

# Common Coastal Plants in Florida

A Guide to Planting and Maintenance



Edited by Michael R. Barnett and David W. Crewz



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## *A Guide to Planting and Maintenance*

Principal Editors

Michael R. Barnett and David W. Crewz

Produced by

The Florida Sea Grant Salt-Tolerant  
Vegetation Advisory Panel

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## PREFACE

In 1983, the Florida Sea Grant Extension Program organized salt-tolerant vegetation experts from industry, government, and the extension program into a working panel. Since then, the members of the Salt-Tolerant Vegetation Advisory Panel have worked diligently to improve communications between the various agencies and industries involved in efforts to restore coastal habitats in Florida. This publication represents the fulfillment of one of the advisory panel's major goals — to produce an introductory guide to habitat design, planting, and maintenance of selected marsh, mangrove, and dune plant species.

This publication consists of four sections. The first section provides a brief summary of coastal habitats in Florida. The second section contains the planting and maintenance guidelines. Illustrations and color plates are provided in the third section to aid in species identification and differentiation. A glossary of terms is provided in an appendix along with information on other coastal plant species not detailed in this report.

Substantial variation exists in the style in which the common names of many coastal plant species are presented in publications. To maintain consistency throughout this publication, the common names used follow the rules set forth in the Council of Biological Editor's Style Manual. For instance, sea-oats is hyphenated since it is not a true "oat."

Although the information in this publication should be very helpful to readers who have had limited experience with salt-tolerant vegetation, simply following the guidelines presented here will not guarantee a successful planting. In fact, some guidelines may need to be modified to meet differences in plant community structure or the desired plant application. The inexperienced planter should always contact an accredited consultant before planning or beginning a planting of salt-tolerant vegetation.

A list of commercial establishments that stock coastal plant species is included at the end of this publication. However, this list is not a complete compilation of all the sources of these species, and a periodic update of this list will be prepared by the Florida Sea Grant Program. Inquiries or comments about the list may be addressed to the Florida Sea Grant Program, Building 803, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611. The inclusion of a commercial source on this list does not constitute an endorsement of the firm by the Florida Sea Grant College Program or the Florida Cooperative Extension Service.



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Final editing of this publication was performed by Michael R. Barnett, Sydney T. Bacchus, David W. Crewz, Jay Humphreys (Florida Sea Grant), and John M. Stevely. Outside review was provided by Dr. David W. Hall (Herbarium, University of Florida), Dr. Margaret O. Hall (Florida Marine Research Institute), Dr. Robin B. Huck (Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Department of Natural Resources), and Paden E. Woodruff III (Division of Beaches and Shores, Florida Department of Natural Resources). Marilyn L. Little (Florida Sea Grant) assisted with final text preparation.

Plant illustrations were prepared by Melanie B. Trexler (Oxford, Mississippi) with the technical assistance of David W. Crewz. David Crewz designed and drafted the habitat profiles as well. Color photographs were provided by Michael R. Barnett, Steve Beeman, Otto M. Bundy, David W. Crewz, Kerry Dressler, Walter S. Judd (Botany Department, University of Florida), Roy R. Lewis III, and William J. Weber (private consultant).

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