

Tough Plants for Tough Places: Low-maintenance Shrubs and Trees for Coastal Landscapes



Choosing the Right Plant

Ranked by salt tolerance:

- High (**H**)—direct salt spray; place on dunes/beach front
- Moderate (**M**)—indirect salt spray; landscapes adjacent to beach front; may be sheltered by other plants
- Slight (**S**)—low → no salt spray; plant in areas adjacent to buffers or protected areas


Choose the Right Plant

Ranked by water use:

- High 💧💧💧—plants need frequent, sometimes daily watering if no rain
- Moderate 💧💧 —plants need water 2-3 times/week, more in drought
- Low 💧 —plants need no supplemental water except in extended droughts; ranked as *drought tolerant*

Shrubs for Oak Island


Dwarf Yaupon Holly (*Ilex opaca*) (H)

- Evergreen, up to 6'
- Can be pruned to desired shape and size
- Sun 
- 'Bordeaux', 'Schillings', 'Stoke's Dwarf'



Shrubs for Oak Island

American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) (M)

- Deciduous shrub 4-6'
- Bright purple berries in late summer
- Sun 
- Bird food
- 'Atropurpurea' good selection for improved berry colors



Shrubs for Oak Island

Chaste tree (*Vitex sp.*) (H)

- Deciduous, 3-15'
- Can be pruned to desired shape and size
- Sun 💧
- 'Shoal Creek', 'Delta Blues', 'Danica Pink', 'Petty Blue', 'Dale White'



Shrubs for Oak Island

Lorapetulum/Chinese Fringeflower(*Lorapetulum* sp.) (M)

- Evergreen, 3-15'
- Can be pruned to desired shape and size
- Sun—pt. shade 💧 💧
- 'Ruby', 'Burgundy', 'Crimson Fire'



Shrubs for Oak Island


Japanese Plum Yew (*Cephalotaxus harringtonia*) (M)

- Evergreen, 3-10'
- Upright or sprawling
- Shade 🌧️ 🌧️
- 'Duke Gardens' 3x4'
- 'Fastigiata' 10'x8'
- 'Prostrata' 2x3'



Shrubs for Oak Island


Upright Junipers (*Juniperus* sp.) (H)

- Evergreen, 10-15'; width varies
- Upright, columnar
- Sun 
- 'Spartan' 12'x4'
- 'Blue Arrows' 12x2'
- 'Brodie' 25x7' (Good replacement for Aborvitae)



Shrubs for Oak Island

Shrub Junipers (*Juniperus* sp.) (H)

- Evergreen, up to 4'; width varies
- Sprawling
- Sun 
- 'Nick's Compact' 4x6'
- 'Sea Green' 5x6'
- 'Blue Pacific' 8"x8'
- 'Grey Owl' 3'x5'



Shrubs for Oak Island

Oleander (*Nerium oleander*) (H)

- Evergreen, up to 10'
- Sun 💧
- Cut back hard when overgrown



Shrubs for Oak Island

Anise Tree (*Illicium parviflorum*) (M)

- Evergreen, up to 10'
- Sun—pt. shade 🌑🌑🌑
- Plant in well-amended soil;
- Plant around AC units, under eaves



Shrubs for Oak Island

Wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) (H)

- Evergreen, up to 15'
- Sun—pt. shade 🌿
- Can be pruned to 'tree-form'
- Drought, flood, and pH tolerant
- 'Don's Dwarf'



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Shrubs for Oak Island

Pineapple Guava (*Feijoa sellowiana*) (L)

- Evergreen, up to 15'
- Sun—pt. shade 🌿 🌿
- Can be pruned to 'tree-form'
- Edible fruits and flowers
- Site in a protected area; freeze damage
- 'Bambina' 4x6'



Shrubs for Oak Island

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Trees for Oak Island

Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) (L)

- Deciduous, up to 15'
- Sun—pt. shade 🌑 🌑
- Good tolerance to urban environments



Trees for Oak Island

Chinese Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus retusus*) (L)

- Deciduous, up to 25'
- Sun—pt. shade 🌑 🌑
- Lustrous leaves; better flowering
- Interesting small flowering tree/shrub



Trees for Oak Island

Pawpaw (*Ilex decidua*) (L)

- Deciduous, up to 30'
- Sun– pt. shade 🌑 🌑
- Purple spring flowers
- Edible fruit



Trees for Oak Island

Red buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*) (L)

- Deciduous, up to 20'
- Morning sun – pt. shade 📍 📍
- Sun scald will occur in full sun sites!



