

Native Florida Plants for Upland Communities

Upland Communities are defined as areas that rarely flood, get less rain than other parts of the island, and have extremely sandy soil. Examples of neighborhoods on Sanibel are: West Rocks, East Rocks, Gumbo Limbo & along West Gulf Drive.

Large Trees

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Light Requirements
Crabwood	<i>Gymnanthes lucidum</i>	20'-30'	full sun to part shade
Gumbo Limbo	Bursera simaruba	up to 40'	full sun to part shade
Jamaica Dogwood	<i>Piscidia piscipula</i>	30'-50'	full sun
Live Oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	up to 50'	full sun
Mahogany	<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>	up to 50'	full sun to part shade
Mastic	<i>Sideroxylon foetidissimum</i>	50'-70'	full sun
Paradise Tree	<i>Simarouba glauca</i>	40'-50'	full sun
Pigeon Plum	<i>Coccoloba diversifolia</i>	20'-40'	full sun to deep shade
Pitch Apple	<i>Clusia rosea</i>	to 30'	full sun to part shade
Red Bay	<i>Persea borbonia</i>	40'-50'	full sun
Sea Grape	<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	25'-30'	full sun to part shade
Silver Buttonwood	<i>Conocarpus erectus</i> 'Silver'	20'-30'	full sun
South Florida Slash Pine	<i>Pinus elliotii</i> variety <i>densa</i>	30'-60'	full sun

Southern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	25'-50'	full sun
Strangler Fig	<i>Ficus aurea</i>	40'-60'	full sun to part shade
Wild Tamarind	<i>Lysiloma latisiliquum</i>	40'-60'	full sun to part shade

Small Trees & Shrubs

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Light Requirements
Bahama cassia	<i>Senna mexicana variety chapmanii</i>	2'-5'	full sun to light shade
Bay Cedar	<i>Suriana maritima</i>	10'-15'	full sun to part shade
Beauty Berry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	4'-6'	full sun to part shade
Blackbead	<i>Pithecellobium keyense</i>	up to 20'	full sun
Black Ironwood	<i>Krugiodendron ferreum</i>	15'-25'	full sun to part shade
Bloodberry	<i>Cordia globosa</i>	6'-8'	full sun
Buckthorn	<i>Sideroxylon celastrinum</i>	10'-30'	light shade to part shade
Cat's Claw	<i>Pithecellobium unguis-cati</i>	10'-15'	full sun to part shade
Cocoplum	<i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i>	10'-15'	full sun to part shade
Coral Bean	<i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	10'-15'	full sun to deep shade
Fiddlewood	<i>Citharexylum spinosum</i>	15'-20'	full sun to part shade
Firebush	<i>Hamelia patens</i>	8'-10'	full sun to part shade

Inkberry	<i>Scaevola plumieri</i>	2'-5'	full sun
Joewood	<i>Jacquinia keyensis</i>	eventually 10'-20'	full sun to shade
Lignum Vitae	<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>	eventually 25'	full sun to light shade
Marlberry	<i>Ardisia escallonioides</i>	up to 20'	part shade to full shade
Myrsine	<i>Rapanea punctata</i>	15'-20'	full sun to part shade
Necklace Pod	<i>Sophora tomentosa</i> variety <i>truncata</i>	8'-10'	full sun
Seven-Year Apple	<i>Genipa clusiifolia</i>	8'-10'	full sun to part shade
Simpson Stopper	<i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i>	15'-25'	full sun to part shade
Snowberry	<i>Chiococca alba</i>	10'-15'	full sun to part shade
Spanish Stopper	<i>Eugenia foetida</i>	12'-15'	full sun to part shade
Sweet Acacia	<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	10'-12'	full sun
Varnish Leaf	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	6'-12'	full sun to light shade
Wild Coffee	<i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	5'-10'	part sun to full shade
Wild Cotton	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	6'-12'	full sun to part shade
Wild Lime	<i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>	12'-25'	full sun to part shade

Ferns

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Light Requirements
Boston Fern	<i>Nephrolepis exaltata</i>	2'-4'	full sun to part shade
Bracken Fern	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	3'-4'	part shade to full shade

Sword Fern	<i>Nephrolepis biserrata</i>	2’-3’	part shade to full shade
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Palms

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Light Requirements
Cabbage/Sabal Palm	Sabal palmetto	50’-60’	full sun to part shade
Dwarf Palmetto	Sabal minor	up to 6’	full sun to full shade
Green Saw Palmetto	Serenoa repens	6’-8’	full sun to part shade
Green Thatch Palm	Thrinax radiata	15’-20’	full sun to part shade
Needle Palm	<i>Rhapidophyllum hystrix</i>	5’-6’	part sun to full shade
Royal Palm	<i>Roystonea regia</i>	up to 75’	full sun to part shade
Scrub Palmetto	<i>Sabal etonia</i>	3’-5’	full sun to part shade
Silver Saw Palmetto	<i>Serenoa repens</i> ‘Silver’	6’-8’	full sun to part shade

Wildflowers & Groundcovers

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Light Requirements
Ambrosia	Ambrosia hispida	up to 1’	full sun
Bay Bean	<i>Canavalia rosea</i>	will spread/ climb 10’	full sun
Beach Morningglory	<i>Ipomoea imperati</i>	6-12 inches	full sun
Blue Porterweed	<i>Stachytarpheta</i>	up to 2’	full sun to part shade

jamaicensis

Coontie	<i>Zamia pumila</i>	2'-3'	full sun to part shade
Dune Sunflower	<i>Helianthus debilis</i>	18 inches-2'	full sun
Gaillardia	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	1'-2'	full sun
Golden Creeper	<i>Ernodea littoralis</i>	2'-3'	full sun to part shade
Horsemint	<i>Monarda punctata</i>	2'-3'	full sun to part shade
Ironweed	<i>Vernonia gigantea</i>	4'-6'	full sun to part shade
Lyreleaf Sage	<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	1'-2' flower spike	full sun to part shade
Railroad Vine	<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>	will spread 10'-15'	full sun
Matchweed	<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>	1-2 inches	full sun
Mimosa	<i>Mimosa strigillosa</i>	4-6 inches	full sun to part shade
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia humifusa</i>	2'-3'	full sun
Red Salvia	<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	1'-2'	full sun to light shade
Sand Atriplex	<i>Atriplex cristata</i>	up to 2'	full sun
Sea Coast Marsh Elder	<i>Iva imbricata</i>	2'-3'	full sun
Seaoxeye Daisy	<i>Borrichia frutescens</i>	up to 3'	full sun
Seaside Goldenrod	<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	3'-4'	full sun
Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	up to 2'	full sun to part shade
Tampa Verbena	<i>Glandularia tampensis</i>	18 inches to 2'	full sun to part shade

Vines

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Light Requirements
Coral Honeysuckle	Lonicera sempervirens	climbs 10'-15'	full sun to part shade
Corkystem Passionvine	<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	climbs 10'-15'	full sun to part shade
Jacquemontia	<i>Jacquemontia pentanthos</i>	climbs 6'-12'	full sun to part shade
Maypop	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	climbs to 10'	full sun to light shade

Grasses

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Light Requirements
Elliott's Love Grass	<i>Eragrostis elliottii</i>	1'-2'	full sun
Muhly Grass	<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	2'-4'	full sun to part shade
Bitter Panic Grass	<i>Panicum amarum</i>	1'-4"	full sun
Sea Oats	<i>Uniola paniculata</i>	3'-5'	full sun