tree</u> Eligible	<u>Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Tolerance</u> Moderate

Canopy

Buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*)

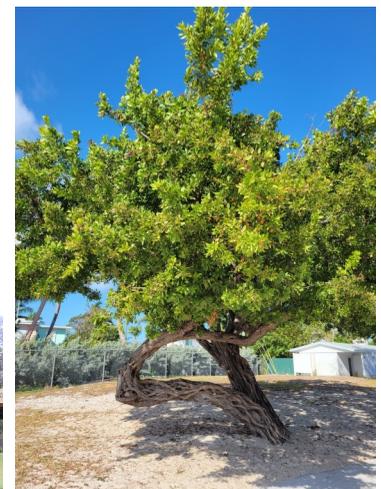
This species, widely employed in Keys landscapes, showcases two color variations: green and silver, both of which serve admirably as hedges or trees. The green morph grows up to 30 feet tall when cultivated as a tree, while the silver morph tends to be smaller and more shrub-like.

When grown as a tree, the green variety often exhibits expansive, sprawling trunks that radiate widely from the center. Thriving best in full sun, this plant serves as a nectar source for the amethyst hairstreak and various other butterflies.

Fun Fact: Domatium (small holes) can be seen along the midrib on the underside of the leaf. They are intended to be used by arthropods that have a symbiotic relationship with the plant.



Credit: Forest & Kim Starr



© shiners, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)

<u>Status</u>	<u>Street Tree</u>	<u>Salt Water</u>	<u>Salt Wind</u>	<u>Swale</u>	<u>Screening</u>	<u>Butterfly Plant</u>
Native	Eligible	<u>Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Tolerance</u> High	Suitable	When Hedged	Nectar

Geigertree (*Cordia sebestena*)

While capable of reaching 25 feet, this species commonly attains a smaller stature, usually maintaining a columnar shape that stands taller than its width. Displaying stunning, vibrant orange flowers, the tree bears large, rough, and hairy leaves. It serves as a nectar source for butterflies such as the large orange sulphur and Schaus' swallowtail, thriving best in full sun to light shade. **(Not so) Fun Fact:** Geigertree has an interesting association with the captivating Geiger beetle. This iridescent beetle may inhabit the tree at various times of the year, often skeletonizing the top portions of leaves. Although this damage might appear unsightly, it rarely proves fatal to the tree.



Credit: Richard Crook (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)



Credit: armelle mathe (cc-by-sa)



© TopTropicals.com
Credit: TopTropicals.com

<u>Status</u> Regionally Important	<u>Street Tree</u> Eligible	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Showy Flowers</u> Very	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar
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Gumbo Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*)

One of the most recognizable trees in Florida Keys hammocks, gumbo limbo reach 50 feet in height often exhibiting a width equivalent to their height. Mature specimens have large diameter trunks often with a shiny, peeling red outer later. Known as the 'tourist tree' due to its bark resembling a sunburnt tourist, this tree also serves as a host plant for the dingy purplewing butterfly. It makes a nice shade tree but will lose its leaves in cooler weather. The overall tree is resistant to high winds, but branches may drop in very strong winds. An associated pest, the gumbo limbo spiraling whitefly, typically will not kill the plant but may cause damage. The most bothersome symptoms are the related honeydew and sooty mold that coats the surface of plants and nearby objects.



Credit: Delray Garden Center

Fun Fact: The soft, lightweight, easily carved wood was used for making carousel horses.

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low/Mod	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> High	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Host
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© sflamand, (CC-BY-NC)

Inkwood (*Exothea paniculata*)

Inkwood is commonly seen in high elevation tropical hardwood hammocks and is frequently encountered in the Upper and Middle Keys. It is rare in the Lower Keys. This tree can reach heights of up to 50 feet and is distinguished by its glossy compound leaves, usually composed of four elongated leaflets. Its white flowers, adorned with yellow disks, form semi-showy clusters. This species exhibits a moderate to slow growth rate and thrives best in light shade to full sun.



© Keith Bradley, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)



Credit:
Tree World
Wholesale

Species specialty: The fruits were utilized in ink production, while the dense, sturdy wood found application in boat construction, marine pilings, and crafting tool handles.

<u>Status</u> Regionally Important	<u>Street Tree</u> Eligible	<u>Salt Water</u> <u>Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind</u> <u>Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Swale</u> Suitable	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Semi-showy
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Canopy

Jamaica Dogwood (*Piscidia piscipula*)

A tree to 35 feet in height adorned with soft light-green compound leaves. Exhibits striking light-pink to white flowers that bloom (April - June) in clusters. The tree is deciduous and will lose its leaves, but this just serves to show off the striking blooms. It is a host plant for the hammock skipper and the fulvous hairstreak butterfly. **Fun Fact:**



© Wayne Longbottom, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)



© TopTropicals.com

The leaves, twigs, and bark contain toxins historically used by Native Americans to stupefy fish for easier capture, a practice now prohibited by state law. The wood has found application in shipbuilding, while other parts are utilized for various medicinal purposes.

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Street Tree</u> Eligible	<u>Salt Water</u> <u>Tolerance</u> Low/Mod	<u>Salt Wind</u> <u>Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Semi-showy	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Host
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Lancewood (*Damburneya coriacea*)

A 25-foot tree features reddish-brown bark with cork deposits and showcases delicate white flower clusters on long-stalked panicles. Its leaves notably curve downward. The species typically maintains a slightly smaller stature compared to most canopy trees and is often observed in the understory. This species is prevalent in the hammocks of the Middle and Upper Keys but rare in the Lower Keys. Blooming occurs from May to August, and it thrives best in light shade to full sun.



Credit: Janice Broda



Credit: Tree World Wholesale

<u>Status</u> Regionally Important	<u>Street Tree</u> Eligible	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Screening</u> Suitable	<u>Showy Flowers/Fruits</u> Semi-showy
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Mastic (*Sideroxylon foetidissimum*)

A tree to 70 feet tall with long undulating leaves clustered at the end of stems and large buttressed trunks. It has an irregular, rounded canopy. Yellow flowers bloom along the stems from March to December. The tree grows at a moderate pace and thrives in hammocks in the Middle and Upper Keys. It makes a good shade tree but the fruits can be messy. Prefers full sun. **Species Specialty:** The hardwood is used in cabinetry and ship-building.



© Alexis López Hernández, [\(CC-BY\)](#)



Credit: [Jenny Evans \(CC BY-NC\)](#)



Buttressed Trunk © mg509537, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)

<u>Status</u> Regionally Important	<u>Street Tree</u> Eligible	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Swale</u> Suitable
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Milkbark (*Drypetes diversifolia*)



Grows to 30 feet but typically smaller. It's stiff leathery leaves and striking lenticel covered milk-white bark makes it a worthy specimen tree in any landscape. While it may serve as a shade tree, it exhibits an exceptionally slow growth rate. Typically found in rockland hammocks, this species prefers light shade and serves as a host plant for the Florida white butterfly. Although challenging to find commercially, the milkbark tree is undoubtedly worth the effort due to its unique and impressive qualities.



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<u>Status</u> Endangered	<u>Street Tree</u> Eligible	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Host
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Canopy

Paradise Tree (*Simarouba glauca*)

Highly suitable as a specimen or shade tree. Growing to 50 feet in height with a spread of up to 30 feet, the



tree has beautiful glossy green compound leaves and 1" long (somewhat messy) fruits that ripen from orange to dark purple. The tree has a slow to moderate growth rate and will grow in full sun or partial shade.



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<u>Status</u> Regionally Important	<u>Street Tree</u> Eligible	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Swale</u> Suitable
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Pigeon Plum (*Coccoloba diversifolia*)

A standout accent or specimen tree, reaching heights of 30-40 feet and displaying a relatively fast growth rate. It features peeling, mottled bark that adds considerable allure to landscapes. The leaves, bright green in color, showcase petioles that seemingly wrap around the stem. Thriving in various light conditions from full sun to light

shade, this hammock species serves as a nectar source for butterflies such as the large orange sulphur, Schaus' swallowtail, and several others.

Species Specialty: This tree has the added benefit of being a food source for the threatened white-crowned pigeon.



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Background edited.



© Forest and Kim Starr (CC BY 2.0 DEED)

© Rachel Stringham, (CC-BY), background edited.

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Street Tree</u> Eligible	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Screening</u> Suitable	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar
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Princewood (*Exostema caribaeum*)

Princewood is more often seen as a small tree or shrub and can grow to 18 feet. The tree has dark green, shiny, often wavy leaves. Its most distinguishing characteristic is the white flaring tube flowers with long splashy recurved lobes. These flowers emit a fragrant, vanilla-like scent during the night, making them a distinctive trait of the tree.

Species specialty: Extracts from this source have been utilized in specific regions worldwide to address various ailments, including the mitigation of malaria symptoms. Moreover, the highly flammable wood has found practical use as material for torches.



© Luis Humberto Vicente-Rivera, (CC-BY-NC)



(c) Kurt Miller (CC BY-NC)

<u>Status</u> Endangered	<u>Street Tree</u> Eligible	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Semi-showy
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Satinleaf (*Chrysophyllum oliviforme*)

Satinleaf, with its shimmering copper leaves, makes a wonderful specimen or accent tree in the landscape. The tree grows between 20-30 feet, sometimes up to 40 feet with a more columnar canopy. The leaves are dark green above with a coppery pubescence below. It grows at a slow to moderate rate and accepts full sun to light shade. The fruit can be a bit messy and you may not want to plant this tree adjacent to walkways.

Fun Fact: It has been reported that the Seminole Indians placed an extract from the wood ashes on the tongue of newlyweds to cleanse the body and strengthen the marriage.



Monroe County Environmental Resources



Credit: Veber's Jungle Garden



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<u>Status</u> Threatened	<u>Street Tree</u> Eligible	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Fruit & Leaves
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Canopy

Seagrape (*Coccoloba uvifera*)

A tall, sprawling tree generally grows up to 20 feet but may reach a height of 50 feet. Typically, it features multiple trunk-like stems and attractive peeling bark. The large rounded leathery green leaves have prominent red veins and may reach 12 inches in diameter. The leaves are colorful when emerging and then again just prior to winter shedding. The leaves do not decompose quickly and may



Credit: Treeworld Wholesale



(c) VALENTINA ROUMI (CC BY-NC)

require removal if a tidier, more formal appearance is preferred. Skillful pruning can yield dramatic formations. This species does well near the shoreline and is a nectar plant for Florida duskywing, julia, and Schaus' swallowtail butterflies. **Species Specialty:** The showy grapes found on female trees are used locally to make Seagrape jelly.



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<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Street Tree</u> Eligible	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Swale</u> Suitable	<u>Showy Flowers/Fruits</u> Fruit & Leaves	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar
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Slash Pine (*Pinus elliottii* var. *densa*)

A conifer, a cone-bearing tree, typically reaches heights of 30-50 feet and is characterized by sparse branches and long “needles.” The tree is found in the pine rocklands of Big Pine Key and adjacent keys to the west. Planting this species outside of this specific area in the Keys is not recommended and will likely not be successful. Slash pines prefer full sun.



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© Ben Machado, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)

<u>Status</u>	<u>Salt Water</u>	<u>Salt Wind</u>
Regionally Important	<u>Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Tolerance</u> Moderate

Wild Tamarind (*Lysiloma latisiliquum*)

A towering tree to 50 feet in height, with wide spreading branches, offering ample shade. Have some room for this species, as the canopy spread can be as wide as the tree is tall. More common in the Upper Keys where its feathery, light-green, compound leaves can often be seen extending beyond the hammock canopy. The tree is relatively fast growing and prefers full sun. White puffball flowers bloom April to November, followed by flat, mottled, slightly twisted seed pods. It is the larval host for the orange sulphur, mimosa yellow, and cassius blue butterflies. The wood has been used for boat building and is coveted by wood carvers for its distinctive grain pattern.



Credit: Treeworld



David Jeffrey Ringer, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)

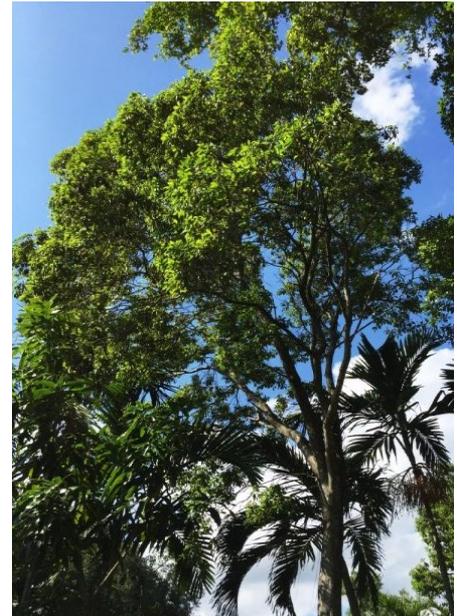
<u>Status</u>	<u>Street Tree</u>	<u>Salt Water</u>	<u>Salt Wind</u>	<u>Butterfly Plant</u>
Native	Eligible	<u>Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Tolerance</u> Low	Host

Willow Busic - *Sideroxylon salicifolium*

A common hammock tree growing to approximately 30 feet tall and forming a slender crown. It has narrow, curved, green leaves that are clustered toward the end of stems. This is a relatively fast-growing species that prefers full sun. The species is a nectar plant for the Florida duskywing, red-banded hairstreak, and other pollinators. The species has been reported to support warblers, vireos, flycatchers, thrushes, blue jays and mockingbirds.



© juliakmil, (CC-BY-NC)



Credit: Treeworld Wholesale

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Street Tree</u> Eligible	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u>	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar
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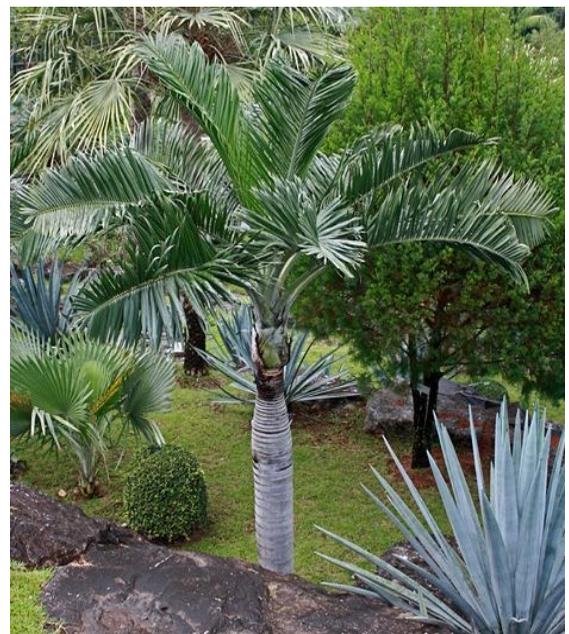
Palm Trees

Buccaneer Palm - *Pseudophoenix sargentii*

A rare and stately species reaching to 25 feet tall and 12 feet wide. The species is extremely slow growing, but looks stunning in both its juvenile and mature phases. Trunks have very distinct rings, while its fronds display an enchanting greenish-blue hue on the upper side and a striking silvery shade below. Its flower stalks, stretching up to 3 feet tall, bear petite yellow flowers. **Note:** This species is often confused with the non-native *Pseudophoenix vinifera*. Be sure to purchase from a reputable nursery to secure the correct species.



Immature Buccaneer Palm
KATHERINE WAGNER-REISS, CC BY-SA 4.0



Mature Buccaneer Palm
Credit: Paul Craft/Palmpedia.com

<u>Status</u> Endangered	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High
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Cabbage Palm - *Sabal Palmetto*

Reaching heights of up to 40 feet, Florida's state tree, the majestic sabal palm, stands as an iconic addition to any landscape. This palm species is defined by its sturdy trunk, adorned with dark green fan-shaped leaves that form a rounded crown. A unique feature lies in the base of its fronds, often remaining on the tree as "boots," creating a distinct appearance and serving as microhabitats for plants and beneficial wildlife. Renowned for its hurricane-resistant nature, this palm is a testament to resilience. **Species Specialty:** Notably referred to as the "Tree of Life" by Native Americans, nearly every part of this specimen was utilized—leaves for thatching, trunks for sturdy pilings, and hearts as a source of



Credit: Nonbinary Naturalist -CCO 1.0



Credit: Monroe County Environmental Resources

food, known as swamp cabbage.

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low/Mod	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Butterfly Plant Host /Nectar</u>
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Florida Thatch Palm (*Thrinax radiata*)

A slow growing solitary palm to heights of 28 feet, but more typically 10 to 20 feet. The fronds resemble hand-held fans, are green above and below. The creamy-white flowers are arranged in clusters on spikes yielding relatively small white round fruits.

They are the larval host plant for the monk skipper butterfly. Often confused with the Keys thatch palm (refer to page



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11), the Keys thatch can be differentiated by the silver underside of its fronds.

<u>Status</u> Endangered	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Swale Suitable</u>	<u>Screening Suitable</u>	<u>Butterfly Plant Host</u>
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Palm Trees

Keys Thatch Palm (*Leucothrinax morrisii*)

A slow growing solitary palm to heights of 20 feet, but more typically 10 to 15 feet. The fronds resemble a hand-held fan, are green above and silver below. The creamy white to yellow flowers are arranged in clusters on spikes and produce relatively small white round fruits. They are the larval host plant for the monk skipper butterfly and will tolerate full sun to light shade. The silvery underside of the frond differentiates this species from the Florida thatch palm shown on page 10.



Katharine Wagner Reiss (CC BY-SA 4.0)



Scott Zona, (CC BY-NC 2.0)

<u>Status</u> Endangered	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Swale</u> Suitable	<u>Screening</u> Suitable	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Host
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Silver Palm (*Coccothrinax argentata*)

A solitary palm up to 20 feet but often much smaller. The palm is slow growing and somewhat similar to the Keys thatch palm described above. Main differences include, fruits ripening to black, being smaller in stature, having more vivid silver coloring on the underside of the fronds and having fronds that are more lax with deeply divided segments. This last difference gives the fronds an elegant drooping appearance. Prefers well-drained soils. It is a host plant for the monk skipper butterfly.



Waiting Steve@rarepalms.com



Katherine Wagner-Reiss (CC BY-SA 4.0)

<u>Status</u> Threatened	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Host
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Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*)

A recumbent, spreading palm capable of reaching heights up to 10 feet (often smaller) and a width to ten feet. Stems typically trail across the ground. Fan-shaped fronds usually exhibit a green hue; however, a variant showcases striking blue-silver fronds. Notable are the sharp spines lining the leaf stems. This palm's unique growth pattern adds intriguing texture to any landscape.



stephanie_naturalist, (CCO 1.0)



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Fun Fact: Place this under your child's bedroom window and you will never have to worry about them sneaking out at night.

<u>Status</u> Endangered	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low/Mod	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Butterfly Plant Host</u>
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Understory Species

Small to Medium Trees

Blackbead (*Pithecellobium keyense*)

Blackbead and its related species cat's claw (*Pithecellobium unguis-cati*) are common in Keys hammocks, but the latter is not currently commercially available. Blackbead has a sprawling branching pattern, creating a wide, shrub-like canopy. It has distinctive compound leaves, generally with four leaflets in pairs. The showy puffball shaped flowers vary from cream to light pink in color. The twisted, curling seed pods are also very showy revealing a red or white interior with shiny black seeds. Blackbead is also a host plant for the large orange sulphur, cassius blue, and Miami blue butterflies and a nectar plant for numerous butterfly species. The species prefers full sun.



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<u>Status</u> Threatened	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Swale Suitable</u>	<u>Screening Suitable</u>	<u>Showy Flowers/Fruits</u> Semi-showy	<u>Butterfly Plant Host/Nectar</u>
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Blolly (*Guapira discolor*)

Typically a compact tree, yet capable of growing up to 30 feet in height, this **underutilized** species often displays numerous upright stems and limbs that create an elegant drooping profile. The bark's allure is further enhanced by patches of lichens, lending an artistically mottled charm. Female trees are adorned with strikingly vibrant pink or red drupes, imparting an exceptionally ornate appearance. This tree blossoms from May to August and thrives in conditions of full sun or partial shade.



Monroe County Environmental Resources

<u>Status</u> Threatened	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Screening</u> Suitable	<u>Showy Flowers/Fruits</u> Semi-showy
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Understory

Cinnamonbark (*Canella winterana*)

A small evergreen tree reaching heights of up to 30 feet, distinguished by its spirally and irregularly arranged paddle-shaped leaves situated on short branches. Its distinctive growth pattern, adorned with vibrant white, red, or purple flowers, renders it a superb selection for a focal or accent tree. The strikingly bright red clusters of ripened fruits further enhance its visual appeal. Underutilized in the landscape this tree promises a distinctive addition to any property. The Cinnamonbark, boasts year-round blooms and serves as a vital nectar source for the Schaus' swallowtail and various other butterflies.



Credit: Richard Lyons Nursery



© bpdawson, (CC-BY-NC)



Credit: TreeWorld Wholesale

<u>Status</u> Endangered	<u>Street Tree Eligible</u>	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Swale</u> Suitable	<u>Showy Flowers/Fruits</u> Flowers & Fruit	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar
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Cinnecord (*Vachellia choriophylla*)

Typically a small tree, often standing below 15 feet in height, although occasionally stretching to 30 feet. Its width matches or surpasses its height, presenting a broad and robust appearance.

Adorned with compound leaves housing numerous small, dark green leaflets, this tree produces tightly compact, yellow flowers that cluster into round puff-like balls, creating a delightful contrast against the backdrop of dark green foliage. Left unattended, its growth may resemble a sizable shrub, yet skilled pruning can shape it into a tree-like form. Notably, this species sporadically bears small stipular spines.



© jrcagle, [\(CC-BY\)](#)



Credit: Farm Life Nursery

<u>Status</u> Endangered	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Screening Suitability</u>	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Semi-showy
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Crabwood (*Gymnanthes lucida*)

A versatile shrub or small tree found in the hammocks of the Keys. It has glossy, mildly serrated leaves that contribute to a dense canopy. Dangling from extended stalks, small tri-lobed fruits add a subtle charm. Prefers full sun to light shade. The tree is a host species for the Florida purplewing butterfly.



Florida Purplewing Butterfly
© Bart Jones, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)



Tri-lobed fruit
© Bruce Holst, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)



Credit: Native Tree Nursery

<u>Status</u> Regionally Important	<u>Street Tree Eligibility</u>	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Screening Suitability</u>	<u>Butterfly Plant Host</u>
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Darlingplum (*Reynosa septentrionalis*)

A compact tree, usually reaching heights of around 15 feet, though occasionally growing up to 28 feet. Identified by its rigid leaves that taper to a distinct dimple at their tips, this species bears edible dark purple to black plum-shaped fruits. Its canopy displays an irregular growth pattern, while the trunk features reddish-brown bark that flakes into plate-like scales, adding a unique visual appeal. Thriving in conditions from full sun to partial shade, this tree boasts robust hardwood and is commonly known as red ironwood.



© Stan Shebs, [\(CC-BY-SA\)](#)



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<u>Status</u> Threatened	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Swale</u> Suitable
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Understory

Fiddlewood (*Citharexylum spinosum*)

A charming shrub or petite tree reaching heights of 15 to 20 feet, adorned with gracefully arching branches. Its small, white flowers, clustered on a drooping raceme, create a captivating ornamental display, especially against the backdrop of its lustrous, dark green foliage. This slow-growing species thrives in conditions of full sun to partial shade. Additionally, it's noted as a nectar source for butterflies, adding ecological significance to its delightful ornamental qualities.



Credit: Monroe County Environmental Resources



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<u>Status</u> Regionally Important	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u>	<u>Showy Flowers/Fruits</u> Semi-showy	<u>Butterfly Plant Nectar</u>
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Jamaica Caper (*Quadrella jamaicensis*)

A tall shrub or small tree with a columnar canopy. Often chosen for landscapes due to its striking features, this plant stands out for its dark green leaves contrasted by shimmering silvery undersides. It showcases showy white to pink fragrant flowers with vibrant elongated stamens, complemented by artistically curved seed pods. Thriving in full sun to partial shade, it serves as the host plant for the Florida white butterfly.



Credit: Richard Lyons Nursery



Credit: Monroe County Environmental Resources



(c) Livan (CC BY-NC)

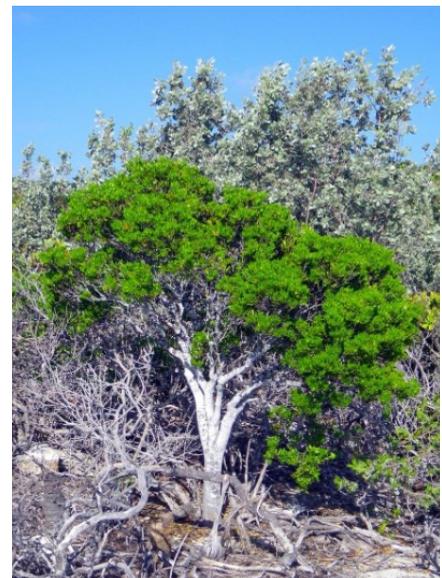
<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Screening</u> Suitable	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Semi-showy	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Host
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Joewood (*Jacquinia keyensis*)

An **underutilized** small tree with showy clusters of white flowers which contrast nicely with the succulent dark green leaves. The distinctive mottled bark of this species enhances its appeal as an accent tree. Flowers are fragrant and produce cream-colored fruits. This species is more common in the Lower Keys where it typically grows in the ecotone between mangrove shorelines and hammocks. Joewood prefers full sun to light shade. The species is also known as Cudjoewood. **IMPORTANT:** This species may be confused with *Jacquinia arborea* which has larger leaves and fruits ripening to orange. Be sure to purchase from a reputable native nursery.



© Adam Hull, (CC-BY-NC)



Credit: TreeWorld

<u>Status</u> Threatened	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> High	<u>Swale</u> Suitable	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Semi-showy
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Lignumvitae (*Guaiaacum sanctum*)

A small specimen tree or shrub adorned with vibrant purple flowers and a spreading canopy. Its bright yellow-orange fruits, upon opening, reveal seeds adorned with a red aril. Lignumvitae serves as a larval host plant for the lyside sulphur butterfly.

Fun fact: This tree's high resin content has made it highly sought-after for self-lubricating bearings, including ship propeller-shaft bearings, pulleys, and various other applications.



(c) jonathan_chama_corrales - (CC BY-NC)



(c) taniarm , (CC BY-NC)



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<u>Status</u> Endangered	<u>Street Tree</u> Eligible	<u>Salt Water</u> <u>Tolerance</u> Low/Mod	<u>Salt Wind</u> <u>Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Semi-showy	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Host
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Limber Caper (*Cynophalla flexuosa*)

A small tree or climbing woody vine boasting showy white flowers adorned with numerous slender elongated stamen. Its fruits take the form of lengthy pods that gracefully split open, unveiling a red interior housing white seeds. Limber caper plays a vital role as the host plant for the Florida white butterfly and provides food for birds.

