

Life on the Coast is Easy?

How native plants are built for life near the beach



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Coastal Landscaping Challenges

- Poor, sandy soil
- Heat
- Drought conditions
- Frequent storms
- Saltwater exposure and soil salinity
- Strong coastal winds
- Salt-aerosol damage



What is “Native”?

Species that evolve naturally in an environment without human intervention

Plants are adapted to local soil and climate conditions over thousands of years

Co-evolve with other species and form interdependent and highly specialized relationships that are necessary for the other’s survival



Why plant Natives?

- Uniquely adapted to local environmental conditions
- Generally require less care and less water once established
- Protect local water quality by reducing the need for fertilizer
- Provide the basis of the ecosystem and habitat for our native insects and wildlife



Lucy Bradley CCO



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Live Oak

Quercus virginiana

40-80' tall, 40-100' spread, not a "true" evergreen

Adaptable to both clay and sandy soils that are acidic and well-drained

Most wind resistant tree

'Cathedral' cultivar



Imperial Moth (*Eacles imperialis*)

Hosts: *Pinus* sp., *Acer* sp., *Quercus* sp. *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Sassafras albidum*



Gitta Hasing



Shumard Oak

Quercus shumardii

40-80' tall, 40-50' spread

Adaptable to wide variety of soils, very stress tolerant

Great tree for urban settings

Wildlife value





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Eastern Red Cedar

Juniperus virginiana

Evergreen tree that can grow to 30+' tall, width 12-24'

Fast growing conifer

Extremely drought tolerant

Provides cover and food for wildlife

Sweetbay Magnolia

Magnolia virginiana

20+' tall, semi-evergreen tree or multi-stemmed shrub, deer resistant, 10-20' width

Fragrant flowers

Larval host for Spicebush Swallowtail and Eastern Tiger Swallowtail butterflies

Medium-high wind resistance



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Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly

UNCW Campus- Longleaf Pine and Sweetbay Magnolia





American Holly

Ilex opaca

40-60' tall, full sun to part shade

Will take a broad range of soils and is pollution tolerant

Flowers are attractive to pollinators and fruits for wildlife

Highly wind resistant



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Yaupon Holly

Ilex vomitoria

Large shrub or small tree, can reach 10-20' tall, 8-12' width

Very drought tolerant

Female plants produce attractive red berries

Very attractive to pollinators



Dwarf Yaupon Holly

Ilex vomitoria 'Nana'

Dense, compact, evergreen shrub 3-5' tall, 3-6' width

Drought and salt spray tolerant

Grows rapidly

Has a more formal appearance





Inkberry

Ilex glabra

Evergreen shrub

Slow growing, 5-8' tall

Tolerates a variety of soils, moderately salt tolerant

Cover and food for birds and pollinators enjoy flowers

Dwarf cultivar:
'Shamrock'
3-4' tall



Debbie Roos



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Dwarf Palmetto

Sabal minor

2-5' tall, 4-6' width

Drought and moderately salt tolerant

Most cold hardy native palm

Fruits eaten by robins, raccoons, and other birds and mammals



Wax Myrtle

Myrica cerifera

Evergreen tree/shrub,
15-20' at maturity

Native to NC marshes,
swamps, fresh-brackish
streams

Great for erosion, wind
and salt spray tolerant

Wildlife value



Beautyberry

Callicarpa americana

3-8' tall, Full sun

Deciduous Shrub

Fruits appear August-Oct
Valuable food source for
songbirds and small
mammals



Yucca

Yucca filamentosa

Evergreen sword-shaped leaves with curly filaments

Prefers coarse, sandy soils in full sun

Tall panicle of white flowers attracts pollinators



'Color Guard'



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Muhly Grass

Muhlenbergia capillaris

4' tall, 3' width

Long-lived, little to no insect or disease pests and highly resistant to deer grazing

Tolerates heat, humidity, drought, poor soil and is highly salt tolerant



Little Bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium

2' tall, Vigorous, long rooted grass

Good for erosion control:
Stream banks, slopes,
rain gardens

Larval host plant for
skippers, seeds eaten by
birds

Cut back in March





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Cultivar 'Northwind'

Switchgrass

Panicum virgatum

3-5' tall, full sun

Moist clay or sandy soils

Bluish cast in the summer, pink flowers in fall

Slightly salt tolerant

Plant in masses



Black-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia hirta

Full Sun

Blooms summer through fall

Short lived perennial,
easily reseeds



Blanket Flower

Gaillardia pulchella

Naturalized in NC

Barrier island, sandy
soils, full sun

Drought and salt tolerant

Blooms summer to fall

Attracts butterflies



Spotted Horsemint

Monarda punctata

2-4' tall

Herbaceous perennial

Drought tolerant

Excellent cut flower

Deer and rabbit resistant







Inkberry
Ilex glabra



Dwarf Yaupon Holly
Ilex vomitoria 'Nana'

