

Native Florida Plants for Beach Dunes

Beach Dunes are characterized by sand, high drainage, full sun, salt water flooding, and salt spray. Dunes consist of two zones: the fore dune and the back dune. Fore dune areas are closest to the water's edge, and generally are subject to higher winds, large amounts of salt spray, frequent flooding, and shifting sands. Back dune areas occur behind the crest of the dune, and have relatively lower winds, less flooding, and in general, slightly milder conditions than fore dunes.

Large Trees

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Zone
Gumbo Limbo	Bursera simaruba	up to 40'	back dune
Jamaica Dogwood	<i>Piscidia piscipula</i>	30'-50'	back dune
Mahogany	<i>Swietenia mahogani</i>	up to 50'	back dune
Pitch Apple	<i>Clusia rosea</i>	to 30'	back dune
Sea Grape	<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	25'-30'	back dune
Silver Buttonwood	<i>Conocarpus erectus</i> 'Silver'	20'-30'	back dune
Southern Red Cedar	Juniperus virginiana	25'-50'	back dune
Wild Tamarind	<i>Lysiloma latisiliquum</i>	40'-60'	back dune

Small Trees & Shrubs

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Zone
Bay Cedar	Suriana maritima	10'-15'	fore & back dune
Buckthorn	Sideroxylon celastrinum	10'-30'	back dune

Cat's Claw	Pithecellobium unguis-cati	10'-15'	back dune
Cinnecord	<i>Acacia choriophylla</i>	8'-12'	back dune
Coral Bean	<i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	10'-15'	back dune
Golden Creeper	<i>Ernodea littoralis</i>	2'-3'	fore & back dune
Horizontal Cocoplum	<i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i> 'Horizontal'	up to 10'	back dune
Inkberry	<i>Scaevola plumieri</i>	2'-5'	fore & back dune
Jamaica Caper	<i>Capparis cynophallophora</i>	12'-15'	back dune
Joewood	<i>Jacquinia keyensis</i>	eventually 10'-20'	back dune
Myrsine	<i>Rapanea punctata</i>	15'-20'	back dune
Necklace Pod	<i>Sophora tomentosa</i> variety <i>truncata</i>	8'-10'	back dune
Seven Year Apple	<i>Genipa clusiifolia</i>	8'-10'	back dune
Spanish Stopper	<i>Eugenia foetida</i>	12'-15'	back dune
Wild Olive	<i>Forestiera segregata</i>	4'-15'	back dune

Palms

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Zone
Cabbage/Sabal Palm	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	50'-60'	back dune
Green Thatch Palm	<i>Thrinax radiata</i>	15'-20'	back dune
Keys Thatch Palm	<i>Thrinax morrisii</i>	8'-15'	back dune
Silver Saw Palmetto	<i>Serenoa repens</i> 'Silver'	6'-8'	back dune

Wildflowers & Groundcovers

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Zone
Ambrosia	Ambrosia hispida	up to 1'	fore & back dune
Bay Bean	<i>Canavalia rosea</i>	will spread/ climb 10'	fore & back dune
Beach Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea imperati</i>	6-12 inches	fore & back dune
Dune Sunflower	<i>Helianthus debilis</i>	18 inches-2'	fore & back dune
Gaillardia	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	1'-2'	fore & back dune
Gopher Apple	<i>Licania michauxii</i>	9-16 inches	back dune
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia humifusa</i>	2'-3'	back dune
Railroad Vine	<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>	will spread 10'-15'	fore & back dune
Sand Atriplex	<i>Atriplex cristata</i>	up to 2'	fore & back dune
Sea Coast Marsh Elder	<i>Iva imbricata</i>	2'-3'	fore & back dune
Sea Oxeye Daisy	<i>Borrchia frutescens</i>	up to 3'	back dune
Sea Purslane	<i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i>	6-12 inches	fore & back dune
Seaside Goldenrod	<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	3'-4'	back dune
Spider Lily	<i>Hymenocallis latifolia</i>	2'-3'	back dune

Grasses

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Light Requirements
Bitter Panic Grass	Panicum amarum	1'-4'	fore & back dune
Muhley Grass	Muhlenbergia capillaris	2'-4'	back dune
Sea Oats	<i>Uniola paniculata</i>	3'-5'	fore & back dune