

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

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.

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., etal. Plant Atlas. University of South Florida (<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>).

Dune Grasses

Scientific Name	Common Name	Salt tolerance	Region 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>Panicum vaginatum</i>	seashore paspalum	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	Region 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 imbricate</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	Region 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	Region NW/SW/NE/SE/Keys)	Soil Moisture
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	cross vine	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	moderate
<i>Ardisia escallonoides</i>	marlberry	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	moderate
<i>Argusia gnaphalodes</i>	sea lavender	high	SE, Keys	dry

Scientific Name	Common Name	Salt tolerance	Region NW/SW/NE/SE/Keys)	Soil Moisture
<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	Region NW/SW/NE/SE/Keys)	Soil Moisture
<i>Agave decipiens</i>	false sisal	high	SW, SE, Keys	dry
<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i>	gray nickerbean	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	moderate - dry
<i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	coral bean	low	all	dry
<i>Opuntia</i> spp.	prickly pears	high	all	moderate - dry
<i>Serenoa repens</i>	saw palmetto	high	all	moist - dry
<i>Sideroxylon tenax</i>	tough bully	low	NE, SE	dry
<i>Smilax auriculata</i>	earleaf catbrier	moderate	all	dry
<i>Ximenia Americana</i>	hog plum	low	NE, SE	dry
<i>Yucca aloifolia</i>	Spanish bayonet	high	all	dry
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	Adam's needle	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	dry
<i>Yucca gloriosa</i>	Moundlily yucca	moderate	NW, SW, NE	dry
<i>Zanthoxylum clava-hercules</i>	Hercules' club	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	dry
<i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>	wild lime	moderate	SW, NE, SE, Keys	moderate - dry

Trees

Scientific Name	Common Name	Salt tolerance	Region NW/SW/NE/SE/Keys)	Soil Moisture
<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	sweet acacia	moderate	all	moist - dry
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	salt bush	high	all	moist - moderate
<i>Bursera simauruba</i>	gumbo limbo	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	moderate - dry
<i>Capparis cynophallophora</i>	Jamaica caper	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	dry
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	hackberry	low	NW, SW, NE, SE	moist - moderate
<i>Chrysophyllum oliviforme</i>	satinleaf	moderate	SE, Keys	moderate - dry
<i>Citharexylum spinosum</i>	fiddleleaf	moderate	SE, Keys	dry
<i>Coccoloba diversifolia</i>	pigeon plum	high	SW, SE, Keys	moderate - dry
<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	sea grape	high	SW, SE, Keys	moderate - dry
<i>Conocarpus ererctus</i>	buttonwood	high	SW, SE, Keys	moist - moderate
<i>Cordia sebestana</i>	Geiger tree	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	moderate - dry
<i>Ficus aurea</i>	golden fig	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	moderate
<i>Ilex x. attenuata</i>	East Palatka holly	low	NW, SW, NE, SE	moderate
<i>Ilex cassine</i>	dahoon holly	low	NW, SW, NE, SE	moist - moderate
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American holly	low	NW, SW, NE, SE	moderate
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	yaupon holly	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	moderate - dry
<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>Persea borbonia</i>	redbay	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	moderate
<i>Persea humilis</i>	silkbay	moderate	SW, NE, SE	moderate - dry
<i>Pinus clausa</i>	sand pine	moderate	NW, SW, NE, SE	dry
<i>Pinus elliottii</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>	mastic	moderate	SW, SE, Keys	moderate

Palms

Scientific Name	Common Name	Salt tolerance	Region NW/SW/NE/SE/Keys)	Soil Moisture
<i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i>	paurotis 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>Thrinax morrissii</i>	brittle thatch palm	moderate	Keys	dry
<i>Thrinax radiata</i>	Florida thatch palm	moderate	Keys	dry

Fritz Wettstein, Coastal Construction Control Line Program, Division of Water Resource Management
 Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 2600 Blair Stone Road, Mail Station 3522, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400
 850/245-7672 voice 850/245-8499 fax, john.wettstein@dep.state.fl.us, www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches