

**A GUIDE  
TO NATIVE AND INVASIVE  
PLANTS IN ABACO**

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**FRIENDS** OF THE  
**ENVIRONMENT**  
ABACO, BAHAMAS





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Dogwood photo courtesy of Ethan Fried.

Atala Hairstreak Butterfly and Mahogany photos courtesy of Olivia Patterson.

Saffron Tree photo courtesy of Steve Kvarnberg.

Friends of the Environment is not responsible for any typos.



## GLOSSARY

**Native –** A species can be considered native or indigenous when it occurs in an area without the help of humans. So the plants that were here before the Lucayan Indians arrived are considered native to The Bahamas. (e.g. Buttonwood)

**Exotic –** Exotic species are those that have been introduced to an area outside of its natural range by humans. “Natural Range” can be defined as a continent, ecosystem, or habitat. (e.g. Hibiscus)

**Naturalized –** These are exotic plants that have become established in the wild. They are able to reproduce and survive in their new habitat. (e.g. Coconut Palms)

**Invasive –** Invasive behavior can be characterized by prolific and expansive growth, durability in extreme conditions (poor soil, salt air), high reproductive rate – often having many seeds, and longevity. The invasive plants discussed in this booklet all have exotic origins (e.g. Hawaiian Seagrass), though it is possible for some native Bahamian plants to display invasive characteristics. Invasive species can quickly take over an area, displacing native vegetation and creating a monoculture. Invasive species compete with native plants for nutrients, pollinators, affect environmental conditions and cause a loss of biodiversity.



## NATIVE ALTERNATIVES TO INVASIVE EXOTICS

Common Uses	Invasive Species	Good Substitutes
Windbreaks, hedges, medium sized trees	Casuarina, Hawaiian seagrape	Green & Silver Buttonwood, Native sea grape, Green cocoplum
Flowering trees and shrubs	Orchid tree, Brazilian pepper, Scheffelera, Fig/Ficus	Native frangipani, Geiger tree, Lignum vitae, Necklace pod, Yellow elder, Bay Cedar
Ground cover and accents	Hawaiian sea grape, Brazilian pepper	Railroad vine, Sea purslane, Sea oxeye daisy, Sea oats, Spider lily Bay geranium, Sea rocket
Palms	Traveler's Palm, Manila Palm / Christmas Palm	Sabal or cabbage palm, Silver topped palm, Buccaneer palm, Thatch palm

There are many native substitutes to popular non-native landscaping plants. Planting native may cost a few cents more, but those costs pay off in the long run in lower maintenance, watering and replacement costs.



### JUMBAY JUMBAY, WHITE LEAD TREE

[ *Leucaena leucocephala* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Leguminosae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Shrub or tree up to 18 m tall.
<i>Habitats:</i>	Has invaded coppice and is commonly found in disturbed areas, such as roadsides.
<i>Soils:</i>	The soil needs to be kept moist at all times.

#### Description:

Jumbey resembles some native trees, such as Sweet Acacia, but does not typically grow as tall in The Bahamas. Leaves are dark green above and paler below and are alternate and arranged on numerous leaflets. Jumbey flowers and fruits year-round. Flowers are creme coloured puff balls, and fruits are 4-6 inch dark brown pods bearing many small black seeds.

*Uses:* It has been known to be used for a variety of purposes, such as firewood and livestock feed. However, after it was brought to The Bahamas it was found to cause horses tails to drop out. Jumbey is not recommended for planting, but is recommended for removal. It displaces native vegetation.

#### Notes:



## HAWAIIAN SEAGRAPE

SCAEVOLA, HAWAIIAN INKBERRY, HALF-FLOWER

[ *Scaevola taccada*, formerly *Scaevola frutescens* ]

**Family:** Goodeniaceae  
**Plant Type:** Perennial Shrub.  
**Habitats:** Beaches, dunes and coastal areas; also infiltrating pinelands.  
**Soils:** Sandy soils, or soils with organic content.

