



Native Plants of Sanibel

Bahama Senna, Cassia (*Senna mexicana* var. *chapmanii*)

- 6–8 ft
- Fast growing
- Salt tolerant
- Blooms
October – July



Compound leaves

Yellow blooms



Pods

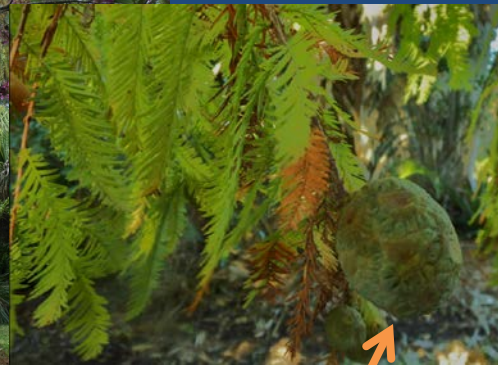
Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

- Tall conifer up to 20 ft
- Deciduous – lose needles in winter
- Found in/near water

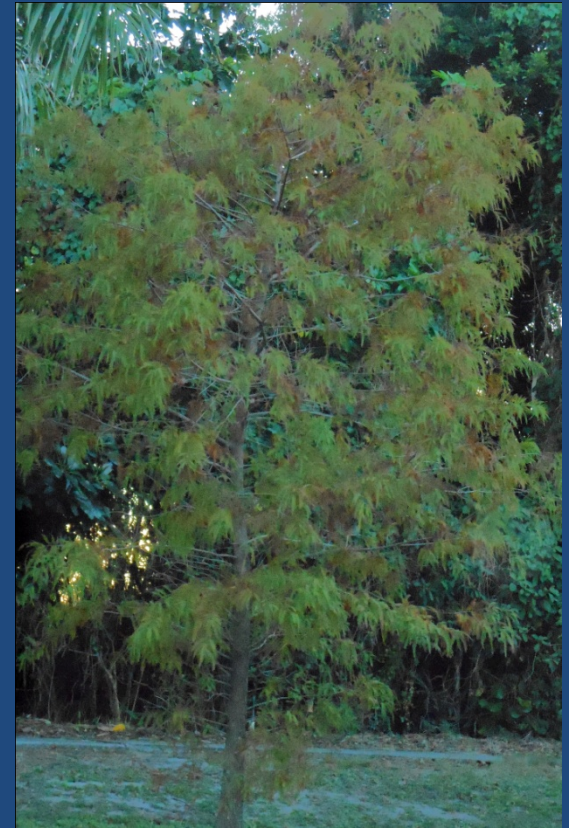


Swollen base
of trunk

Flattened,
feathery needles



Round cones



Knees provide support

Bay Cedar (*Suriana maritima*)

- 10 ft shrub
- Paddle-shaped leaves in clusters at end of branches
- Highly salt tolerant



Small yellow flower



Beauty Berry (*Callicarpa americana*)



Small pink flowers

- 6-7 ft shrub
- 7 x 3 inch leaves with serrated edges



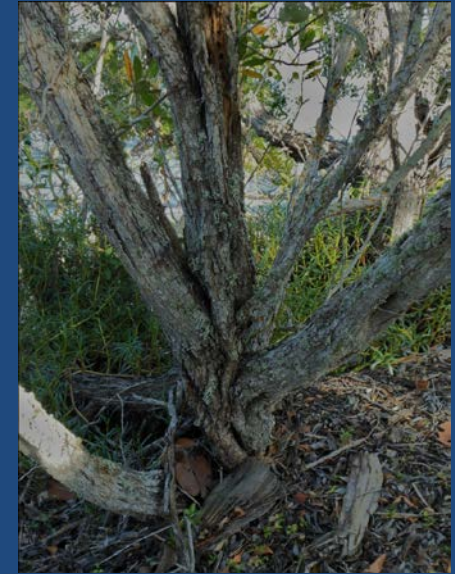
Purple berries

Buttonwood, Green (*Conocarpus erectus*)

- 40-50 ft tree
- Leaves oval, pointed, 3-4 inches
- Can grow in swampy areas



May have multiple trunks



Rough textured trunk



Flowers

Brown woody
cones ("buttons"),
up to ½ inch

Buttonwood, Silver (*Conocarpus erectus*)

