Suggested Plant List for Zone 9B

There are many plants that may be suitable for your garden. These are a few plants that can take our wet & dry seasons. Since more than one plant may use the same common name, the scientific name is included for many plants to help you purchase the correct plant. Additional watering is required for the initial establishment period. If you don’t have a rain-senor, turn off irrigation if it has rained 2x in one week.

**Ground Cover**

**Blanket Flower** – *Gaillardia pulchella*, native  
Full sun  
Drought tolerant  
Soil – coarse, well-drained sand  
Lifespan is less than 1 year, but will reseed. Dead head for better blooming.  
Caution: May cause contact dermatitis in some people.

**Blue Porterweed** – *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*, native (not all varieties are native)  
Full sun to medium shade  
Water 1x per week in sun, 1x per week or two in shade (Tolerates up to 3x per week)  
Drought tolerant  
Soil – acidic, alkaline, sand, loam, or clay  
Lifespan is 5 years but it will reseed, but not heavily.

**Butterfly Sage, Bloodberry Sage** – *Cordia globosa*, native  
Full sun to moderate shade  
Drought tolerant, but prefers moist soil  
Soil – limestone & sandy soil  
Flowers not showy, but draws butterflies & can be trimmed as a low hedge.  
Perennial, which is endangered.
Coontie – *Zamia floridana*, native
2 to 3 feet high
Full sun to part shade
Drought, salt & cold tolerant
Soil – wide range, well-drained
Lifespan – long lived (over 50 years) Caution: Native Americans used the roots as a flour, but it’s poisonous if improperly prepared.

**Dwarf Ilex, Yaupon Holly** – *Ilex vomitoria ‘Stokes Dwarf’*, native
Full sun to light shade
Water 1x per week (Tolerates up to 3x per week)
Soil – wide range
Lifespan is over 10 years. Caution: Eating this plant causes vomiting.

Golden Creeper – *Ernodea littoralis* (only 1 to 2 feet tall), native
Full sun to light shade
Drought tolerant, but withstands short-term flooding.
Soil – coarse, well-drained sand
Individual stems may live 2 to 5 years, but the plant can live indefinitely.

Gopher Apple – *Licania michauxii*, native
1 to 1 ½ feet tall
Full sun
Drought tolerant, irrigation not required
Soil – poor, sandy, well-drained, soil stabilizer
Lifespan over 50 years

**Love Grass** – *Eragrostis elliottii*, native
Full sun to light shade
For dry or moist areas, it is drought tolerant & good for erosion control.
Soil - sandy
Perennial, growing only 1 to 3 feet tall.
**Muhly Grass** – *Muhlenbergia capillaries*, native
Full sun
Well-drained, moist conditions are best, but will tolerate some drought & flooding
Salt tolerant
Soil – sandy, slightly acid to alkaline soils
Lifespan – perennial, but self-sown seeds will keep up populations

**Purple Coneflower** - *Echinacea purpurea*, native
Full sun to light shade
Water 1 to 2x per week (Tolerates up to 3x per week)
Soil – wide range, well-drained
Lifespan is a few years. Deadhead for longer flowering period.

**Railroad Vine** – *Ipomoea pes-caprae*, native
Only grows 8 inches high, but can grow 12 feet long
Full sun to light shade
Drought, salt & heat tolerant, but can take the seasonal wet periods
Soil – sandy
Lifespan – perennial, will dieback in cold, but will come back. Caution:
Eating large amounts may make you sick.

**Spider Lily** – *Hymenocallis latifolia*, native
Full sun to light shade
Water 1x per week, but tolerates wet areas
Soil – wide range, wet or dry
Lifespan is at least 10 years, but spreads by bulbs. Caution: Poisonous

**St. Andrew’s Cross** – *Hypericum hypericoides*, native
Only 1 to 2 feet tall
Full sun to full shade, but flowers best in sun
Moist or dry conditions
Soil – wide range, but best in sand
Lifespan – perennial, which spreads lightly by seed

**Tropical Sage, Scarlet Sage** – *Salvia coccinea*, native
Full sun to medium shade
Drought tolerant, but will grow in wet areas.
Soil – poor, neutral to slightly alkaline
Lifespan is 1 to 2 years, but self seeds.
**Yellowtop, False Goldenrod** – *Flaveria linearis*, native

- Full sun
- Good for moist or dry sites.
- Soil – wide range,
- Perennial, which flowers all year & attracts butterflies.
- Caution: wear gloves when pruning, sap can make skin sun-sensitive, causing blisters.

**Vines**

**Butterfly Pea** – *Centrosema virginianum* – native

- Twining
- Full sun to light shade
- Water – moist or dry sites
- Soil – Wide range
- Lifespan: Short-lived perennial, which will reseed

**Coral Honeysuckle** – *Lonicera sempervirens*, native, twining rather than climbing, should be trained to a structure, attracts hummingbirds

- Full sun to part shade
- Water – 1x per week, accepting of dry to moist conditions, moderate drought tolerance
- Soil – Wide range, well-drained
- Low salt tolerance
- Lifespan: Will colonize & reproduce for many years

**Passion Flower Vine** – *Passiflora incarnata* is native, also used as ground cover, but will climb up anything it gets near. There are many non-native varieties.