### Description:

This shrub can grow to 5 meters, easily dwarfing and displacing native coastal vegetation. Leaves are medium green, range 3 – 5 inches long, and have a prominent central vein. Stems are green, flowers are white and look like a flower that has been split in two, hence one of its common names: “Half-flower”. Berries are white and are easily dispersed by wind and water. Closely resembles native *Scaevola plumieri* (Inkberry). However, *S.plumieri* berries are black and its stems are green.

**Uses:** This species is invasive in The Bahamas and is not recommended for propagation or sale. It reduces diversity by displacing native vegetation. It is recommended that *Scaevola taccada* be removed and replaced with a native alternative.

### Notes:



## PROTECTED TREES OF THE BAHAMAS

Protected trees are hardwood trees, rare trees, trees of remarkable growth or trees of historic significance identified by the government. New trees may be added to the list if they are designated by the Minister.

Common Name	Latin Name
Beefwood/Pigeon Berry/ Narrow Leaved Blolly	<i>Guapira discolor</i>
Black Ebony	<i>Pera bumeliifolia</i>
Brasiletto	<i>Caesalpinia vesicaria</i>
Candlewood	<i>Gochnatia ilicifolia</i>
Caribbean Pine	<i>Pinus caribaea</i> <i>var. bahamensis</i>
Horseflesh	<i>Lysiloma sabiau</i> <i>var. bahamensis</i>
Lignum Vitae	<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>
Mahogany (Madeira)	<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>
Rauwolfia	<i>Rauwolfia nitida</i>
Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus bermudiana</i>
Silk Cotton	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>

It is against the law to harvest a protected tree in The Bahamas without a permit  
**(CHAPTER 260, CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE  
 PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE OF THE BAHAMAS)**



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### INVASIVE:

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## CASUARINA AUSTRALIAN PINE

[ *Casuarina equisetifolia* and *Casuarina glauca* ]

<i>Family:</i>	Casuarinaceae
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Evergreen shrubs & trees, up to 35 m tall.
<i>Habitats:</i>	Coastal strand habitat, characterized by sand and shell beaches, rocky coasts, sand dunes, and sand bars in subtropical climates.
<i>Soils:</i>	Most soils and sand.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Low.
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun to shade.

### Description:

Drought and salt resistant tree from Australasia widely planted in the tropics and sub-tropics. Both species grow easily on any land disturbed by storms, fire, or development. *C. equisetifolia* (pictured) is common along coasts and disturbed areas, while *C. glauca* is less commonly seen. The leaves on *C. glauca* are longer and darker green than *equisetifolia*. Casuarinas forms dense stands and drop many needle-like leaves forming a thick mat around the trees. The needles are slightly acidic so they affect natural soil properties. The mat also prevents new vegetation from growing by blocking sunlight. The projecting shallow root system has been known to interrupt nest digging of breeding turtles.

**Uses:** Widely planted for amenity purposes, coastal reclamation, medicinal purposes, tannin, dyes, pulp and timber. Thought to have been introduced to the Caribbean as a source of masts for ships as the trunks grow tall and straight. The strong and heavy wood is durable in the ground and submerged in saltwater. It is a very good firewood and fine for charcoal whereas it is not adequate for fine carpentry. These are normally the first trees to topple over in a hurricane.

### Notes:



## BRAZILIAN-PEPPER TREE

### CHRISTMAS BERRY TREE

[ *Schinus terebinthifolius* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Anacardiaceae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	A sprawling shrub or small tree (7-10 m tall)
<i>Habitats:</i>	Has invaded coppice and is commonly found in disturbed areas, such as roadsides.
<i>Soils:</i>	Dissolved soil with an optimum drainage.

**Description:** Normally has a short trunk. Branches grow close and twisting often intertwining with other trees, making it difficult to control. Leaves are 1-2 inches long, dark green above and paler below. Leaves are elliptical, but leaf margins are not even. Clusters of white flowers give way to small round green fruits. The fruit turns bright red and the outer “skin” of the fruit becomes brittle, easily crushed. Fruits are attractive to birds, the main cause of their spread. However, humans are also to fault, having used branches of Brazilian Pepper for Christmas decorations and not properly disposing of them.

**Uses:** This tree is not recommended for planting, but is recommended for removal. It is extremely invasive and will quickly take over native vegetation. When removing Brazilian Pepper, make sure all parts of the tree are taken out because it will grow new shoots and roots. Brazilian Pepper is in the same family as Poisonwood, and can cause skin and respiratory irritation in humans (reactions vary by person). Some sources say the seeds may be used in moderation as pink peppercorns, but we have not been able to verify that it is edible.

**Notes:**



## BAHAMA SENNA

### CHAPMAN'S WILD SENSITIVE PLANT

[ *Senna Mexicana var. Chapmanii Fabaceae* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Caesalpiaceae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Shrubs Tropicals/Tender Perennials 6-8 ft. (1.8-2.4 m).
<i>Habitats:</i>	Pine rocklands & rockland hammock edges.
<i>Soils:</i>	Moist, well-drained limestone soils, with or without humusy top layer.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Moderate to low; will grow in nutrient poor soil.
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun to light shade.

**Description:** Small to medium shrub with attractive yellow flowers. Larval host plant for cloudless sulphur (*Phoebis sennae eubule*), sleepy orange (*Eurema nicippe*) and the introduced orange-barred sulphur (*Phoebis philea*) butterflies.

**Uses:** An accent shrub or butterfly plant. Flowers year-round. Plant in an area protected from ocean breezes, because it has low salt tolerance. Moderately to highly drought tolerant; blooms better after a dry season.

**Notes:**



## BAY GERANIUM COASTAL RAGWEED

[ *Ambrosia hispida* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Asteraceae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Perennial subshrub or herb.
<i>Habitats:</i>	Beach dunes and coastal strand.
<i>Soils:</i>	Moist, well-drained sandy soils, without humus.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Low; it grows in nutrient poor soils.
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun.

### *Description:*

A small herb that grows 1-3 feet in height but sometimes climbs into other vegetation. Can spread and form large mats.

### *Uses:*

Planted near the coast with some protection, this plant will be tolerant to salty winds and drought conditions.

### *Notes:*



## WHITE MANGROVE

[ *Laguncularia racemosa* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Combretaceae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Evergreen tree to 12 m tall and 30 cm diameter.
<i>Habitats:</i>	Common throughout Bahamas in coastal and wetland areas.
<i>Soils:</i>	Wet saline soils.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Moderate (can grow in nutrient poor soils, but needs some organic content to thrive).
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun.

### *Description:*

The white mangrove is usually found further from the sea than black or red mangroves. The leaves are light green, elliptical, and have a small indent at the leaf tip. There are two glands that look like small bumps at the base of the leaf blade. White mangrove has no aerial roots. Flowers are small, numerous and greenish-white. Fragrant blooms appear throughout the year, but mostly in Spring and Summer. Highly salt tolerant, but low tolerance to drought.

*Uses:* Plant near the coast. If it is in a tidal area, then you would not have to water often. The hard heavy wood is used for carpentry, construction, posts and tool handles. The bark is used for tanning and for dyeing fishermen's nets. Considered a honey plant. Legislation exists to control disturbance of plants and substrate below the high tide line. Please consult Local Government Council before removing mangroves or dredging the sea bed.

### *Notes:*



## SWEET ACACIA

CASSIE, HUISACHE, POPINAC

[ *Acacia farnesiana* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Leguminosae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Deciduous tree, approx. 30'
<i>Habitats:</i>	Central Bahamas in scrub or disturbed land.
<i>Soils:</i>	Most any well drained soil.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Balanced liquid fertilizer monthly.
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun.

### *Description:*

The Sweet Acacia's blooms look like golden yellow puff balls and have a sweet scent. This tree may be a native of Africa, but some botanists disagree. Blooms in Spring and early Summer, and fruits in the Summer (flowers and fruits occur occasionally throughout the year). Fruits are flat brown pods that are about 3 inches long.