Fun Fact: Can be grown from seed.



(c) Armando Feliciano - (CC BY-NC)



c) sheldonmcgregor - (CC BY-

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water</u> <u>Tolerance</u> Low/Mod	<u>Salt Wind</u> <u>Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Host
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Marlberry (*Ardisia escallonioides*)

A shrub to small tree displaying a columnar growth pattern. The species has large, leathery, glossy green leaves, spirally arranged on the stems. Its showy clusters of white to light purple flowers at the stem ends transform into deep purple ripening fruits. Frequently, the limbs gracefully bow under the weight of these flowers and fruits. The plant prefers light shade to full sun and is known to attract a diverse array of birds.



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(c) Mark Kenderdine - (CC BY-NC)



Credit: Richard Lyons Nursery

Fun Fact:

Historical accounts suggest that the Miccosukee Indians incorporated the leaves into their smoking tobacco practices.

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Semi-showy
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Understory

Myrsine (*Myrsine cubana*)

A small tree or shrub exhibiting an erect growth habit, akin to the marlberry (mentioned above), yet distinct in its floral presentation. Myrsine features inconspicuous flowers emerging sporadically along the stems, contrasting with the clustered flowers typically found at the end of the stem in the marlberry.



(c) Susan J. Hewitt - (CC BY-NC)



(c) Wayne Longbottom - (CC BY-NC)

Commonly sighted in hammocks and pine-lands, this plant thrives in environments ranging from full sun to light shade.

Fun fact: As with marlberry, it is reported that the Miccosukee Indians added the leaves to their smoking tobacco.

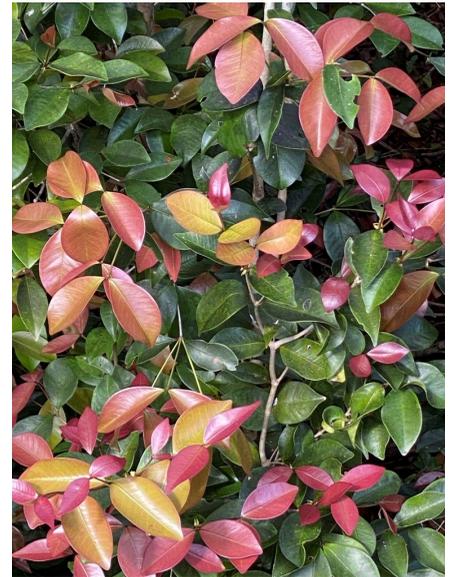
<u>Status</u> Threatened	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Swale Suitability</u> Suitable
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Myrtle-of-the-River (*Myrcia zuzygium*)

An uncommon shrub or small tree, reaching heights up to 16 feet and characterized by its wide-spreading crown. Its petite, fragrant flowers lack petals but feature numerous stamens, displaying a semi-showy appearance when blooming in inflorescences. The plant's new growth emerges in hues of pink to light red, adding a vibrant touch to its appearance. Prefers light shade to full sun.



(c) Bruce Holst - (CC BY-NC)



(c) Tim - (CC BY)

Fun Fact: This species can be cultivated from depulped, scarified seeds. It's crucial to plant them immediately, as these seeds don't retain viability for an extended period. Expect germination within approximately a month. To encourage a single leading stem, early pruning is recommended due to the plant's tendency to produce multiple stems.

<u>Status</u>	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u>	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u>
Endangered	Low	Moderate

Understory

Rhacoma - aka Maidenberry (*Crossopetalum rhacoma*)

An underutilized small ornamental tree or shrub, generally to 8 feet in height. The species has elegant drooping branches (when mature) with petite, delicate leaves and vibrant red fruits on long stems.

Flowers are relatively inconspicuous. This tree makes a nice specimen or accent plant. Rhacoma prefers full sun to light shade, grows in rockland hammocks and pine rocklands and can be found in the Upper and Lower Keys.



(c) Bruce Holst - (CC BY-NC)



(c) David Jeffrey Ringer - (CC BY-NC)

<u>Status</u>	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u>	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u>
Threatened	Low	Low

Seven-Year Apple (*Genipa clusiifolia*)

A small tree or shrub to 15 feet tall with a rounded crown. Leaves are large, glossy, leathery and clustered toward the end of stems. The species grows in coastal thickets and likes well-drained, sandy limestone soils. White star-shaped flowers produce egg-shaped fruit which ripens from green to yellow to black. Typically grows 5 to 15 feet and prefers full sun to light shade. The plant is a nectar plant for mangrove skipper butterfly. And the fruit is enjoyed by birds and mammals.



(c) Pj - (CC BY-NC)



(c) Kristof Zyskowski - (CC BY)

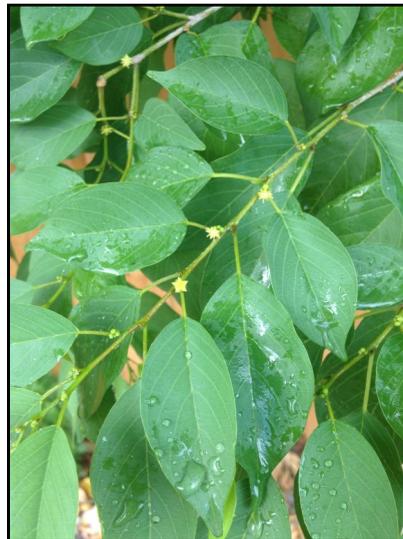


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<u>Status</u> Regionally Important	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar
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Soldierwood (*Colubrina elliptica*)

A medium-sized shrub to a small tree, reaching heights up to 20 feet. The standout feature of this species lies in its distinct dark orange-brown flaky bark, which steals the spotlight in appearance. Exhibiting a moderate to fast growth rate, its light green, softly hairy leaves create a striking contrast amid other species within hammock environments. While its greenish-yellow flowers may be inconspicuous along the stem, this plant's preference for full sun to light shade characterizes its habitat, limited to the Upper Keys. **Fun Fact:** As the sun heats the dries the fruits, they explode open with a popping sound that resembles musket fire, hence, the common name Soldierwood.



(c) Alan R. Franck - (CC BY-NC)



(c) Joshua Sands - (CC BY-NC)

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Low
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Spicewood, Pale Lidflower (*Myrcia neopallens*)

A small tree or mid-sized shrub with dark green leaves, white multi-stamen flowers and colorful fruits. Fruits have a crown and mature from green to orange to red to purple. Prefers light shade to full sun.



(c) fredjburton - (CC BY-NC)



(c) Alan R. Franck - (CC BY-NC)



By Jade Fortnash - (CC0)

<u>Status</u> Regionally Important	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Screening</u> Suitable
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Understory

Stopper species (*Eugenia* sp.)

There are four native Stopper species in the Keys (red, redberry, white and Spanish). Red stopper is often a shrub, while the other three often obtain understory height. All can be small trees or shrubs and may attain a height of 18 feet or more. They generally have a columnar growth pattern with a slender trunk when grown as a tree making them suitable for narrow spaces. Redberry stopper and red stopper are listed as endangered while white stopper and Spanish stopper are otherwise protected in the Keys. Redberry and red have low salt water and wind tolerance, while white has low to moderate tolerance. Spanish also has a low to moderate salt water tolerance but higher salt wind tolerance (mod/high).



White Stopper
(c) Peter and Kim Connolly - (CC BY-NC)



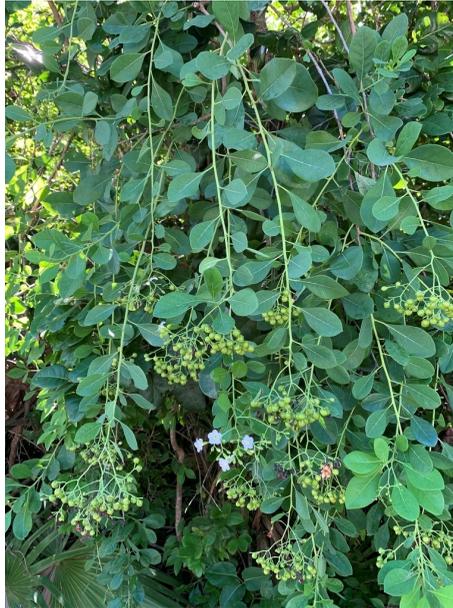
Spanish Stopper
Credit: TopTropicals.com

<u>Status</u> Endangered/ Protected	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u>	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u>	<u>Screening</u> Spanish stopper
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Strongback species (*Bouerreria sp.*)

The Keys are home to three strong-back (aka strongbark) species. All three are shrubby understory species with gracefully drooping limbs. Small white flowers produce fruits that ripen from green to yellow to orange to red.

The main differences between the species is the leaf size and texture, with *B. succulenta* have larger, smooth leaves, *B. radula* having slightly smaller, densely hairy leaves and *B. cassinifolia* having much smaller, slightly hairy leaves. The plants prefer full sun to light shade. Species are nectar plants for several butterflies.



