

GROUNDS COMMITTEE SUGGESTED PLANTS FOR THE ISLES

September 2015

	COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMENTS	2015 GC APPROVED PRUNING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOMEOWNER LOTS **
PALMS	Alexander Palm	Ptychosperma elegans	Lovely smaller scale palm, eventually growing to 20'; good for small landscapes; sun - part sun, part shade; self-cleaning; best in protected area	
	Areca Palm	Chrysalidocarpus lutescens/Dypsis lutescens	Clustering palm, meaning many trunks spring up from same base	Palms up to 15' are pruned by contracted Maintenance Company during rotational detail work. Large growing palms are pruned by Special Contractor as necessary to remove seed pods, dead leaves etc., usually 1-2 times annually
	Arenga or Dwarf Sugar Palm	Arenga engleri/Arenga tremula	Slow growing palm to about 8' tall; multi-trunk, clustering palms	
	Bamboo Palm	Chamaedorea microspadix	Slow growing, clustering palms for shade; good container plants	
	Bismark Palm	Bismarckia nobilis		
	Cabbage Palm	Sabal palmetto	Can specify 'crooked or curved', 'slick' or 'booted'	
	Cat Palm	Chamaedorea cataractarum		
	Christmas Palm	Veitchia merrillii	Slow growing to 12'-15'; Protected location is best; self-cleaning	
	European Fan Palm	Chamaerops humilis	Compact palm; sun-shade	
	Foxtail Palm	Wodyetia bifurcata	Low maintenance (self-cleaning)	
	Lady Palm	Rhapis excelsa	Relatively small scale palm for shade, part shade	
	Medjool Date Palm	Phoenix dactylifera		
	Pindo Palm	Butia capitata	Long feathery fronds	
	Pygmy Date Palm	Phoenix robelenii	Single or cluster	
	Queen Palm	Syagrus romanzoffiana		
	Royal Palm	Roystonea elata		
	Saw Palmetto	Serona repens	Sun-part shade; use as groundcover or understory	Rarely needs pruning
	Spindle Palm	Hyophorbe verschaffeltii	Slow growing to a about 20	
	Sylvester Palm	Phoenix sylvestris		
	Washington Palm	Washingtonia robusta		

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Trees and Large Shrubs	Copper Plant	Acalpha wilkesiana	Distinctive multi-colored foliage; coloration is more intense in full sun. Prune to control size.	4' , if needed
	Allamanda Bush	Allamanda schottii	Yellow trumpet flower; can grow to 5 ft or more; tends to get leggy as it ages	3-4'
	Arboricola capella	Schefflera arboricola 'Gold C	Large growing variegated	4' Ft
	Arboricola capella 'Green'	Schefflera arboricola 'Green'	Lush green mid size shrub	3 - 4 Ft
	Bald Cypress	Taxodium distichum		
	Black Olive, Shady Lady	Bucida buceras 'Shady Lady'		
	Bottlebrush	Callistemon rigidus	Fast growing large shrub or tree	4-5' as shrub; better suited as tree
	Buttonwood	Conocarpus erectus var. sericeus	Lovely silver foliage; natural vase shape so works well as small multi-stem tree; tends to get bare at bottom	4'-5' or multistem tree
	Cocoplum	Chrysobalanus icaco	Native plant; large shrub or small tree	4'-5'
	Crape Myrtle	Lagerstroemia indica	Numerous varieties from small shrub to tree; use disease and mildew resistant varieties	
Crinum Lily	Crinum	Large strap-like foliage with lily-like flowers in summer	Prune to remove dead or unsightly leaves	
Eugenia Tree	Eugenia hookerana			
Fatsia	Fatsia japonica	Large leaf, tropical looking evergreen. Grows 5-8'; best in shade	5'	
Gardenia*	Gardenia jasminoides	Use grafted varieties; best in part shade -shade; requires acid soil		
Golden Trumpet	Tabebuia argentea			