### *Uses:*

Its flowers can be used in perfumes, and some people use them as a closet freshener. Appropriate as a bonsai, specimen tree or residential street tree. Has medium salt tolerance (protect from salt spray). Cassie is a "nitrogen fixer" which will help add nitrogen to the soil and make it more fertile.

### *Notes:*



## CLUSIA

AUTOGRAPH TREE, PITCH APPLE, WILD MAMEE

[ *Clusia rosea* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Clusiaceae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Tree (up to 20 – 50 feet)
<i>Habitats:</i>	North and Central Bahamas, but not Cat Island, Exuma or San Salvador. Found in mixed broadleaf areas.
<i>Soils:</i>	Various, aggressive roots can make the best of any situation.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Low.
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun to part shade.

### *Description:*

Good shade tree for dry locations or dry locations near bodies of salt water. A dense, neat looking tree that is very salt, wind, and drought tolerant. Known as autograph tree because guests to your home can scratch their name onto the surface of a leaf and the mark will remain for quite a long time.

*Uses:* This plant is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds. The tree is a commonly planted ornamental in gardens and streets of tropical regions, both for its foliage, and its adaptability. A good shade tree.

### *Notes:*



## COCO PLUM

[ *Chrysobalanus icaco* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Chrysobalanaceae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	10-15 foot tree, or shrub
<i>Habitats:</i>	Throughout Bahamas; mainly in sandy or swampy areas.
<i>Soils:</i>	Seasonally inundated to moist, well-drained to poorly-drained sandy, limestone, or organic freshwater soils, with humusy top layer.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Moderate to high.
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full Sun.

### *Description:*

The tree has roundish shiny green leaves and clusters of white flowers. The fruit, up to 4 cm (1.5 inches) long, is a pulpy drupe, sweet but rather tasteless, sometimes used in preserves. There are two varieties of cocoplum in The Bahamas: a Black Cocoplum (pictured) with dark pink to purplish-black fruits and dark green leaves, and a White Cocoplum that has white fruits and medium green leaves. Unripe fruits on both varieties are green. Flowers in Spring and fruits in Summer (occasionally throughout the year).

*Uses:* The fruit can be used to make jellies and preserves. Can be used as a hedge tree or a specimen tree.

### *Notes:*



## SEA PURSLANE SEA PICKLE

[ *Sesuvium portulacastrum* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Aizoaceae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Small herb, climber, perennial.
<i>Habitats:</i>	Beaches, dunes and other coastal areas.
<i>Soils:</i>	Wet to moist; periodically brackish or saline; with or without organic material.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Low (will grow in nutrient poor soil).
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun.

### *Description:*

Leaves are medium green and fleshy, with some red and brown colouration on stems and runners. Grows low to the ground and forms dense patches, often growing over sandy soil and rocks along the shore. Blooms year-round; flowers have green sepals with a pink interior, but no petals.

*Uses:* Groundcover; sand stabilizer. The leaves and stems are edible and have a salty flavour. Has been used medicinally as a source of Vitamin C.

### *Notes:*



## SEAGRAPE

[ *Coccoloba uvifera* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Polygonaceae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Tree
<i>Habitats:</i>	Common throughout Bahamas, usually near the coast.
<i>Soils:</i>	Moist, well-drained sandy or limestone soils, with top layer of humus.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Moderate (can grow in nutrient poor soils, but needs some organic content to thrive).
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun.

### *Description:*

An evergreen which varies from a low shrub along coastal areas to a spreading tree up to 35 feet high in more favorable growing conditions. Leaves are dark green and shiny above and slightly paler underneath. They are large and round (4-8 inches wide) with a smooth surface and prominent veins. New leaves are reddish in colour; leaves also turn reddish-brown before they drop off. Small fragrant white flowers appear in early summer on axillary and terminal stalks. Small round fruits develop in late summer and fall; they are purple when ripe and are edible. Tolerant to salty winds and brackish water. Drought tolerance is high.