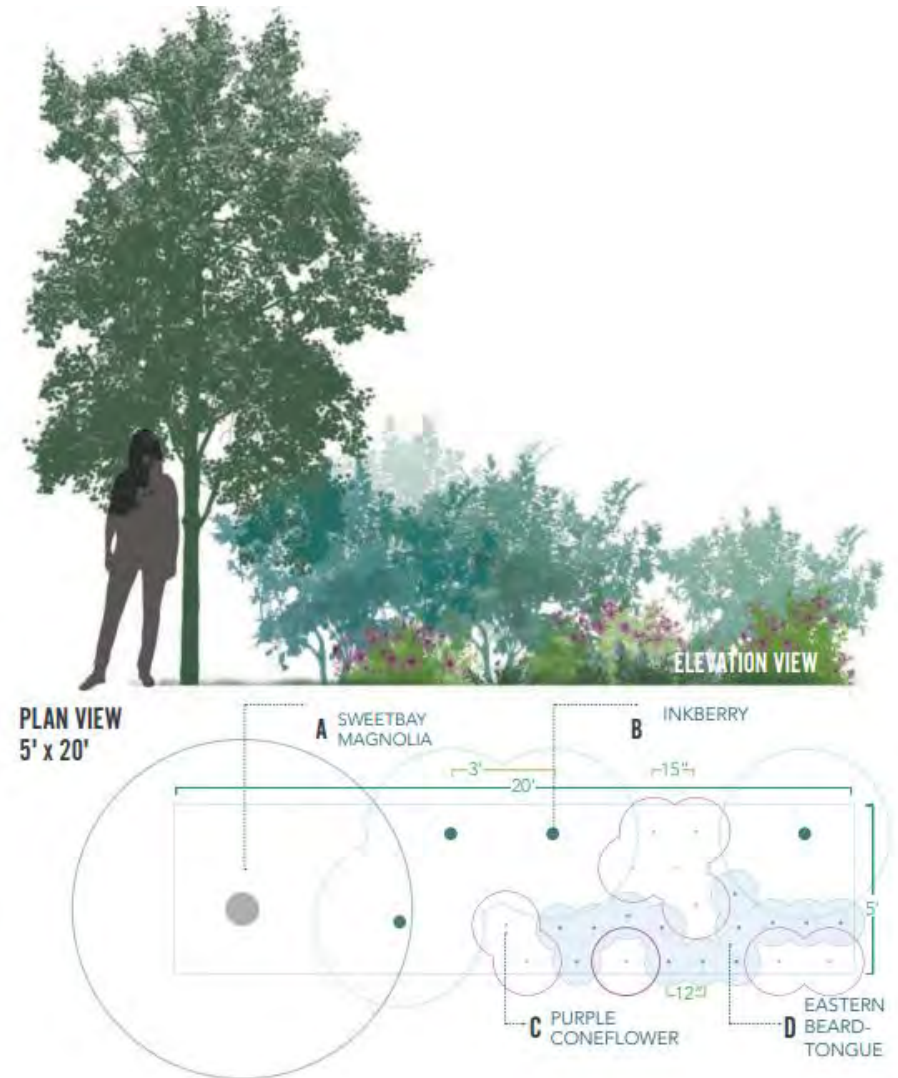


Beautyberry
Callicarpa americana



Dwarf Palmetto
Sabal minor

Use a Diversity of Plants



Coastal Landscapes Initiative template



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Sweetbay Magnolia
Magnolia virginiana



Inkberry
Ilex glabra



Beardtongue
Penstemon digitalis 'Huskers Red'



Purple Coneflower
Echinacea purpurea

Surf City Roundabout



Eastern Red Cedar
Dwarf Palmetto
Dwarf Yaupon Holly
Yaupon Holly
Magnolia 'Little Gem'
Laurel Oak or
Darlington Oak

Plants to Avoid



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COASTAL
NORTH CAROLINA



PLANT THIS INSTEAD!

Eco-friendly Alternatives to Harmful Ornamental Plants



From the
COASTAL
LANDSCAPES
INITIATIVE

SCREENING VINES

AVOID THIS VINE



ENGLISH IVY *Hedera helix*



ENGLISH IVY *Hedera helix*

PLANT THIS INSTEAD



CROSSVINE *Bignonia capreolata*

This semi-evergreen perennial vine climbs by tendrils and has special adaptations that enable it to cling to bark, stone, bricks, and fences. The vine has showy, orange-red, fragrant, trumpet-shaped flowers, which bloom in late winter to early spring. The tubular flowers attract hummingbirds. Leaves are a dark glossy green and may change to a reddish-purple in winter.

TIP This is a vigorous vine and may occasionally need pruning.

LIGHT: Full sun to part shade **SOIL:** Moist
HEIGHT: 15'-20' **WIDTH:** 10'-12'



CAROLINA JESSAMINE *Gelsemium sempervirens*

In the spring, expect sweetly scented, canary-yellow flowers on this perennial evergreen vine, which grows quickly. Flowers attract bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies — and it provides winter cover for birds.

TIP Carolina jessamine can also be used as a mounding groundcover. Fullness can be increased with pruning.

LIGHT: Full sun to part shade **SOIL:** Dry to moist
HEIGHT & WIDTH: 10'-12'



CORAL HONEYSUCKLE *Lonicera sempervirens*

This woody, semi-evergreen vine — our native honeysuckle — blooms both in spring and autumn. Various songbirds feed on its red berries including cedar waxwings, catbirds, and cardinals. Hummingbirds seek coral honeysuckle nectar, and the plant also serves as a larval host to the Hummingbird Clearwing moth.

TIP Mix with other vines to provide a denser screen.

LIGHT: Full sun **SOIL:** Moist
HEIGHT: 15'-20' **WIDTH:** 10'-12'

MORE SCREENING VINES

Leatherflower, Blue Jasmine *Clematis crispa*
Climbing Aster *Ampelaster caroliniana*

Wood Vamp, Climbing Hydrangea *Decumaria barbara*
Yellow Passionflower *Passiflora lutea*

go.ncsu.edu/Plant-This



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