(c) queenbruiser - (CC BY-NC)



(c) Will Sides - (CC BY)



(c) Serguei Ponomarenko - (CC BY-NC)

<u>Status</u> Endangered	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar
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Torchwood (*Amyris elemifera*)

A shrub or small tree to 16 feet. The species has a drooping compound leaf, typically with three leaflets and an elongated drip tip. Species has small white flowers with fruits that ripen to dark purple. Leaves are aromatic when crushed. Plant prefers full sun to light shade. Larval host plant for giant swallowtail, Schaus' swallowtail and other butterflies.



(c) Chanell - (CC BY-NC)



Credit: TreeWorld

Fun Fact: The resinous wood is highly flammable and has been used for fuel and torches.

<u>Status</u> Regionally Important	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Host
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Velvetseed, Everglades (*Guettarda elliptica*)

A small tree to 15 feet found in hammocks and pine rocklands. The species has light-green, flexible, hairy leaves and small creamy-colored flowers. The fruit ripens from green to red to purple. The bark is smooth and sometimes peeling and mottled. The species prefers full sun to light shade.



© Guillermo Joaquin Martinez Mendoza, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)



© Kristof Zyskowski, [\(CC-BY\)](#)



© Ryan Fessenden, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)

<u>Status</u> Regionally Important	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Swale Suitable</u>
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Velvetseed, Rough (*Guettarda scabra*)

A small erect tree up to 15 feet tall with stiff, rough, dark green leaves.

White to pinkish tubular flowers produce velvety, bright red fruits which contrast nicely with the dark green leaves. Species is found in pine-lands and hammocks and prefers full sun.



(c) Ryan Fessenden - [\(CC BY-NC\)](#)



(c) David Hochadel - [\(CC BY-NC\)](#)

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Semi-showy
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Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)

A shrub or small tree showcasing a slender crown adaptable for use as a shrub or as an accent tree when pruned. Its narrow, toothed leaves complement its appearance. Sporting round bluish-grey fruits coated with a waxy layer, this tree thrives in full sun or light shade. It serves as a crucial larval host plant for red-banded hairstreak butterflies. **Fun**

Fact: The wax of the fruits is extracted to produce bay-berry candles.



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© Kathy Richardson – (CC BY-NC)



© Maggie (CC BY-NC 2.0 DEED)

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Swale</u> Suitable	<u>Screening</u> Suitable	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Host
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White Ironwood (*Hypelate trifoliata*)

A rare shrub or small tree typically 18 feet but sometimes to 30 feet. Trifoliate compound tear-drop shaped leaflets give the specimen a delicate appearance. The attractive tree is **underutilized** in landscapes. Small white flowers produce black oval fruits.



Credit: Homer Edward Price



(c) David Jeffrey Ringer - (CC BY-NC)

<u>Status</u> Endangered	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate
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Wild Dilly (*Manilkara jaimiqui subsp. emarginata*)

A unique shrub or small tree, commonly reaching heights up to 15 feet. It features stiff, pale, dusty-green oblong leaves clustered towards the ends of its branches. Clusters of small yellow flowers similarly gather at the tips of the stems, later giving way to substantial round or slightly flattened fruits with a rough skin texture. Thriving in full sun, this species thrives in coastal hammocks and pine rocklands.



Credit: cotinis



(c) Ryan Fessenden - (CC BY-NC)

IMPORTANT: this species may be confused with the invasive exotic *Manilkara saponilla*. Please be sure to purchase from a reputable native nursery.

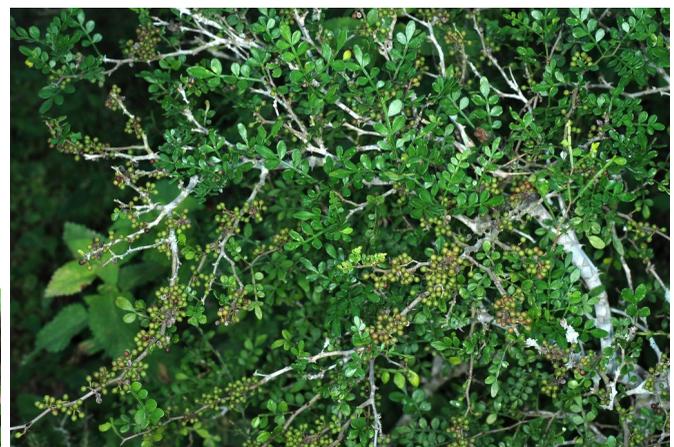
<u>Status</u> Threatened	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Low
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Wild Lime (*Zanthoxylum fagara*)

A shrub or small tree reaching heights of 20 feet, with unique compound leaves distinguished by a winged midrib. Despite its thorny stems, this tree remains a favorite among butterfly enthusiasts. Its small, inconspicuous yellow flowers do little to detract from its allure. Upon ripening, the orange-brown fruits open to reveal glossy black seeds. This species plant thrives in full sun and serves as a crucial larval host for giant swallow-tail butterflies.



Credit: Janice Broda



(c) Douglas Goldman - (CC BY-NC)



(c) chobuck - (CC BY-NC)

<u>Status</u> Regionally Important	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Screening Suitability</u>	<u>Butterfly Plant Host/Nectar</u>
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Understory

Bahama Senna (*Senna mexicana* var. *chapmanii*)

A small shrub, generally to 4' in height, often spreading wider. Its vibrant, butterfly-shaped bright yellow flowers stand out prominently, creating a captivating contrast against the green compound leaves. This species not only attracts pollinators but also serves as a larval host plant for several butterfly species including the cloudless sulphur, sleepy orange and orange-barred sulphur butterfly.



© Timothy Johnson, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)



Fun Fact: Glands situated at the leaf base serve to attract ants, which subsequently defend the plant by attacking caterpillars. This interaction effectively minimizes herbivory, leading to a notable increase in fruit and seed production.

<u>Status</u> Threatened	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Screening</u> Suitable	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Showy	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Host
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Bay Cedar (*Suriana maritima*)

A coastal species, usually standing under 6 feet in height, though occasionally reaching up to 10 feet. This plant is often **underutilized** but can be pruned to form an appealing hedge. Its small, soft, paddle-shaped leaves cluster toward the branch ends. While the yellow flowers are small, their abundance adds to their visual presence. Thriving in full sun, this species serves as a host plant for the martial scrub-hairstreak and the mallow scrub-hairstreak butterflies.



© David Jeffrey Ringer, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)



Credit: Doug Ingram & Sons Nursery

<u>Status</u> Regionally Important	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> High	<u>Swale</u> Suitable	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Host
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Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)

A common landscape shrub known for its clusters of small pink flowers and striking purple (sometimes white) fruits. The species is generally 4-6 feet tall, with long, sprawling limbs, and rough textured, light green, toothed leaves. Beautyberry flowers all year and is a nectar plant for butterflies. The species prefers full sun to light shade and is primarily found in the Upper Keys.



<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Showy	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar
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Blacktorch (*Erithalis fruticosa*)

This shrub serves as a nectar source for the endangered Miami blue butterfly. Typically reaching heights of 8 feet, it's commonly observed at around 6 feet tall. The dark green, glossy leaves contribute to the plant's lush tropical appearance. Its petite white star-shaped flowers yield shiny dark purple to black berries.



<u>Status</u> Threatened	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> High	<u>Screening</u> Suitable	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar
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Coco-plum (*Chrysobalanus icaco*)

A common landscape plant growing to about 10 feet. The stiff leathery leaves are notched and may have red tips. Small white flowers produce relatively large dark-purple or white fruits to 1-inch in diameter. They are commonly hedged in landscapes and provide excellent screening. This plant provides nectar for butterflies while its fruits are a source of food for birds and mammals.



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<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Swale</u> Suitable	<u>Screening</u> Suitable	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar
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Coffee, Wild (*Psychotria nervosa*)

Coffee, Bahama Wild (*Psychotria ligustrifolia*)

P. nervosa is the more prevalent of the two species, featuring shiny "quilted" leaves and white flowers clustered on short stalks. The endangered *P. ligustrifolia* has duller leaves without the distinctive "quilted" appearance, with its flowers situated on longer stalks. Both species flourish in light shade but can withstand full sun.

Pictures of *P. nervosa*.



Monroe County



[Bob Peterson](#) (CC BY 2.0)



Monroe County Environmental Resources

<u>Status</u> Native/ Endangered	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Swale</u> Suitable	<u>Screening</u> Suitable	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Semi-showy	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar
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Coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*)

This cycad makes an excellent specimen or accent shrub. This rugged plant has fern-like leaves that are quite stiff and an underground stem. Reaching heights to 4 feet, both male and female specimen produce a 3-6 inch cones. The female cones are broader and produce seeds with a fleshy, bright orange skin. **Fun Facts:** Native Americans utilized the starchy tuber, known as Florida arrowroot, however, it is poisonous if not properly treated. The only native cycad in the United States, and the only host plant for the rare Atala butterfly. The voracious larvae may significantly damage the plant but it will recover. After a 35 year absence the Atala returned to the Everglades in September, 2023.



