

## Plants in the House of Refuge at Gilbert's Bar Gardens

The overall view is Sea Oats waving in the breeze against a backdrop of Sea Grapes, but if you look closer you will find the rest of the complex community that nature intended to keep everything in balance. Most are native plants, several chosen for this site to display sources of food that might have been used by the Keeper, shipwreck survivors, and previous inhabitants of the island. These coastal plants are drought tolerant, well adapted to the hot dunes and drying winds. Some are larval food sources for unusual butterflies, others have blossoms with sweet nectar to attract them. Exotic plants that are known to be invasively altering the habitat of our native flora have been removed. Several native plants that might be classified as weeds in a formal garden remain, as their purpose here is to hold and stabilize the soil, preventing erosion. The plantings are scattered throughout the gardens and one or more representative specimens of each are labeled with plant markers. A few may be dormant during your visit but will reappear at another time during the year. Marine plants – algae and seagrasses – found on the beach are used as mulch. At sea they are important in the marine food chains. After they arrive on the beach their energy and nutrients contribute to the growth of plants on the beaches and dunes.

### **Plant List:**

Bay Cedar, *Suriana maritima*  
Beach Creeper, *Ernodea littoralis*  
Beach Elder, *Iva imbricata*  
Beach Morning Glory, *Ipomoea imperati*  
Beach Sunflower, *Helianthus debilis*  
Beach Verbena, *Glandularia maritime*  
Blanketflower, *Gaillardia pulchella*  
Blue Porterweed, *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*  
Buttonwood, *Conocarpus erectus*  
Cabbage Palm, *Sabal palmetto*  
Coast Spurge, *Euphorbia mesembrianthemifolia*  
Coconut Palm, *Cocos nucifera*  
Cocoplum, *Chrysobalanus icaco*  
Coontie, *Zamia floridana*  
Coral Bean, *Erythema herbacea*  
Corky-stemmed Passionflower, *Passiflora suberosa*  
Cupid's Shaving Brush, *Emilia fosbergii*  
Day Flower, *Commelina erecta*  
Fiddlewood, *Citharexylum fruticosum*  
Firebush, *Hamelia patens*  
Inkberry, *Scavola plumeiri*  
Jamaica Caper, *Capparis cynophallophora*  
Limber Caper, *Capparis flexuosa*  
Marlberry, *Ardisia escallonioides*  
Muhly Grass, *Muhlenbergia capillaries*  
Necklace-Pod, *Sophora tomentosa*  
Pencilflower, *Stylosanthes hamata*  
Pineapple, *Ananas comosus*  
Pitch Apple or Autograph Tree, *Clusia rosea*  
Prickly-Pear Cactus, *Opuntia spp*  
Railroad Vine, *Ipomoea pes-caprae*  
Rain Lily, *Zephyranthes atamasco*  
Sand Cherry, *Physalis arenicola*  
Sand Cordgrass, *Spartina bakeri*  
Sand-dune Spurge, *Chamaesyce cumulicola*  
Saw Palmetto, *Serenoa repens*  
Scrub Palmetto, *Sabal etonia*  
Sea Daisy, *Borrichia frutescens*  
Seagrape, *Coccoloba uvifera*  
Sea Lavender, *Mallotonia gnaphaloides*  
Sea Oats, *Uniola paniculata*  
Sea Purslane, *Sesuvium portulacastrum*  
Seashore Dropseed, *Sporobolus virginicus*  
Seaside Heliotrope, *Heliotropium curassavicum*  
Sensitive Plant, *Mimosa strigillosa*  
Seven-year Apple, *Casasia clusifolia*  
Snowberry, *Chiococca parvifolia*  
Simpson's Stopper, *Myrcanthes fragrans*  
Spanish Bayonet, *Yucca aloifolia*  
Spider Lily, *Hymenocallis latifolia*  
Tropical Sage, *Salvia coccinea*  
Tickseed coreopsis, *Coreopsis gladiate*  
White Indigoberry, *Randia aculeate*  
Wild Coffee, *Psychotria nervosa*  
Wild Poinsettia, *Poinsettia cyathophora*