- Full sun to light shade
- Water – 1x per week (up to 3x per week)
- Soil – Wide range
- Medium salt tolerance
- Lifespan is over 10 years
- Caution: Aggressive growth. Do not spray for insects or you will kill the butterfly eggs & caterpillars, which won’t harm the vines or other plants. It is the host plant for the Gulf fritillary butterfly, Julia & the zebra longwing (Florida’s state butterfly)
Shrubs & Small Trees

Bahama Cassia, Chapman’s Senna – *Senna mexicana var. chapmanii* (Synonyms: *Cassia bahamensis, Cassia chapmanii*), native
- Full sun to light shade
- Water – 1 to 2x per week
- Soil – Wide range, well-drained
- Drought & salt tolerant
- Lifespan is 8 to 10 years. Dies back to the ground in a freeze, but it will come back.

Beautyberry – *Callicarpa Americana*, native
- Full sun to part shade
- Drought tolerant, irrigation not required except in poor soils (Tolerates watering up to 4x per week)
- Soil – Prefers rich soils, but tolerates poor, sandy & slightly acid well-drained conditions.
- Can be severely pruned to maintain a compact form.
- Lifespan is less than 10 years, but will lightly reseed.

Butterfly Sage, Bloodberry Sage – *Cordia globosa*, native
- Full sun to medium shade
- Water – prefers moist soil, but it is moderately drought tolerant
- Soil – prefers alkaline, sandy soil
- Perfect for trimming as a formal hedge at any height
- Low to medium salt tolerance
- Lifespan unknown

Buttonwood – *Conocarpus erectus* (green or silver are used as a shrub or small tree), native
- Full sun to light shade (vegetation is denser in full sun)
- Drought tolerant, but also does well in wet areas
- Soil – Wide range (does well in poor soil)
- High drought & salt tolerance
- Lifespan is 50 years or more
**Cocoplum** – *Chrysobalanus icaco* (red tip & green) (used as a scrub or small tree), native
Full sun to medium shade (vegetation is denser in full sun)
Water 1x per week (Tolerates up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range
Green variety is salt tolerant, both have medium wind tolerance
Lifespan is up to 40 years when hand-pruned

**Fiddlewood** – *Citharexylum spinosum, C fruticosum*, native (shrub or small tree)
Full sun to part shade
Water – 1x per week or two, drought tolerant
Soil – prefers dry soils
Salt tolerant
Lifespan is about 50 years

**Firebush** – *Hamelia patens*, native
Full sun to light shade
Water 1x per week (Tolerates up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range
Medium wind & salt tolerance
Lifespan is 10 to 20 years.

**Florida Privet** – *Forestiera segregate*, native, used as a shrub or small tree
(Pineland Privet is shorter & more compact)
Good for hedges & excellent for slope erosion control
Sun to light shade
Prefers moist sandy soil, but it is drought tolerant, accepts extended flooding
Soil – Wide range
Salt & cold tolerant
Lifespan is 50 years.

**Ironwood, Tough Buckthorn, Tough Bumelia** – *Bumelia tenax, Sideroxylon tenax*, native, (Shrub or small tree)
Full sun to part shade
Water – drought tolerant
Soil – Well-drained, poor, sandy soil
Salt tolerant
Lifespan is over 50 years, Caution: Thorny
**Jamaica Caper** – *Capparis cynophallophora*, native (shrub or small tree)
Sun to part shade
Water – supplemental irrigation not required, drought tolerant
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Salt & drought tolerant, cold tolerant to 28F
Lifespan is about 50 years

**Myrsine** – *Papanea punctata*, native (shrub or small columnar tree)
Full sun to part shade
Moist to dry, supplemental irrigation not required
Soil – Wide range
Salt tolerant
Lifespan is up to 50 years

**Saw Palmetto** – *Serenoa repens*, native
Full sun to partial shade
Water 1x per week in sun, 1x per week or two in shade (Tolerates up to 6x per week)
Soil – Well to poor drained, wide range
High wind tolerance & the coast form, silver saw palmetto is very salt tolerant
Lifespan is up to several hundred years old, Caution: Stems have saw-like edges.