*Uses:* Bonsai, fruit tree, specimen, hedge or shade tree. Seagrape is widely used as a landscape plant in coastal areas because of its high tolerance to salt and wind. The fruit may be used for making jellies or wine, but is most commonly eaten fresh.

### *Notes:*



## COONTIE FLORIDA ARROWROOT

[ *Zamia pumila* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Zamiaceae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Small palmlike perennial plant that grows to a height of about 3 ft (0.9 m).
<i>Habitats:</i>	Pine rocklands and hammocks.
<i>Soils:</i>	Sandy or well-drained soils.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Moderate to low; it prefers soils with organic content, grow reasonably well in nutrient poor soils.
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun to light shade.

*Description:* The coontie is a type of cycad – one of the oldest families of plants on Earth. Cycads resemble palms or ferns, but actually belong to a separate group of plants. The starchy tuber, which is poisonous unless properly treated, was harvested as "Florida Arrowroot" by Native Americans and early Florida settlers. The rare Atala Hairstreak butterfly (see inset) has been known to lay its eggs on the coontie. Atala caterpillars may also eat young shoots from the coontie.

*Uses:* Accent groundcover in residential and commercial landscapes, woodland and shady gardens where it provides a rich evergreen backdrop for flowering species all year long. The coontie is highly drought tolerant and will tolerate some salt, but is not recommended for planting directly on the beach. Male and female reproductive parts are in the form of cones and are found on separate plants. Seeds may be propagated, but young plants grow slowly.

### *Notes:*



## DOGWOOD JAMAICA DOGWOOD

[ *Piscidia piscipula* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Leguminosae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	20 – 50 foot Tree.
<i>Habitats:</i>	Relatively common throughout Bahamas, but not Inagua.
<i>Soils:</i>	Moist, well-drained limestone soils, with humus.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Moderate (can grow in nutrient poor soil, but prefers some organic material).
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun.

*Description:* Dogwood is native to Central America, Florida and the West Indies. Blooms in early summer; many white flowers with a hint of pink and purple. Fruits in summer. The fruit pods look like crinkly paper and have four projecting longitudinal wings. The bark is yellow to gray-brown on the outside and lighter coloured on the inside. Dogwood has an unpleasant, bitter taste and causes a burning sensation in the mouth. The bark gives off an unpleasant odor.

*Uses:* The wood is used in boat building. Dogwood contains a compound called Rotenone that can be used as an insecticide. The bark has been used in alternative medicine, but is not recommended without consultation.

*Notes:*



## SAFFRON TREE SATINLEAF

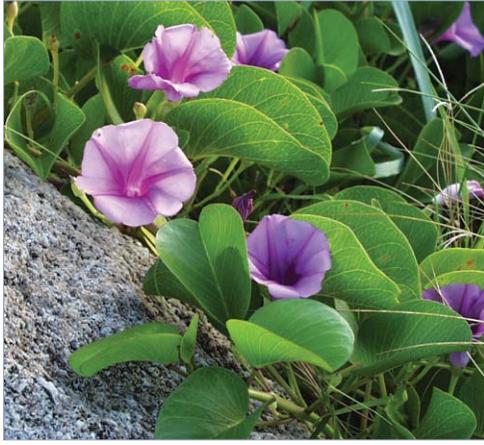
[ *Chrysophyllum oliviforme* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Sapotaceae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Evergreen shrub or tree.
<i>Habitats:</i>	Broadleaf areas, Pinelands.
<i>Soils:</i>	Clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; well-drained; occasionally wet.
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun, partial sun or partial shade.

*Description:* Satinleaf is a medium-sized tree (35' - 45' mature) noted for its unusually beautiful foliage. The leaves are about 4 inches long, with a dark green colour on the top surface and a coppery brown colour underneath. The trunks are covered with thin, light reddish-brown, scaly bark. Inconspicuous white flowers are followed by small, sweet, purple fruits.

*Uses:* Specimen, shade or street tree. Can also be used as a screen.