Trees for Oak Island

Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*) (M)

- Deciduous, up to 15'
- Sun– pt. shade 🌑 🌑
- Bright red berries in fall



Trees for Oak Island

Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*) (M)

- Deciduous, up to 100'
- Sun 💧
- Wind, salt-tolerant, drought
- Good tolerance to urban environments
- Long-lived, resistant to many pests



Trees for Oak Island

Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*) (H)

- Evergreen, up to 80'
- Sun 🌑
- Wind, salt-tolerant, drought
- Patience.



Hurricane Recovery for Trees

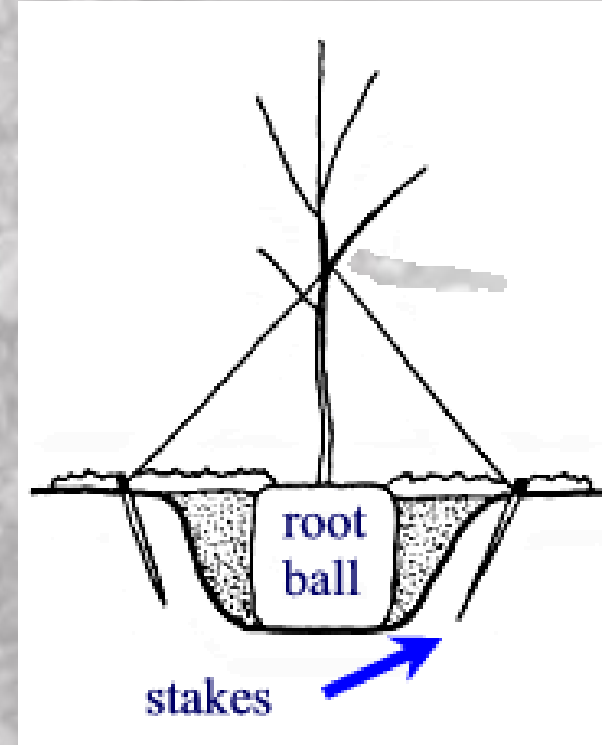
Righting trees that are leaning (trees <6" or less)

1. Determine that the main trunk is not cracked or broken
2. Moisten the root system prior to righting the trees
3. Dig underneath heaved roots to the depth of the mass that has been lifted out
4. Slowly pull trees upright
5. Fill soil in around roots and irrigate
6. Stake the tree once it has been reset

Hurricane Recovery for Trees

Staking Trees the right way

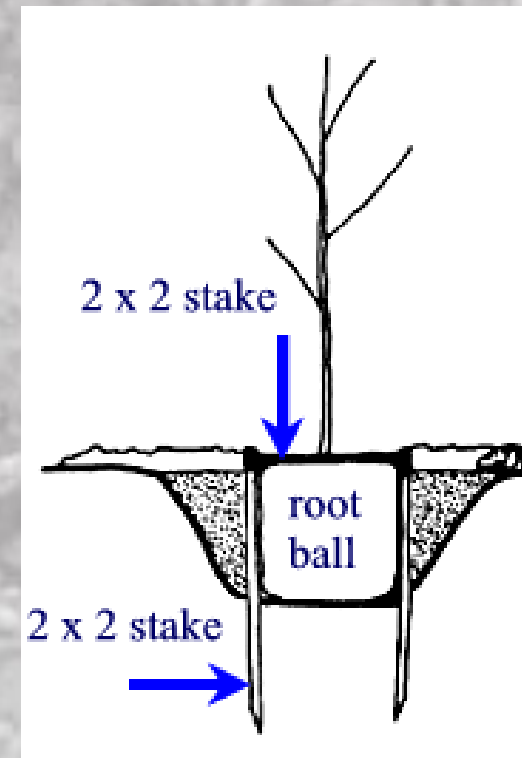
ArborTie around the main trunk and staked to the ground;



Hurricane Recovery for Trees

Staking Trees the right way

Make your own stakes; this is the ideal method for correcting/establishing trees



Helpful Links

Newcomer's Packet: [click here](#)

Staking Trees: [click here](#)

NC State Plants Database: [click here](#)

PDF of this presentation: brunswick.ces.ncsu.edu >