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IMPORTANT: This plant can be poisonous and even fatal to cats, dogs and other animals.

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar/Host
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Shrub

Firebush (*Hamelia patens var. patens*)

A colorful shrub and great wildlife attractant. The shrub grows about 10-12 feet in height. Light to medium-green, hairy leaves, often tinged red may reach 4 inches in length. Red to orange-red tubular clusters grow in terminal clusters. They are a favorite for butterflies and hummingbirds as well as a variety of other pollinators. The plant requires full sun.



© snigui01, (CC-BY-NC)



© tante, (CC-BY-NC)

IMPORTANT: This species is easily confused with *Hamelia patens var. glabra*. The non-native species has mostly hairless leaves and yellow-red flowers. Hybridization threatens the native species. Be sure you purchase from a reputable native plant nursery.

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Swale</u> Suitable	<u>Screening</u> Suitable	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Host/Nectar
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Florida Boxwood (*Schaefferia frutescens*)

This endangered species can grow to a small tree, but is more frequently seen as a shrub to 10-12 feet tall. It has small dark green erect leaves and brown bark. Small green to white flowers emerge from the stems, producing orange to red fruit. This species prefers light shade. It can be used as a hedge or trained as a single trunk tree for more formal landscapes.



© Martin Reith, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)



© Steve Maldonado Silvestrini, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)



Credit: Botanics Wholesale, Inc.

<u>Status</u> Endangered	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Low
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Florida Swampprivet (*Forestiera segregata*)

A semi-deciduous shrub with an irregular crown that can reach 15 feet or more in height. The bush has many small trunks, green leaves and clusters of small green to yellow to white flowers with striking stamens. The fruits are bluish to black, olive-like drupes. The species grows at a moderate to fast pace and prefers full sun.



Credit: King's Nursey



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© R Snyder, [\(CC-BY-NC-SA\)](#)

<u>Status</u> Regionally Important	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Screening</u> Suitable
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Inkberry (*Scaevola plumieri*)

A mounding coastal shrub. The species has large (1-2") glossy green succulent leaves. Leaves are located toward the end of long trailing branches that may re-root upon touching the ground. Small, fan-shaped flowers produce shiny black berries. The species does well in sandy dune areas and requires full sun.

IMPORTANT: This may be confused with the invasive exotic *Scaevola taccada*, which has white berries and can take over landscapes. Be sure you purchase the native species from a reputable nursery.



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© obrock, (CC-BY-NC)



(c) Nils Tack - (CC BY-NC)

<u>Status</u> Threatened	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> High
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Shrub

Locustberry (*Byrsonima lucida*)

An **underutilized** shrub with showy clusters of multi-colored flowers. Usually found in shrub size, Locustberry can grow to 16 feet in height.

Its leaves exhibit a dark green hue on the upper side and a distinct lighter green shade beneath, creating an eye-catching contrast. It has a flat-topped spreading crown and prefers full sun to light shade.



© Rich Kostecke, (CC-BY-NC)



© Josh Emm, (CC-BY-NC)

<u>Status</u> Threatened	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Screening</u> Suitable	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Showy	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Host
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Maidenbush (*Heterosavia bahamensis*)

Maidenbush, typically found in the Lower Keys rockland hammocks, provides excellent screening and may reach heights to 12 feet or more. The species forms a rounded crown, and has stiff, leathery, grey-green leaves that are paler below. Small greenish flowers are borne in clusters from the stem on male plants and are solitary at the leaf axis in female plants. Fruits are a dry brown 3-lobed capsule. The plant requires full sun.



Jenny Evans , (CC BY-NC 2.0)



Credit: Bamboo Hammock Nursery

<u>Status</u> Endangered	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Screening</u> Suitable
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Mangrove SpiderLily - (*Hymenocallis latifolia*)

This unique species has dark green, strap-like leaves that grow directly from an underground bulb. In addition to the attractive foliage, the plant produces large, showy, white flowers with elegantly drooping petals adorning landscapes from March to October. The plant can reach 3 feet in height, does well in moist soils and prefers full sun to light shade. There are several similar species but the orange pollen on this native identifies it as the species specific to the Keys.



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© Nohely Reyes, (CC-BY-NC)

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Swale</u> Suitable	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Showy
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Mayten (*Maytenus phyllanthoides*)

Usually from 10-12 feet in height, this woody shrub with grey bark. It is densely foliated with fleshy green leaves. The weight of the leaves may cause longer branches to droop. The bright red berries contrast nicely with the foliage. This species does well along the mangrove fringe transition area and prefers full sun to light shade.



(c) dvalov - [\(CC BY-NC\)](#)



© Sue Carnahan, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)

<u>Status</u> Threatened	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Swale</u> Suitable
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Shrub

Pearlberry (*Vallesia antillana*)

Usually a small shrub but may reach 10 feet in height. Light green lanceolate leaves 2-3 inches long appear on somewhat droopy stems. Small delicate white flowers grow in clusters. The small, shiny white tear-shaped fruit appears somewhat translucent. The shrub prefers light shade.



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Treeworld Wholesale (CCBY 2.0)

<u>Status</u> Endangered	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate
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Randia, White Indigoberry (*Randia aculeata*)

A shrub to 10 feet with small blunt glossy-green leaves. Often with opposite branching creating a unique "v" shape from the trunk. Spines are often present. Small white flowers produce greenish-white fruits. The species is a larval host plant for *Tantalus sphinx* moths and a nectar plant for Schaus' swallowtail and other butterflies.



mefisher, CC0 1.0.



Sam Kieschnick, CC BY 4.0

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Swale</u> Suitable	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar
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Sea Lavender (*Heliotropium gnaphalodes*)

A striking mounding shrub that grows from 3 to 6 feet in height. This endangered species is densely adorned with small, soft, hairy silvery-green leaves. Small white flowers are clustered on curved terminal spikes. The plant does well in coastal areas and dunes, preferring well drained and sandy soils. The species is an effective erosion control plant.



© Francisco Herrera, (CC-BY-NC)



© Deneb Ortigosa, (CC-BY-NC)

<u>Status</u> Endangered	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> High	<u>Screening</u> Suitable	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar
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Sea-oxeye-daisy, Green (*Borrichia arborescens*)

Sea-oxeye-daisy, Silver (*Borrichia frutescens*)

Both are wildflowers common on the coast of the Keys. Both have bright yellow flowers that resemble little sunflowers and typically reach a height of 3-4 feet. *B. arborescens* has succulent, smooth green leaves and tends to grow slightly taller than *B. frutescens*. *B. frutescens* has slightly hairy grey-green leaves. Both can be hedged.



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Flower with Great Southern White
© Bob Peterson (CC BY 2.0 DEED)



(c) Daniel Onea - (CC BY-NC)

<u>Status</u> Regionally Important	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> High	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar
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Wild Lantana (*Lantana involucrata*)

A small shrub with a rounded crown to 8 feet in height with small, rough light-green leaves. The native species has white, sometimes light lavender or pink flowers with yellow centers. Fruits are purple. The leaves are pleasantly aromatic when crushed. The species prefers full sun.

IMPORTANT: Species is easily confused with the highly invasive *Lantana camara* which has larger, more colorful flowers. Be sure to purchase only from a nursery that specializes in native plants.



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Bob Peterson, (CC BY-SA 2.0)



© alangrandiflora, (CC-BY-NC)

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruit</u> Semi	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar
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Blue Porterweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*)

A sprawling groundcover that attracts hummingbirds and serves as the host plant for the tropical buckeye butterfly and a nectar plant for a multitude of others. Typically 1 to 2 feet tall with a 2 to 3 foot spread. The plant produces quill-like spikes with small blue to purple flowers and prefers full sun.

Fun Fact: In keeping with its name the plant has been reported to be used to make a porter-like drink in the Bahamas. Please check with authorities on edible plants prior to consuming any plant.

IMPORTANT: Species is easily confused with *Stachytarpheta cayennensis*. Be sure to purchase only from a nursery that specializes in native plants.



Albert, (CC BY-SA 3.0)



Bernard DUPONT, (CC BY-SA 2.0)



© Claire O'Neill, (CC-BY-NC)

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water</u> <u>Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind</u> <u>Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Showy Flowers/</u> <u>Fruit</u> Semi	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Host/Nectar
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East Coast Dune Sunflower (*Helianthus debilis subsp. debilis*)

A spreading wildflower found on dunes that prefers full sun and does well in sandy soils. The plant grows to about 2 feet in height with a spread of 2 to 4 feet and will reseed. The bright yellow flowers and seeds attract wildlife. The species self-seeds.

Fun Fact: The flowers follow the direction of the sun throughout the day.



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Brandon Evans (CCO 1.0)

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water</u> <u>Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind</u> <u>Tolerance</u> High	<u>Showy Flowers/</u> <u>Fruits</u> Showy
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Groundcovers, Vines and Grasses

Elliott's lovegrass (*Eragrostis elliottii*)

A tufted, clumping grass typically 1 to 2 feet tall. The tan to grey billowy plumes bloom in the summer and fall to create a soft showy contrast in the landscape. The abundant seeds attract birds and pollinators. The plant prefers full sun and does well in moist soils which makes it a good choice for swale plantings.