*Notes:*



## RAILROAD VINE

### GOAT'S FOOT VINE

[ *Ipomoea pes-caprae* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Convolvulaceae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Evergreen Perennial Vine.
<i>Habitats:</i>	Beaches and coastal rocks.
<i>Soils:</i>	Sand.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Low.
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun.

#### *Description:*

Fleshy leaves are alternate on this trailing vine. Leaves are nearly heart-shaped, and have an indent at the tip – the outline looks almost like a goat's foot print. The flowers are funnel shaped, and pinkish-purple in colour. Railroad vine flowers year-round.

*Uses:* Groundcover. Railroad vine is a coastal pioneer plant, which means that it is one of the first species to grow and it helps to establish the ecosystem. Along with sea oats, it helps to hold sand in place. Railroad vine normally grows above the high tide line and is extremely tolerant to wind and salt. Will not require watering once established.

#### *Notes:*



## HORSEFLESH

[ *Lysiloma sabicu* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Leguminosae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Perennial Shrub or Tree, 20 – 50ft high.
<i>Habitats:</i>	Central Bahamas in high and low mixed broadleaf areas.
<i>Soils:</i>	Dissolved soil with an optimum drainage.
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Need at least a few hours a day of solar light.

#### *Description:*

The bark is gray-brown and very rough: it breaks into long uneven strips. Leaves are dark green with a dull surface and the underside is pale green. Dense white powder puff flowers appear in early Summer and until Fall. Fruit pods appear in summer and throughout the year. Brown fruit pod grows 3-4 inches with a slight twist.

*Uses:* The wood is used in boat building.

#### *Notes:*



## LIGNUM VITAE

[ *Guaiacum sanctum* ]

<i>Family:</i>	Zygophyllaceae
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Perennial shrub or tree.
<i>Habitats:</i>	Throughout Bahamas in mixed broadleaf and coastal areas.
<i>Soils:</i>	Clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; extended flooding; well-drained
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Moderate.
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun to partial shade.

### *Description:*

A slow growing tree that typically reaches heights of 10 – 20 feet, but may grow taller. The wood is very dense and does not float. Blue flowers develop in Spring and early Summer. Has yellow fruit, which may be on the tree at the same time as the flowers making for a beautiful show. Leaves are dark green and 1 – 2 inches long. This is a good choice if you live near the coast as it is highly drought and salt tolerant This is the National Tree of The Bahamas, and is protected.

*Uses:* A specimen tree; in a container on your patio; bonsai. May be useful in bush medicine. Propagation is by seed.

### *Notes:*



## POND TOP PALM SABAL PALM, CABBAGE PALM.

[ *Sabal palmetto* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Areaceae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Up to 20 m in height, with a trunk up to 60 cm diameter- fan palm.
<i>Habitats:</i>	Along sandy shores, commonly in crowded groves, and in inland hardwood hammocks.
<i>Soils:</i>	Moist to seasonally wet or dry, well-drained to moderately well-drained sandy, limestone, or organic soils.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Moderate to Low (prefers soil with some organic content, but will grow in nutrient poor soil as well)
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun to part shade.

### *Description:*

Leaves with a bare petiole terminating in a rounded fan of numerous leaflets. Each leaf is 1.5-2 m long, with 40-60 leaflets up to 80 cm long. The flowers are yellowish-white, 5 mm across, produced in large compound panicles up to 2.5 m long, extending out beyond the leaves. Flowers in Spring, and round black fruits appear in Summer.

*Uses:* This palm is an important source of thatch. The leaves are also stripped and used for plaiting local straw work. Palm is relatively cold-tolerant and hardy, making this species a favorite with home owners and landscapers. Pond Top Palm is a hardy plant favoured in landscaping. Highly drought tolerant, this palm will not need watering once it is established. Can tolerate salty breezes, but not prolonged periods of brackish or salty soils.