- 20–35 ft
- Shrubby tree
- Silver/gray pointed leaves



Red pods



Hedged

Cabbage Palm (*Sabal palmetto*)

- State tree of Florida
- Can reach 50-60 ft
- Large palmate leaves
- Round black fruit



“Boots” on trunk are old leaf bases



Triangular base of leaflets



Black fruit

Cat's Claw (*Pithecellobium unguis-cati*)

- Up to 20 ft tree or shrub
- Compound leaflets are round
- Spiral shaped pods
- Two spines at base of each leaf
- Often host of thorn bugs



Flowers



Cocoplum (*Chrysobalanus icaco*)

- 15-20 ft shrub
- Round shiny leaves
- Fruit is edible



New growth is reddish



1 ½ inch Fruit



Small white flowers



Hedged

Coontie (*Zamia pumila*)



- Shrub with fern-like leaves
- 2-5 ft
- Evergreen, stiff, compound leaves
- Only native cycad



Cones produced at ground level

Coral Bean (*Erythrina herbacea*)

- Up to 20 ft tree or shrub
- Arrow-shaped leaves
- Bright red tubular flowers
- Deciduous



Red seeds in dark pods

Dahoon Holly (*Ilex cassine*)

- Up to 40 ft evergreen tree
- 1 ½ to 4 inch leaves with smooth or toothed edges with bristle at tip
- ¼ inch round red or orange fruit
- Can tolerate wet conditions



Flower

Fruit

Fiddlewood (*Citharexylum spinosum*)

- Shrub or tree up to 40 ft
- Elongated leathery shiny leaves with an orange midrib
- ½ inch reddish brown fruit



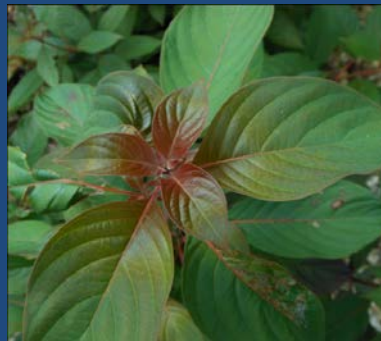
Flower



Fruit

Firebush (*Hamelia patens*)

- Shrub up to 20 ft
- 3–7 whorled leaves
- **Red to orange** tubular flowers
- Reddish leaf veins and stems; **leaves are softly hairy**



Reddish new growth



Fruit turns red to black

NOTE: Firebushes labeled as "Dwarf", "African", or "Mexican" are *not* native; non-native firebushes have smooth leaves and flowers that are more strongly yellow colored.

Florida Privet, Wild Olive (*Forestiera segregata*)

- 10 ft shrub or tree
- Small narrow leaves
- May be evergreen or deciduous



¼ inch black fruit



Small green-yellow flowers

Golden Creeper (*Ernodea littoralis*)

- 4 ft vine-like shrub
- ¼ to 1 inch narrow leaves
- White, yellow or pink flowers
- Yellow fruit



Good edging planting

Gumbo Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*)

- Deciduous tree up to 75 ft
- Peeling copper-colored bark with turpentine odor
- Compound leaves
- ¼ to ½ inch green to brown fruit



Flowers



Fruit turn from green to red and brown

Jamaican Caper

Capparis cynophallophora

- Up to 20 ft tall shrub
- Shiny, elongated leaves, ½ - 2 ½ inches



Flowers



Seed pods



Leaf upper side shiny, underside pale



Opened pods with exposed seeds

Jamaican Dogwood (*Piscidia piscipula*)

- Deciduous tree to about 50 ft
- Compound leaves with 5-11 leaflets
- Leaflets often rolled under
- Flowers white or pink in clusters on long stalks



Fruit a pod with
four papery wings



Joewood (*Jacquinia keyensis*)

- Evergreen shrub or small tree to 20 ft
- Leaves in whorls near end of branches, often rolled under
- Funnel-shaped, white or pale flowers; wonderfully fragrant
- Fruit green, maturing to yellow or red berry, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter



Fruit



Flowers

★ Joewood is listed as a “Threatened” species by the State of Florida and was designated the Official Plant of the City of Sanibel in 1989.

Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*)

- Shrub or medium-sized, semi-evergreen tree with thick ridged bark
- Leaves alternate, simple thick, leathery, coarsely veined
- Leaf edges downwardly folded
- Fruit is $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch acorn with pointed tip



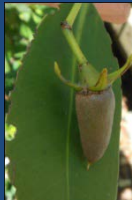
Fruit is acorn



Leaf margins rolled under

Mangroves

Red Mangrove
(*Rhizophora mangle*)



Forming propagule

Black Mangrove
(*Avicennia germinans*)



Pointed leaves with gray underside

White Mangrove
(*Laguncularia racemosa*)



Rounded leaves with glands on petiole

Marlberry (*Ardisia escalloniodes*)

- Evergreen shrub or small tree to 25 ft
- Leaves shiny green on upper surfaces
- Leaves arranged in spiral along stem



White flowers at end of branches



Green fruit
ripens to black



Mastic (*Sideroxylon foetidissimum*)

- Large upright tree to 50-60 ft
- Widely branched with irregular shape
- Leaves grow in whorls at end of branches



7-8 inch leaves with wavy margins



Orange fruit



Small yellow flowers in clusters

Mahogany, West Indian Mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*)

- Low-branching up to 50 ft tree with round shape
- Compound leaves with 1-4 inch leaflets
- Bark has rough scales
- Conspicuous fruit or pods



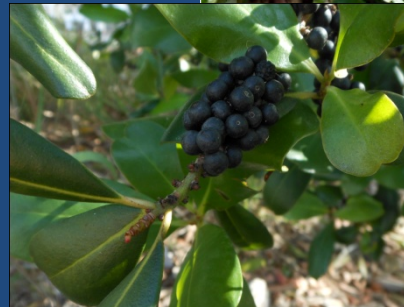
Pods with seeds inside

Myrsine (*Rapanea punctata*)

- Evergreen shrub 8-20 ft
- Single or multi-stemmed
- Alternative dark green leaves mostly clustered on end of branches
- Flowers and fruit on stem
- Can be used as hedge



Flowers



Fruit on stem

Necklace Pod

(*Sophora tomentosa* var. *truncata*)

- Shrub or small tree to 20 ft
- Alternate compound leaves
- Leaflets round, **bright green** and **smooth**
- Yellow, irregularly shaped flowers
- Multiple pods with constrictions between seeds



“Necklace” pods



NOTE: Most necklace pod sold in the landscape trade is the **non-native** *Sophora tomentosa* var. *occidentalis* (native to Texas). This variety has fuzzy/hairy leaves that give the plant a silvery cast.

Paurotis Palm, Everglades Palm (*Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*)

- Up to 40 ft tree
- Multiple trunks
- Spiny petioles
- Fruit reddish yellow turning black



Fan-shaped leaves



Clump forming

Pitch Apple (*Clusia rosea*)

- Medium sized evergreen tree up to 60 ft
- Large, thick, rounded, simple leaves are smooth and glossy
- White flowers with yellow centers
- Large brown fruit



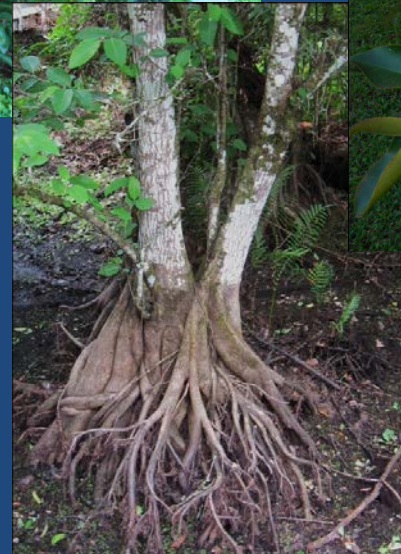
NOTE: Only the large-leaf Pitch Apple (*Clusia rosea*) is considered native to Florida. The common landscape plants sold as “Small-leaf Clusia” or “*Clusia guttifera*” are not native.

