

Going Native After Ian—Beautifully!

Hurricane Ian on September 28, 2022 and the 4 to 14 foot storm surge that covered the island changed the Sanibel landscape. You now have to consider the salt impact on your plants. At least for a time, fresh water on Sanibel is now brackish. Most natives can tolerate this. Can you have a beautiful landscape while complying with the Vegetation Standards of the Sanibel Code, i.e. 75% native and 25% non-competing exotics in each plant category (trees, shrubs, groundcovers).* Yes, You Can! Start simply by taking your current landscape plan and switch out non-natives for natives. A good guide is for every non-native you must have three natives in that category. Your Landscaper knows the natives and eco zones of the Sanibel Vegetation Standards but it is up to the Homeowner to ensure this is done to code.

UF/IFAS General Landscape Design Principles

- ✓ **Organization:** Create outdoor “rooms” by using pathways, hardscapes, and plants to divide and organize spaces.
- ✓ **Proportion:** Keep size of the plants proportional to the house and spaces in yard.
- ✓ **Repetition:** Repeat plant materials for a unified and cohesive look, with just enough variety for interest.
- ✓ **Variety:** Make the yard interesting by varying plant sizes (especially heights), color, texture, and shape.
- ✓ **Composition:** Group and arrange plants in overlapping masses based on size, form, color, and growing requirements.
- ✓ **Emphasis:** Use dramatically different plants as focal points to attract attention.

* Seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) requires 100% native.

References: <https://floridaplantatlas.usf.edu>

Guidance on Restoring Your Sanibel Home Post-Hurricane Ian

[/news-announcements/news/guidance-on-restoring-your-sanibel-home-post-hurricane-ian](#)

Below are suggested and available Natives to add to your landscape.

	Suggested Native Plant	Water Requirements	Salt Tolerance
Native Trees	Cinnamon Bark	dry to moist	moderate
	Dahoon Holly	dry to flood	moderate
	Jamaican Dogwood	dry to moist	high
	Mahogany	dry to moist	high
	Paradise Tree	dry to moist	moderate
	Pigeon Plum	dry to moist	high
	Pitch Apple (<i>Clusia rosea</i>)	dry to moist	high
	Satinleaf	dry to moist	moderate
	Seagrape	dry to flood	high
	Strangler Fig	dry to flood	high

	Wild Tamarind	dry to flood	high
Native Palms	Cabbage or Sabal	dry to moist	high
	Everglades or Paurotis	dry to flood	moderate
	Florida Thatch	dry to moist	moderate
	Green or Silver Saw Palmettos	dry to flood	high
Native Shrubs	Bahama Cassia	dry	low
	Bay Cedar	dry	high
	Beautyberry	dry	low
	Cocoplum (red-tipped & green)	dry to moist	high
	Cocoplum (horizontal)	dry to moist	high
	Coffee (wild)	dry to moist	moderate
	Coffee (short leaf)	dry	low
	Coontie	dry to moist	low
	Dwarf Yaupon Holly (Schillings)	dry	moderate
	Firebush	dry to moist	moderate
	Florida Privet	moist	moderate
	Jamaican Caper	dry to moist	high
	Locustberry	dry	moderate
	Marlberry	dry to moist	high
	Myrsine	dry to moist	high
	Green Necklace Pod	dry	high
	Red Stopper (Spiceberry)	moist	low
	Silver Buttonwood	dry to moist	high
	Simpson Stopper	dry to moist	moderate
	Spanish Stopper	dry to moist	high
Wax Myrtle	dry to flood	moderate	
White Indigo Berry	dry to moist	high	
Native Grasses	Elliott's or Purple Love Grass	dry	low
	Fakahatchee (standard & dwarf)	dry to moist	moderate
	Muhly Grass	dry	high
	Sand Cord Grass (Spartina)	moist	high
	Sea Oats	dry	high
Native Ground Covers	Bacopa	moist to flood	high
	Beach Verbena (Coastal)	dry	low
	Dune Sunflower	dry	high
	Dwarf Blue Porterweed	dry to moist	low
	Giant Leather Fern	moist to flood	high
	Golden Canna	wet to flood	low
	Golden Creeper	dry to moist	low
	Matchweed (Frogfruit)	moist	low
	Mimosa (powderpuff)	dry	moderate
	Railroad Vine	dry	high



Red Copperleaf with native **Silver Buttonwood**



Silver Buttonwood, Horizontal Cocoplum with Cabbage Palms



Silver Buttonwood, Muhly Grass, Wild Coffee, Red-tipped Cocoplum, Cabbage Palms



Thatch Palm and Dwarf Fakahatchee



Sea grape and Silver Buttonwood



Silver Saw Palmetto, Cocoplum, Buttonwood **Everglades Palm, Cinnamon Bark, Pitch Apple, Dwarf Fakahatchee, Muhly Grass and Coffee**



Bismarck Palm, Thatch Palm, Christmas Palm, Everglades Palm, Coconut Palm with Dwarf Fakahatchee and Muhly Grass



The native Clusia, Pitch Apple



Silver Buttonwood with Sea or Pigeon Plum