Credit: Plant World Seeds



© Jay Horn, [\(CC-BY\)](#)



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<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water</u> <u>Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind</u> <u>Tolerance</u> High	<u>Swale</u> Suitable
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Golden Creeper (*Ernodea littoralis*)

This versatile plant, reaching up to 3 feet in height, thrives in dunes, beaches, and coastal hammocks, serving as an adaptable ground-

cover or shrub. It can be easily shaped as a border in formal landscapes or left to grow naturally in clumps within more organic settings. Abundant small,

shiny green leaves, sometimes tinged with a faint yellow hue, adorn its sprawling limbs, which re-root easily, facilitating its spread. Delicate pinkish-white tubular flowers give way to round yellow fruits. Thriving in full sun and capable of withstanding moist soils, it stands as an excellent choice for plantings in swales.



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© Patti Haynes, [\(CC-BY-NC\)](#)



Credit: Monroe County Environmental Resources

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water</u> <u>Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind</u> <u>Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Swale</u> Suitable
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Groundcovers, Vines and Grasses

Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)

A tall ornamental grass with deep green blades and captivating, feathery pink-purple blooms that emerge during in the fall. This grass can reach up to 3 feet in height, with its flowering phase often extending its stature even further. Spanning approximately 3 feet as it spreads, it thrives best in full sun or light shade, proving itself to be effortlessly cultivated and easily pruned when necessary.



(c) Lauren McLaurin ([CC BY](#))



John Winder ([CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#))

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> High	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Showy
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Railroad Vine (*Ipomoea pes-caprae subsp. brasiliensis*)

A ground cover with long trailing stems that can exceed 20 feet in length. Oval bright green leaves are notched and the relatively large, purple flowers with darker purple stripes make a stunning contribution to the landscape. The plant works well as a beach dune stabilizer. It prefers moist well-drained sandy soil and full sun.



© Craig Peter, ([CC-BY-NC](#))



© Tony Rebelo, ([CC-BY-SA](#))

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Moderate	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> High	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Showy
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Groundcovers, Vines and Grasses

Saltmeadow Cordgrass (*Spartina patens*)

This ornamental grass exhibits a clumping growth habit yet has the potential to spread. Its slender leaves showcase a dual tone, with a rich dark green on top and a contrasting lighter green below. These leaves elegantly arch outward, creating a beautiful spray pattern. Reaching approximately three feet in height, it thrives in full sun, showcasing adaptability by tolerating wet soils, thereby making it an excellent option for planting in swales.



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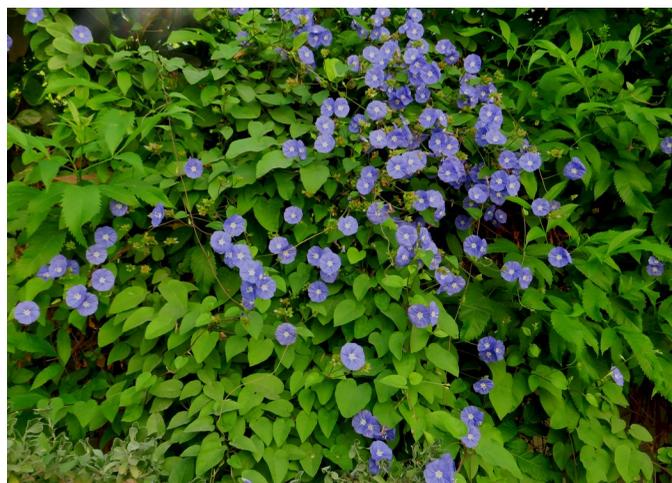
<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> High	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Mod/High	<u>Swale Suitability</u> Suitable
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Skyblue clustervine (*Jacquemontia pentanthos*)

A gorgeous twining, flowering vine that readily spreads and climbs. Heart-shaped leaves are found on stems that can exceed 6 feet in length. It is a prolific flowering species, blooming in winter, with numerous small, delicate, sky-blue morning-glory shaped flowers. The plant requires full sun and does well in well-drained soils.



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<u>Status</u> Endangered	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> High	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Showy
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Groundcovers, Vines and Grasses

Snowberry (*Chiococca* sp.)

Three species of snowberry are found in the Florida Keys (*C. alba*, *C. parvifolia* and *C. pinetorum*). All grow as climbing vine-like shrub with dark green shiny leaves.

C. alba is the most common species. It boasts clusters of small, fragrant, white to yellow flowers that bloom year-round, followed by round, snow-white berries, adding ornamental charm to landscapes. This shrub typically reaches a height of 6 to 12 feet, featuring glossy green leaves arranged neatly along its branches. This species prefers part shade.

C. parvifolia, also known as small-leaved snowberry, is very similar to *C. alba* but slightly smaller in stature and leaf size. This species prefers full sun to part shade.

C. pinetorum (Lower Keys Only) is the smallest of the three, growing to about 2 feet tall. Flower spikes are adorned with small white to yellow bell-shaped flowers and bloom year-round. This species prefers full sun to part shade.

The flowers and berries of all three add ornamental charm to the landscape.



(c) Armando Feliciano - (CC BY-NC)



Chiococca alba - © Stephanie C, (CC0)



Chiococca alba - © j_appleget - (CC BY-NC)



(c) Douglas Goldman – (CC BY-NC)

<u>Status</u> Native	<u>Salt Water Tolerance</u> Low	<u>Salt Wind Tolerance</u> Low*	<u>Showy Flowers/ Fruits</u> Showy	<u>Butterfly Plant</u> Nectar
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**C. alba* has a moderate to high salt wind tolerance.

Useful References & Resources

Plant Identification Books

- Hammer, Roger L. 2022. *Wildflowers of the Florida Keys*. Guilford Ct: The Rowman and Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc.
- Scurlock, J. Paul. 1987. *Native Trees and Shrubs of the Florida Keys: A Field Guide*. Pittsburgh, Pa: Laurel Press
- Tomlinson, P. B. 2001. *The Biology of Trees Native to Tropical Florida*. Alston, Ma: Harvard Printing and Publication Services

Plant Identification Websites

- *Atlas of Florida Plants*
Wunderlin, R. P., B. F. Hansen, A. R. Franck, and F. B. Essig. 2023. *Atlas of Florida Plants* (<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>). [S. M. Landry and K. N. Campbell (application development), USF Water Institute.] Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa.
- *Florida Natural Areas Inventory*
Florida Natural Areas Inventory. (2023). Florida Natural Areas Inventory. <https://www.fnai.org/>
- *Floristic Inventory of the Florida Keys*
Regional Conservation. (2023). IRCs Database. Retrieved from <https://regionalconservation.org/ircs/database/DatabaseFK.asp>
- *Natives for Your Neighborhood*
Gann GD, Abbott CJ, Hines KN, and Collaborators. 2005-2023. *Natives For Your Neighborhood*. The Institute for Regional Conservation. Delray Beach, Florida. <https://www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/>

Plant Landscaping Links

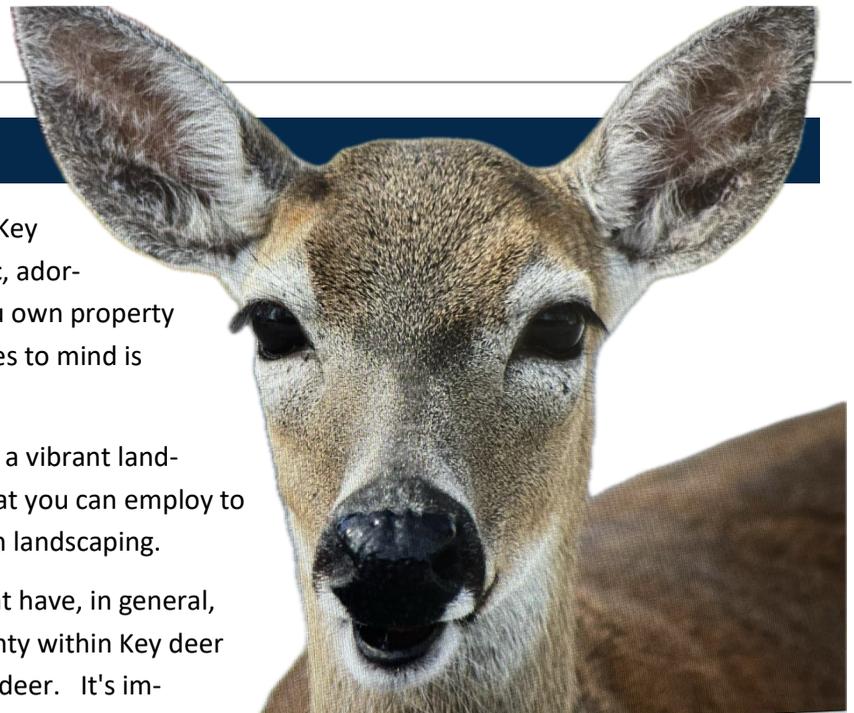
- *Newcomers Guide to Landscaping in the Florida Keys*
[IFAS-Extensions-Landscaping-PDF \(cityofkeywest-fl.gov\)](https://www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov/IFAS-Extensions-Landscaping-PDF)
- *Florida Friendly Landscaping - Handbook for Home Landscapes*
https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/fflifasufledu/docs/FFL-Handbook_03172022_web.pdf
- *Florida Native Plant Society - Landscaping with Natives*
Florida Native Plant Society. (2023). Landscaping with Native Plants. Retrieved from <https://www.fnps.org/what-we-do/landscaping>

Deer-Resistant Landscaping Tactics

Numerous words have been used to describe Key deer (*Odocoileus virginianus clavium*) — iconic, adorable, diminutive, and resilient. However, if you own property in key deer territory, the word that likely comes to mind is 'voracious'!