Pond Apple (*Annona glabra*)

- Evergreen shrub to 20 ft
- Shiny leathery leaves
- Flowers pale yellow



Apple-like fruit



Exposed roots when dry



Turned up leaves

Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*)

- Shrubby palm to 12 ft
- Creeping rough brown trunk, forms dense thickets
- Leaves have spines along stalks
- Flowers on long branched clusters



Palmate leaves – do not have triangular base of Cabbage Palm leaf



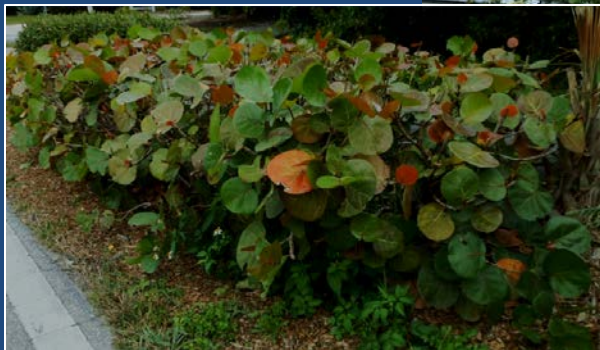
Low-growing trunk

Seagrape (*Coccoloba uvifera*)

- Tree up to 30 ft
- Large round leathery leaves
- New leaves bronze in color
- Edible $\frac{3}{4}$ inch fruit turns purple



Flower



Hedged



Fruit in grapelike cluster

Seven Year Apple (*Genipa clusiifolia*)

- Shrub to 10 ft
- Shiny leathery 6 inch opposite leaves
- Green pear-shaped fruit turns black
- Fragrant 1-1 ½ inch white flowers
- Salt, drought tolerant

Fruit



Simpson's Stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*)

- Shrub to 20 ft
- Small cupped leathery leaves
- Attractive multi-colored peeling bark
- White flowers at leaf bases
- Orange fruit



Snowberry (*Chiococca alba*)

- Multi-branched, evergreen, trailing, vine-like shrub
- Leaves opposite, simple, dark green shiny above



Flower buds



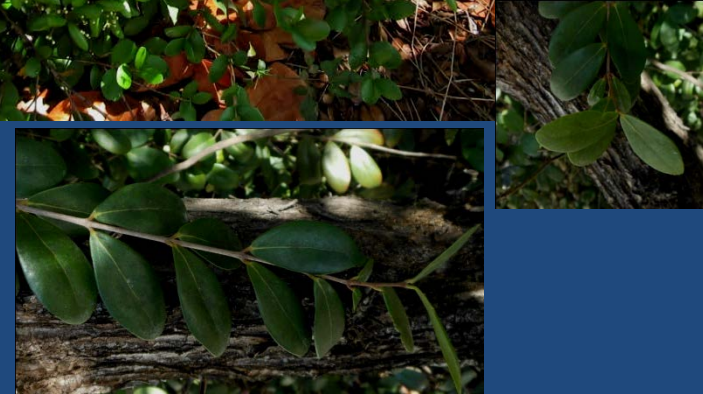
White fruit

Spanish Stopper (*Eugenia foetida*)

- Small evergreen shrub or tree to 20 ft
- White flowers at leaf bases
- Bark smooth gray and mottled
- Leaves opposite, simple, leathery, aromatic and round
- Fruit reddish orange and matures to black



New leaves are reddish yellow



Strangler Fig (*Ficus aurea*)

- Large evergreen tree up to 65 ft
- Often starts as epiphyte growing on other trees
- Leaves are alternate, simple, thick and leathery
- Fruit at leaf axils



Fruit



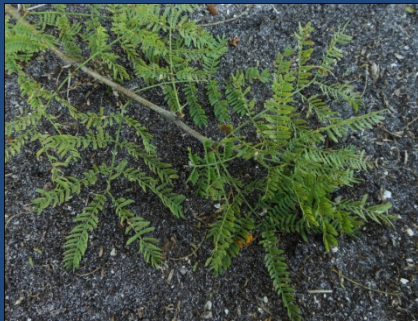
Young fig on palm trunk



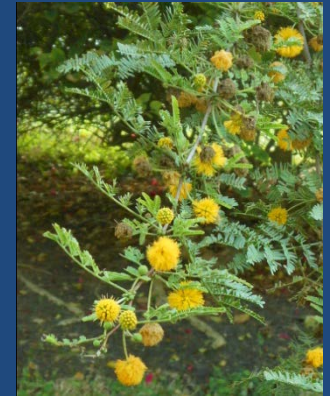
Pointed newly formed leaf

Sweet Acacia (*Acacia farnesiana*)