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Trees and Large Shrubs	Hibiscus	Hibiscus rosa-sinensis	Numerous colors; grow as shrub or standard	Heavy pruning is best done in the early spring (February or March) and should not be done late in the fall or in the winter. Such hard pruning delays flower production until mid to late summer. They do not perform well as formal sheared hedges.
	Holly Burford	Ilex cornuta 'Burfordii'		4'-5' or tree form
	Holly Dahoon	Ilex cassine		Little pruning required if sited properly
	Holly Nellie Stevens	Ilex x 'Nellie Stevens'	One of best large growing hollies for FL landscapes	Little pruning required if sited properly
	Holly Weeping	Ilex vomitoria 'Pendula'	Generally irregularly shaped but can prune to maintain desired shape	
	Japanese Blueberry	Elaeocarpus decipiens	Evergreen tree	
	Jatropha	Jatropha integerrima	Medium shrub or small tree; 'Compacta' grows 6'-8'; full to part sun; well drained	Not well-suited for sheared, manicured hedges, these plants are better in a more natural form. But with frequent "haircuts" (minor trimming back of branches) they can be kept nicely rounded for a formal landscape. 3'-4' as shrub or limb up to tree form.
	Ligustrum	Ligustrum japonicum	Shrub or small tree	4'-5' or limb up to tree form with max. of 5 stems
	Little Gem	Magnolia grandiflora 'Little Gem'	Compact, upright cultivar with slow growth habit	
	Live Oak	Quercus virginiana		Structural pruning needed as tree matures to limb up and open up canopy
	Magnolia	Magnolia grandiflora	Selected cultivars are superior to species in home landscape	
	Myrsine	Myrsine guianensis	Dense, evergreen shrub or small tree	
	Oleander	Nerium oleander	Large growing evergreen shrub or small tree	Best as large scale screen or tree

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Trees and Large Shrubs	Orange Jasmine	Murraya paniculata	Fragrant large shrub or small tree; 10-12'H; white flowers	4' as shrub; can also be grown as small tree
	Pitch Apple	Clusia rosea	Nana' is dwarf form; thick, leathery paddle-shaped leaves	4'-5'
	Plumbago	Plumbago auriculata	Blue or white flowers; best in full sun; will decline with too much water	3'-5'; Plumbago should be pruned to keep it neat and within bounds and to make it bushy to maximize the number of flowers.
	Podocarpus	Podocarpus macrophyllus	Can be pruned to maintain size	4'-5'; makes a dense screen or hedge; can also be grown as tree
	Poinciana Tree	Delonix regia	Fast growing deciduous tree with fine textured foliage and red-orange dramatic flowers	
	Red Hot Hibiscus	Hibiscus rosa-sinensis 'Red Hot'	Green, red and white variegated foliage; red flowers	Heavy pruning is best done in the early spring (February or March) and should not be done late in the fall or in the winter. Such hard pruning delays flower production until mid to late summer. They do not perform well as formal sheared hedges. 3'-4' as shrub; can also be grown as small trees
	Selloum	Philadendron bipinnatifidum 'Selloum'	Lovely tropical plant; nice in mass plantings; best in part sun to shade	
	Snowbush	Breynia disticha	Grown for attractive variegated foliage; best in part shade or shade	4'

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Trees and Large Shrubs	Hibiscus Snow Queen	Hibiscus rosa-sinensis 'Snow Queen'	Green and white variegated foliage with red flowers	Heavy pruning is best done in the early spring (February or March) and should not be done late in the fall or in the winter. Such hard pruning delays flower production until mid to late summer. They do not perform well as formal sheared hedges. 3'-4' as shrub; can also be grown as small trees
	Tibouchina	Tibouchina granulosa	Dark green, somewhat shiny leaves with 2-4" purple flowers	Best in filtered light and protection from hot afternoon sun
	Thryallis	Galphimia glauca	Grows to 6 ft.; clusters of yellow flowers	3'-4'; for dense shrubs, prune to 2' by end of February
	Viburnum awabuki	Viburnum awabuki	Large shiny leaves; can be pruned to maintain size	Good for large screen
	Viburnum, Sweet	Viburnum odoratissimum		4'-5' for foundation or cages
	Viburnum Sandankwa	Viburnum suspensum		3'-4' for foundation or cages
	White Bird of Paradise	Strelitzia nicolai	Large growing	Trim off old leaves as they become unsightly. Thin or cut back for size by cutting off the largest stalks at ground level. Pups sprouting from around the plant's base can also be removed.
Small Shrubs; Groundcovers	Allamanda dwarf	Allamanda cathartica 'Compacta'	Moderate growth rate; can maintain at 2-3 ft	3'
	Arbicola capella 'Trinette'	Schefflera arbicola 'Trinette'	Variegated; smaller growing than 'Green'	3'
	Bird of Paradise	Strelitzia regina	Stunning tropical flowers, nice foliage.	Remove dead or unsightly foliage
	Bougainvillea Helen Jo	Bougainvillea Helen Johnson	Dwarf variety	Can maintain at 3'