If you reside in this area, and wish to maintain a vibrant landscape, do not despair. There are strategies that you can employ to enjoy these marvelous creatures and your lush landscaping.

1. **Choose wisely.** Below is a list of plants that have, in general, been successfully planted by Monroe County within Key deer habitat and not typically eaten by the Key deer. It's important to note that while these plants are less appealing to the deer, this is not an absolute guarantee. Hungry deer may unexpectedly explore new tastes. Moreover, well-watered, nutrient-rich nursery stock can be especially attractive to Key deer, particularly during the dry season when freshwater is scarce.
2. **Heed height.** Though typically small in stature, they can reach up to six feet when standing on their hind legs. If you're considering planting canopy trees, it's advisable to purchase trees with foliage extending beyond the six-foot mark.
3. **Stabilize with Stakes.** Be sure to stake those freshly installed canopy trees. The deer sometimes don't realize their own limitations and may knock into you tree in a vain attempt to reach the foliage. It's advisable to remove the stakes after the first year.



Credit: Big Pine Key Fishing Lodge, (CC BY 2.0 DEED)

Species on the Key Deer's Nonpreferred Food List*

Common Name	Page	Common Name	Page
Bahama senna	26	Saltmeadow cordgrass	39
Bay cedar	26	Saw palmetto	12
Blackbead, catclaw	12	Seagrape	7
Blackbead, Fl. Keys	12	Silver palm	11
Buccaneer palm	9	Slash pine	8
Cabbage Palm	10	Stopper, Red	21
Coontie	29	Stopper, Redberry	21
Darlingplum/Red ironwood	15	Stopper, Spanish	21
Jamaica caper	16	Stopper, White	21
Jamaica dogwood	3	Thatch palm, Florida	10
Joewood	16	Thatch palm, Keys	11
Locustberry	31	Velvetseed, Everglades	23
Muhly grass	38	Wax-Myrtle	24
Pigeon plum	6	Wild dilly	25

*Please be aware, this list is not foolproof. See text above for more information.

Index - Common and Scientific Names

<i>Amyris elemifera</i>	22	<i>Damburneya coriacea</i>	4
<i>Ardisia escallonioides</i>	18	Darlingplum/Red ironwood	15
Bahama senna	26	<i>Drypetes diversifolia</i>	5
Bay cedar	26	East coast dune sunflower	36
Beautyberry	27	Elliott's lovegrass	37
Black ironwood	1	<i>Eragrostis elliottii</i>	37
Blackbead, catclaw	12	<i>Erithalis fruticosa</i>	27
Blackbead, Fl. Keys	12	<i>Ernodea littoralis</i>	37
Blacktorch	27	<i>Eugenia axillaris</i>	21
Blolly	13	<i>Eugenia confusa</i>	21
Blue porterweed	36	<i>Eugenia foetida</i>	21
<i>Borrchia arborescens</i>	35	<i>Eugenia rhombea</i>	21
<i>Borrchia frutescens</i>	35	<i>Exostema caribaeum</i>	6
<i>Bourreria cassinifolia</i>	22	<i>Exothea paniculata</i>	3
<i>Bourreria radula</i>	22	Fiddlewood	15
<i>Bourreria succulenta</i>	22	Firebush	29
Buccaneer palm	9	Florida boxwood	30
<i>Bursera simaruba</i>	2	Florida swampprivet	30
Buttonwood	1	<i>Forestiera segregata</i>	30
<i>Byrsonima lucida</i>	31	Geiger tree	2
Cabbage Palm	10	Golden creeper	37
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	27	<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>	17
<i>Canella winterana</i>	13	<i>Guapira discolor</i>	13
<i>Casasia clusiifolia</i>	20	<i>Guettarda elliptica</i>	23
<i>Chiococca alba</i>	40	<i>Guettarda scabra</i>	23
<i>Chiococca parvifolia</i>	40	Gumbo limbo	2
<i>Chiococca pinetorum</i>	40	<i>Gymnanthes lucida</i>	14
<i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i>	28	<i>Hamelia patens</i> var. <i>patens</i>	29
<i>Chrysophyllum oliviforme</i>	7	<i>Helianthus debilis</i> subsp. <i>debilis</i>	36
Cinnamonbark	13	<i>Heliotropium gnaphalodes</i>	34
Cinnecord	14	<i>Heterosavia bahamensis</i>	32
<i>Citharexylum spinosum</i>	15	<i>Hymenocallis latifolia</i>	32
<i>Coccoloba diversifolia</i>	6	<i>Hypelate trifoliata</i>	24
<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	7	Inkberry	31
<i>Coccothrinax argentata</i>	11	Inkwood	3
Cocoplum	28	<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i> subsp. <i>brasiliensis</i>	38
Coffee, Bahama	28	<i>Jacquemontia pentanthos</i>	39
Coffee, wild	28	<i>Jacquinia keyensis</i>	16
<i>Colubrina elliptica</i>	20	Jamaica caper	16
<i>Conocarpus erectus</i>	1	Jamaica dogwood	3
Coontie	29	Joewood	16
<i>Cordia sebestena</i>	2	<i>Krugiodendron ferreum</i>	1
Crabwood	14	Lancewood	4
<i>Crossopetalum rhacoma</i>	19	<i>Lantana involucrata</i>	35
<i>Cynophalla flexuosa</i>	17	<i>Leucothrinax morrisii</i>	11

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Lignumvitae	17	Seagrape	7
Limber caper	17	Sea-oxeye-daisy, green	35
Locustberry	31	Sea-oxeye-daisy, silver	35
<i>Lysiloma latisiliquum</i>	8	<i>Senna mexicana</i> var. <i>chapmanii</i>	26
Maidenbush	32	<i>Serenoa repens</i>	12
Mangrove spiderlily	32	Seven-year apple	20
<i>Manilkara jaimiqui</i> subsp. <i>emarginata</i>	25	<i>Sideroxylon foetidissimum</i>	4
Marlberry	18	<i>Sideroxylon salicifolium</i>	9
Mastic	4	Silver palm	11
Mayten	33	<i>Simarouba glauca</i>	5
<i>Maytenus phyllanthoides</i>	33	Skyblue clustervine	39
Milkbark	5	Slash pine	8
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	38	Snowberry, common	40
Muhly grass	38	Snowberry, pineland	40
<i>Myrcia neopallens</i>	21	Snowberry, small-leaved	40
<i>Myrcia zuzygium</i>	19	Soldierwood	20
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	24	<i>Spartina patens</i>	39
Myrsine	18	Spicewood, Pale lidflower	21
<i>Myrsine cubana</i>	18	<i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>	36
Myrtle-of-the-River	19	Stopper, Red	21
Paradise tree	5	Stopper, Redberry	21
Pearlberry	33	Stopper, Spanish	21
Pigeon plum	6	Stopper, White	21
<i>Pinus elliottii</i> var. <i>densa</i>	8	Strongback, Bahama	22
<i>Piscidia piscipula</i>	3	Strongback, pineland	22
<i>Pithecellobium keyense</i>	12	Strongback, rough	22
<i>Pithecellobium unguis-cati</i>	12	<i>Suriana maritima</i>	26
Princewood	6	Thatch palm, Florida	10
<i>Pseudophoenix sargentii</i>	9	Thatch palm, Keys	11
<i>Psychotria ligustrifolia</i>	28	<i>Thrinax radiata</i>	10
<i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	28	Torchwood	22
<i>Quadrella jamaicensis</i>	16	<i>Vachellia choriophylla</i>	14
Railroad vine	38	<i>Vallesia antillana</i>	33
<i>Randia aculeata</i>	34	Velvetseed, Everglades	23
Randia, White indigoberry	34	Velvetseed, rough	23
<i>Reynosia septentrionalis</i>	15	Wax-Myrtle	24
Rhacoma	19	White ironwood	24
<i>Sabal Palmetto</i>	10	Wild dilly	25
Saltmeadow cordgrass	39	Wild lantana	35
Satinleaf	7	Wild lime	25
Saw palmetto	12	Wild tamarind	8
<i>Scaevola plumieri</i>	31	Willow bustic	9
<i>Schaefferia frutescens</i>	30	<i>Zamia integrifolia</i>	29
Sea lavender	34	<i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>	25



January 2024