

## Go Native at the Nursery

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.

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



## Abaco-Friendly Landscaping

Protected Trees	Common Name	Botanical 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 caribea var. bahamensis</i>
	Horseflesh	<i>Lysiloma sabiau 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>
A permit is required to harvest or remove any protected tree in The Bahamas		



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# Where ever you are... Native plants are best for the environment.

## Native plants will:

- ⇒ Attract local birds, butterflies and other insects
- ⇒ Help to combat erosion on your property
- ⇒ Reduce your landscaping maintenance (they need less water, too!)
- ⇒ Provide stop over habitat for migrating wildlife
- ⇒ Be more tolerant of local weather conditions (such as wind and salt spray)

## Nature's Compost

Typical native trees that grow in the coppice forest are deciduous, meaning they drop their leaves throughout the year. As the leaves decompose, nutrients are released into the soil, providing a natural fertilizer. Iron, a mineral essential to healthy soil, is released in large quantities by decaying poisonwood leaves. The high concentration of iron will improve soil quantity and save money and time dealing with chemical fertilizers.

### Ecosystem Services

Native plants play an important part in protecting our islands from storm damage, holding dunes and precious soil in place better than non-natives.

## Invasive Species Concerns



**Casuarinas** have been widespread through The Bahamas for years. Only recently have we realized the effect that they are having on our environment. They have shallow roots and promote erosion, they deter other plants from growing in the same area, attract sand flies and can act as a road block to turtles wanting to dig nests on the beach.

**Hawaiian Seagrapes** are extremely invasive and will grow in almost any area you can find soil. They are salt tolerant and may grow in large stands up to 10ft tall! Other plants may not grow in the same location because they are out competed by the Hawaiian Seagrape.



**Brazilian Pepper** has been used as a decorative plant in The Bahamas for many years. It is sometimes called Bahamian holly for its green foliage and red fruits. This tree is actually a relative of poison wood and can cause skin irritations and respiratory problems. This tree is a fast grower and

**Jumbey** (*Leucaena leucocephala*) is native to Mexico. Tolerant of fire and drought, these plants can grow in dense thickets. Jumbey has small brown pods containing many seeds, which help it spread like a weed.