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Small Shrubs; Groundcovers	Cardboard Plant	Zamia furfuracea	Olive green, tropical foliage; moderate spreading - allow room for growth; ALL PARTS OF PLANT REPORTED TO BE POISONOUS	A late winter rejuvenation pruning is often needed to remove dead or declining leaves and to reshape the plants. Out of bounds shoots can be removed during warmer months. Remove seed pods when they appear. Locate where natural form can emerge. Do not prune to cylinders or boxes.
	Carissa Green Carpet	Carissa macrocarpa 'Green Carpet'	Low growing variety; small spines.	Little or no pruning needed to control height
	Carissa dwarf	Carissa macrocarpa 'Emerald Blanket'	Mounding, almost groundcover form; small spines	Little or no pruning needed to control height
	Cocoplum dwarf	Chrysobalanus icaco 'Red Tip'	Red new growth; can maintain at 4	2'-4'
	Coontie Palm	Zamia pumila	Slow growing, tough plant	Little or no pruning needed to control height
	Croton	Codiaeum variegatum	Numerous varieties	3'-4'
	Firebush Dwarf	Hamelia patens 'Compacta'	leaves and flowers; it is somewhat more compact in growth habit than the standard and can be pruned to maintain size	3'-5'
	Firecracker Plant	Russelia equisetiformis	Reedlike plant with coral blooms	Little or no pruning needed to control height
	Foxtail Fern	Asparagus densiflorus 'Myers'	Sun or shade	Little or no pruning needed to control height
	Gardenia Dwarf*	Gardenia jasminoides 'Radicans'	Low growing groundcover variety	Little or no pruning needed to control height
	Gold Mound	Duranta repens 'Gold Mound'	Bright lime-green foliage in mounding form; great for a pop of color	2' mounded form; 3'-4' natural form
	Green Island Ficus	Ficus microcarpa 'Green Island'	Compact evergreen with shiny leaves	2'-3'
	Holly Fern	Cyrtomium falcatum	Evergreen groundcover for shade	Little or no pruning needed to control height

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Small Shrubs; Groundcovers	Holly Dwarf Yaupon	Ilex vomitoria 'Schillings'		2'-3'
	Indian Hawthorn	Raphiolepis indica	Small, mounding evergreen for sun or part shade. Can be susceptible to disease and scale - use disease resistant varieties.	2'-3', if needed
	Ixora Dwarf	Ixora chinensis	Red or yellow flowers on compact plant; small leaves	3'-4'
	Ixora Maui	Ixora coccinia 'Maui'	Larger leaves and flowers than dwarf Ixora	3'-4'
	Ixora Nora Grant	Ixora coccinia 'Nora Grant'	Larger leaves and flowers than dwarf Ixora	3'-4'
	Jasmine minima	Trachelospermum asiaticum 'Minima'		8" - 12"
	Jasmine Downy	Jasminum multiflorum	Spreading, vine-like shrub with white flowers	2'-3'
	Jasmine Angelwing	Jasminum nitidum	Fast growing vine with star-shaped white flowers	2'-3'
	Juniper Parson's	Juniperus squamata expansa 'Parsonii'		Little or no pruning needed to control height
	Juniper Blue Pacific	Juniperus conferta 'Blue Pacific'		Little or no pruning needed to control height
	Kangaroo Paw Fern	Microsorium diversifolium	Evergreen broadleaf fern	Little or no pruning needed to control height
	Leatherleaf Fern	Rumohra adiantiformis	Evergreen fern	Little or no pruning needed to control height
	Leucophyllum frutescens	Texas Sage	Grey-green foliage; lavender flowers; likes hot, dry areas	3'-5'