### *Notes:*



## PIGEON PLUM

[ *Coccoloba diversifolia* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Polygonaceae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Small to Medium sized evergreen tree averaging 30' - 40'
<i>Habitats:</i>	Common throughout Bahamas; in sandy soils and hammocks near tidal areas.
<i>Soils:</i>	Well drained: clay, sand, loam, acidic, or alkaline soil.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Moderate to High (prefers soil with organic content)
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full or partial sun

### *Description:*

It is a small to medium-sized tree growing to 10 m (rarely to 18 m) tall. The bark is light gray, smooth, and thin but may become scaly on the largest trees. The leaves are 3–13 cm long and 1–7 cm broad, smooth edged, wavy, oval to oblong, rounded or pointed on the ends, leathery, brighter green above and paler below; leaves on young plants and root sprouts are larger than those on mature plants. Often grows with a multiple trunk. The single seeded ripe purple fruits are attractive to birds such as White Crowned Pigeons. It is resistant to high winds, salt and drought.

*Uses:* An excellent ornamental tree for yards and streets, as a canopy tree, or mixed in with other plants for screening. Once established it requires little maintenance.

### *Notes:*



## LOCUSTBERRY GUANA BERRY, PLUM BERRY

[ *Byrsonima lucida* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Malpighiaceae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Tree or Shrub.
<i>Habitats:</i>	Coastal areas, sometimes inland or in scrub land.
<i>Soils:</i>	Moist, well-drained limestone soils, with or without humusy top layer.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Moderate to low; it prefers soils with organic content, but will still grow reasonably well in nutrient poor soils.
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun to light shade.

### *Description:*

Locustberry is a multifunctional tropical tree/shrub that grows to an average of 10-20 feet. The bark is light to dark brown and sometimes mottled. The leaves are evergreen: a dark shiny green above and a pale gray-green on the underside. Eyecatching, multi-coloured flowers in hues of white, pink and dark red develop in Spring and early Summer. The berries are edible, but not very palatable. They ripen from green to brown during the rainy season, and give off a sweet smell.

*Uses:* It takes trimming very well, so there is great flexibility in its use. Plant it as a border shrub and maintain it under 6 feet tall, or encourage it to grow into a small tree with a big head, getting eventually up to 20 feet tall, and at least that wide. Locustberry does best in well-drained locations, and once established needs no irrigation. Accent flowering shrub. Also useful in buffer plantings.

### *Notes:*



## MAHOGANY MADEIRA

[ *Swietenia mahagoni* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Meliaceae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Semi-evergreen tree, 20 – 50ft high
<i>Habitats:</i>	Common throughout Bahamas.
<i>Soils:</i>	Tolerant to acidic and alkaline soils.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Moderate (can grow in nutrient poor soil, but prefers some organic material)
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun to partial shade.

### *Description:*

Mahogany has a thick straight trunk with variable bark. Colour of the bark is brown to dark brown and the texture is smooth or rough. Small yellow-green flowers bloom on axillary stalks in summer. Woody brown fruits appear in winter and stand on upturned branch tips. The fruits split to reveal many winged seeds that resemble helicopter rotors when they fall to the ground.

*Uses:* An excellent shade or specimen tree on the cays or mainland Abaco, but should not be planted with direct exposure to salty ocean breezes.

### *Notes:*



## ORANGE GEIGER CORDIA, GEIGER TREE, ANACONDA

[ *Cordia sebestena* ]

<i>Family:</i>	<i>Boraginaceae</i>
<i>Plant Type:</i>	Evergreen Tree
<i>Habitats:</i>	Coastal areas throughout The Bahamas.
<i>Soils:</i>	Various, an ideal plant for problem soils.
<i>Nutritional Requirements:</i>	Moist but well-drained soils in sunny to partially shaded places are preferred, but it is adaptable to dry, even somewhat saline soils.
<i>Light Requirements:</i>	Full sun.

### *Description:*

A small tropical tree growing up to a height of 25 feet with evergreen heartshaped leaves. Orange blooms appear throughout the year, but mostly in Summer. The flowers are a dark orange colour and are arranged in clusters. Fruits throughout the year, but mostly in Summer and Fall. Heart-shaped Leaves have a rough upper surface and slightly toothed margins.

*Uses:* Shade tree; specimen tree; street tree.

### *Notes:*