- Deciduous shrub or multi-branched tree up to 18 ft
- Compound feathery leaves
- Bright yellow round flowers
- Cylindrical pods



Bipinnately compound leaves



Round yellow blossoms



Green pods turn brown



Paired spines

Varnish Leaf (*Dodonaea viscosa*)

- Low evergreen shrub to 15 ft
- Mostly narrow yellow/green leaves
- Leaves sometimes feel sticky and can appear varnished



Flower buds



Three-winged fruit

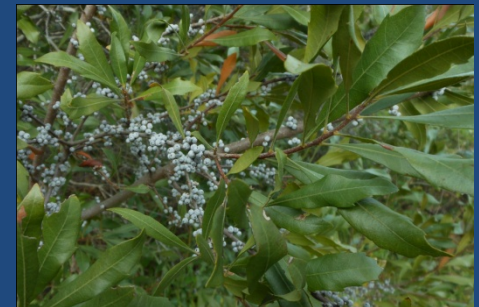


Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)

- Evergreen shrub up to 40 ft
- Alternate leaves are narrow with irregular and toothed edges
- Aromatic leaves smell of bayberry



Catkin (slim, cylindrical cluster) flowers



Dried seed pods on stem

White Indigoberry (*Randia aculeata*)

- Small evergreen shrub to 10 ft
- Simple rounded opposite leaves with pointed leaf tips
- Opposite branching
- Flowers with 5 white petals
- Fruit green, ripens to white



White flowers

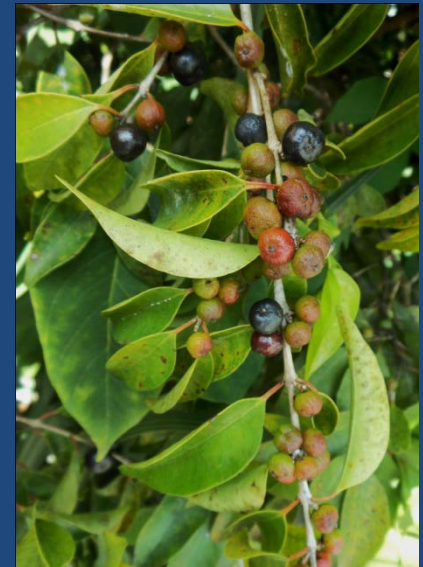


White fruit w/ blue (indigo) flesh



White Stopper (*Eugenia axillaris*)

- Evergreen shrub to small tree to 20 ft
- Opposite, simple leaves with pointed tips
- Gives off “skunk” odor
- Named for light colored bark
- Fragrant white flowers



Red fruit turns to black

Wild Coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*)

- Erect evergreen shrub up to 10 ft
- Opposite simple leaves depressed veins and pointed tips
- Small white tubular flowers
- Round red fruit



Small white flowers



Textured leaves



Red berries

Wild Cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*)

- Short shrub or bushy tree to 15 ft
- Three lobed leaves are alternate
- Flowers creamy white or yellow, buds pinkish



Cottony seed covering



Flowers have petals with red spot on base

Wild Lime (*Zanthoxylum fagara*)

- Evergreen shrub or tree up to 34 ft
- Alternate, shiny, compound leaves with small round leaflets



Small yellow flowers along stem



Winged stem between leaves



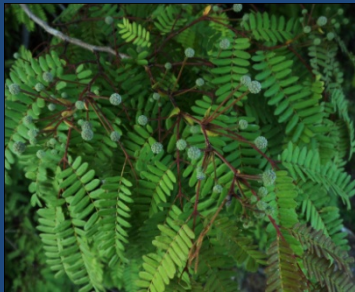
Ripe fruit is black

Wild Tamarind (*Lysiloma latisiliquum*)

- Small to medium deciduous tree up to 65 ft
- Alternate, compound delicate leaves; tiny leaflets are round at the tip
- Fruit is a short (4 inch), flat pod that remains on tree for months



New leaves are red



Buds



White round flowers



Pods are spiral shaped

NOTE: May closely resemble the invasive exotic Lead Tree (*Leucaena leucocephala*); however, leaflets of the Lead Tree are pointed at the tip (more sickle-shaped) and the mid-vein is off-set. The seed pod is also longer, thicker, and narrower, and the seeds are more numerous, larger and much more conspicuous.