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Small Shrubs; Groundcovers	Ligustrum Curly Leaf	Ligustrum japonicum 'Rotundifolia'	Small upright growing ligustrum with tightly curved leaves	3'-5'
	Liriope	Liriope muscari 'Evergreen Giant'	Evergreen groundcover with strap-like leaves; grows to 24"	Little or no pruning needed to control height
	Macho Fern	Nephrolepis biseratta	Large growing fern to about 3 ft	Little or no pruning needed to control height
	Muhly Grass	Muhlenberiga capallaris		Cut back annually in late winter
	Nandina	Nandina d. -	Several varieties - seek out named varieties	3'-5'
	Oleander Dwarf	Nerium oleander 'Petite Pink'		3'
	Podocarpus Pringles	Podocarpus macrophyllus 'Pringles'	Dwarf form of podocarpus; great low hedge	2'-3'
	Powder Puff Dwarf	Calliandra haematocephala 'Nana'	Compact variety grows 3-5' tall	3'-4'
	Rosemary	Rosmarinus officinalis	Aromatic foliage, blue flowers	
	Ti Plant	Cordyline fruticosa	Numerous varieties - to list a few: 'Florida Red' - dark purple-red foliage variegated with reddish pink; 'Red Sister' - Bright fuchsia new growth with dark purple-green leaves; 'Baby Ti' - Coppery leaf margins and grows to 2'.	Prune off unsightly leaves as needed. Cut back unsightly stalks to just above ground level to flush out new growth.
	Variegated Ginger	Alpinia zerumbet 'Variegata'	Lovely yellow and green foliage plant with lightly scented flowers. Use as filler. Best in shade with regular water. Prune out older stalks to maintain size.	Prune off unsightly leaves as needed. The canes need to be pruned off at the base after they bloom and flowers fade to encourage new growth. Best in shade or part shade
	Xanadu	Philadendron x Xanadu	Dwarf philodendron	

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Annuals and Perennials	African Iris	Dietes iridioides	Narrow, evergreen leaves, white flowers	
	Amaryllis	Hippaestrum	Large trumpet flowers in spring with strap-like foliage	
	Angelonia	Angelonia angustifolia	Serena series - compact and long blooming	
	Begonia, Sweet	Begonia odorata 'Alba'	Best in dappled shade or at least protection from the strongest sun; blooms almost year around; included in this group are dragon wing and angel wing begonias	
	Blue Daze	Evolvulus glomeratus 'Blue Daze'	Grey-green foliage with blue flowers spring-fall	
	Bromeliad	Bromelia	Numerous varieties; some do very well in sun	Remove 'mother' plant once pups established
	Caladium	Caladium	Numerous varieties; some do very well in sun	
	Firecracker Flower	Crossandra infundibuliformis	Dark green glossy leaves with peachy-orange flowers almost all year. 'Orange Marmalade' is improved variety.	
	Geranium	Pelargonium	Used mostly as cool season annual	
	Lantana	Lantana 'New Gold' or 'Gold Mound'	Sterile varieties that are non-invasive. Other non-invasive varieties available as well.	
	Lily of the Nile	Agapanthus	Blue, purple or white flowers in spring; strap-like foliage	
	Mexican Heather	Cuphea hyssopifolia	Low-growing flowering plant with nice texture; lavender flowers	

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Annuals and Perennials	Oyster Plant, Dwarf	Rhoeo spathacea	Low spreading groundcover for part sun-part shade; green leaves with purple undersides; 'Tricolor' variety has pink and green leaves	
	Pansies		Used mostly as cool season annual	
	Pentas	Pentas lanceolata	Various colors; heat tolerant	
	Peperomia	Peperomia	Succulent type leaves make nice groundcover for shade or part shade	
	Shrimp Plant	Justicia brandegeana	Bracts and flowrs appear almost year around; best in part shade with regular water	
	Society Garlic	Tulboghia violacea	Lavender flowers spring-fall	
	Sunpatiens			
	Vinca	Catharanthus roseus	Heat lover; numerous colors; may fail with too much water	
	** Valley Crest follows University of Florida's 'Best Practices' when pruning. In general, hedges and individual shrubs, if applicable, should be wider at the bottom than the top to encourage growth at bottom. Maximum height of shrub should be no more than 5'.			

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Plants to Avoid	Cast Iron Plant	Aspidistra	Container plant only due to moderately spreading nature	
	Crown of Thorns Miniature	Euphorbia milii	Pretty small shrub at its best, excessively thorny stems make it unsightly much of the time	
	Fakahatchee Grass	Tripsacum dactyloides	These grasses, though nice in natural plantings, require considerable maintenance for home landscape	
	Fakahatchee Grass - Dwarf	Tripsacum floridana		
	Flax lily	Dianella tasmanica 'Variegata'	Variegated grass-like groundcover with non-descript flowers. Lovely foliage but prone to disease and scale requiring regular maintenance to look its best	
	Lantana	Lantana camaera	Species is catergorized as 'Invasive' by Florida Exotic Pest Plant Counsel.	
	Mexican Petunia	Ruellia simplex	Species is catergorized as 'Invasive' by Florida Exotic Pest Plant Counsel because of rigorous horizontal root growth and seeds that are readily dispersed.	
	Snake Plant	Sansevera	Best in containers due to spreading nature	
	Sword Fern or Boston Fern	Nephrolepis exalta	Often sold as container plants; Do Not Plant in Landscape due to aggressive, invasive nature	

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