**Scrub Mint, False Rosemary** – *Conradina spp.* (*C. grandiflora*, *C. canescens*, & *C. etonia*), native, 2 – 5 feet round
Full sun
Drought tolerant
Soil – Wide range, well-drained, but prefers sandy soil
Lifespan is 50 years

**Wild Coffee** – *Psychotria nervosa*, native
Sun or shade, will die back in freezing weather
Water – 1x per week, but best in moist soil. Somewhat drought tolerant, but may wilt.
Soil – Wide range
Low salt tolerance
Lifespan may be less than 50 years.
**Wild Lime** – *Zanthoxylum fagara*, native (shrub or small tree)
Full sun to part shade
Water – 1x per week, irrigation not required
Soil – Wide range, but prefers thin, neutral to medium alkaline soils
Lifespan is about 50 years, Caution: thorny

**Large Trees**

**Gumbo Limbo** – *Bursera simaruba*, native, 40’ to 50’ by 20’ to 40’
Full sun
Water – 1x per week (up to 3x per week), drought tolerant
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
High salt & wind tolerance, not cold hardy: though grown in 9b, it’s best in 10b.
Lifespan is over 50 years, Caution: Semi-deciduous, but usually only drops leaves for about 4 weeks.

**Slash Pine** – *Pinus elliottii var. densa*, native, 50’ to 75’ by 20’ to 35’, needles make great mulch
Full sun
Water - 1x per week (up to 3x per week), drought tolerant
Soil – Wide range
High salt & medium wind tolerance
Lifespan is 50 years, Caution: Avoid compacting the soil around the roots – it weakens the tree & that can subject it to Pine Borers, which can cause death of the tree.

**Laurel Oak** – *Quercus laurifolia*, native, 50’ to 70’ by 30’
Full sun to light shade
Water – 1x or less per week (up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range
Medium wind & low salt tolerance
Lifespan is 50 years, Caution: Drops some leaves in the winter
Live Oak – *Quercus virginiana*, native, 40’ to 50’ by 50’ to 60’
Full sun to light shade
Water – 1x or less per week (up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range
High wind, salt & cold tolerance
Lifespan is over 100 years, Caution: Will lose some leaves in winter, can damage pavement if planted too close

**Palms**

Dwarf Palmetto, Bluestem Palmetto, *Sabal minor*, native, 4’- 9’ tall x 4’ x 8’, trunkless
Part shade to shade
Water – prefers being moist, but will tolerate dry situations, drought tolerant
Soil – Wide range, but prefers rich, moist soil
Cold & moderately salt tolerant
Lifespan is over 50 years

Needle Palm – *Rhapidophyllum hystrix*, single & clumping, 3’- 8’ tall x 4’- 8’
Shade to full sun, but best with some shade
Prefers moist conditions, but has been grown successfully in parking lots, it is considered drought tolerant once established
Soil – Rich, moist, poorly drained
Cold tolerant to 10F, not salt tolerant
Lifespan is over 50 years, Caution – spines on stems & trunk

Paurotis Palm – *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*, native, 20’-30’ tall x 15’-25’wide, clumping palm
Full sun to part shade
Prefers moist conditions, occurs naturally in wet places, but will adapt to drier sites.
Soil – Wide range
Salt tolerant
Lifespan is over 50 years, Caution – not cold hardy, a large area is needed for this palm, fronds have spiny stems, & it can develop manganese deficiency in drier, alkaline sites
**Sabal Palm, Cabbage Palm** – *Sabal palmetto*, native, 40’ tall
Full sun
Water – 1x per week in sun or wind, every other week in shade (up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range
High salt & wind tolerance, also cold tolerant
Lifespan is unknown, but are growing at Fairchild Gardens since 1966

**Saw Palmetto** – *Serenoa repens*, native, 6’ to 8’ tall, slow growing
Full sun to light shade
Water - 1x per week in sun or wind, 1x every other week in shade (up to 6x per week)
Soil – Wide range
High wind & salt tolerance
Lifespan is unknown, but they are growing in Fairchild Gardens since 1939,
Caution: spiny stalks

**Scrub Palmetto** – *Sabal etonia*, native, 4’-6’ tall x 4’-6’, subterranean trunk
Full sun to light shade
No irrigation is required once established
Drought, salt & cold tolerant
Lifespan is over 100 years

**Thatch Palm** – *Thrinax radiate*, (not cold tolerant), native, 20’ tall
Full sun to medium shade
Water - Water - 1x per week in sun or wind, 1x every other week in shade
(up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range
High wind & salt tolerance
Lifespan is up to 150 years

**Texas Phoenix Palm Decline**

Texas Phoenix palm decline is a fatal, systemic disease that kills palms quickly. The TPPD phytoplasma is spread naturally to palms by sap-feeding insects, such as planthoppers. Palms showing symptoms of more than 25 percent foliar discoloration or a dead spear leaf due to the disease should be removed immediately.
As of February 2009, palm species known to be most severely affected by TPPD were *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island date palm), *Phoenix dactylifera* (edible date palm), *Phoenix sylvestris* (wild date palm) and *Sabal palmetto* (cabbage palm).

The known susceptible hosts for the TPPD phytoplasma are *P. canariensis*, *P. dactylifera*, *P. sylvestris*, *P. reclinata*, *Sabal palmetto* and *Syagrus romanzoffiana* (queen palm). For more information see [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PP163](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PP163).