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

**Anthurium**
Deep to medium shade
Water 1 or 2x per week (Tolerates up to 3x per week)
Soil – wide range, well drained
Lifespan is 2 to 10 years. Caution: Irritant

**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.
**Bromeliads** – Blue Moon, Blue Tango, Perfection, Mend & Little Harve’
Light to medium shade
Water 1x every week or two (Tolerates up to 3x per week) (Little Harve’
water 1x per week up to 4x per week.)
Soil – wide range, well-drained
High wind tolerance
Lifespan is 2 years, but has replacement pups. Caution: Some bromeliads
have spines & should be handled with heavy gloves.

**Bromeliad** – Imperial
Full sun to medium shade
Water 1x per week or two (Tolerates up to 3x per week)
Soil – wide range, well-drained
High wind tolerance
Lifespan is over 10 years.

**Bulbine** – *Bulbine frutescens*
Full sun
Water 1 to 2x per week, good to temperatures in the mid 30’s.
Soil – wide range, well-drained
Propagation by clump division
Lifespan is over 10 years.

**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 pumila, 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 Crown of Thorns – *Euphorbia milii “Rosey”*

Full sun
Water 1x per week (Tolerates up to 2x per week)
Soil – wide range, well-drained
Lifespan is 10 to 15 years if it’s not over watered. Caution: Wear gloves to prevent rash from sap.

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.

Firecracker – *Russellia equisetiformis*

Full sun
Drought tolerant
Soil – acidic, alkaline, sandy, loam or clay
Lifespan is 4 years or more & will reseed.

Gold Mound Duranta – *Duranta erecta*

Full sun to light shade
Water 1 to 2x per week (Tolerates up to 4x per week)
Soil – wide range, well-drained
Lifespan is over 10 years. Caution: Berries are poisonous.

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
**Lantana** – *Lantana montividensis* (purple) (*Lantana camara* is invasive & should not be used.)
Full sun
Water 1 to 2x per week (Tolerates up to 3x per week)
Soil – wide range, well-drained
Lifespan is 1 to 2 years, but can live longer if spaced properly to give them enough room to spread. Caution: Poisonous.

**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.

**Milkweed** – *Asclepias curassavica*
Full sun
Drought tolerant
Soil – wide range, well-drained
Lifespan 6 months, but reseeds

**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

**Allamanda** – *Allamanda cathartica*
Full sun to light shade
Water – 1x per week (up to 4x per week)
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Low salt tolerance
Lifespan is 20 years, Caution: poisonous, frost sensitive

**Bougainvillea** – *Bougainvillea glabra* (vine, shrub or small tree)
Full sun
Water – 1x per week (up to 3x per week), needs to be dry to flower
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
High salt tolerance, medium wind tolerance
Lifespan is over 20 years, Caution: Thorny, dies back in a severe freeze

**Butterfly Pea** – *Clitoria mariana, 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 caerulea* (purple), *P. incarnata* is native, (The red one is not cold tolerant.) Also used as ground cover, but will climb up anything it gets near.

- 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**

**Angelwing Begonia** – *Begonia coccinea*

- Light to medium shade
- Water 1x per week, more with more sun (Tolerates up to 2x per week)
- Soil – Wide range, well-drained
- Salt tolerance low
- Lifespan is over 10 years

**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

**Cardboard Palm** – *Zamia furfuracea*
Full sun to medium shade
Water – 1x per week in sun, 1x per week or two in shade (Tolerates up to 5x per week)
Soil – Wide range
Medium wind & high salt tolerance
Lifespan is over 25 years. Caution: poisonous

**Cherry Laurel** – *Prunus caroliniana*, native (large shrub or small tree, 20’ to 45’ tall, 15’ to 30’ wide, with rapid growth)
Sun to part shade
Water – 1x per week but does well in moist well-drained areas
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Salt & drought tolerant
Lifespan is 50 years, Caution: Leaves & branches are poisonous, doesn’t tolerate standing water
**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

**Crotons** – *Codiaeum spp.*
Full sun to light shade
Water 1 to 2x per week (Tolerates up to 4x per week)
Soil – wide range, well-drained
Medium-high wind & salt tolerance
Lifespan is 15 to 20 years, Caution: Sap can irritate skin & stain clothes.

**Dracaena Reflexa**
Medium shade to full sun (prefers some shade)
Water 1x per week (Tolerates up to 4x per week)
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Medium wind & salt tolerance
Lifespan is 10 years or more.

**Dwarf Jatropha** – *Jatropha integerrima* “Compacta”
Full sun to light shade
Water – 1x per week (Tolerates up to 4x per week)
Soil – Wide range
Medium wind & salt tolerance
Lifespan is 10 to 20 years. Caution: Poisonous if eaten.

**Dwarf Poinciana** – *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*, (shrub or small tree), deciduous in frost
Full sun
Water – 1x per week (up to 3x per week), drought tolerant
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Medium salt tolerance, low wind tolerance - brittle
Lifespan is short-lived, under 20 years Caution: Some species have thorns, & are poisonous
Dwarf Powderpuff – *Calliandra haematocephala ‘Nana’*
Full sun to medium shade
Water 1x per week (Tolerates up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range
Low wind & salt tolerance
Survive 30 degrees F., looks poorly after cold weather, but recovers quickly after it warms up.
Lifespan is 10 to 20 years.

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.

Firespike – *Odontonema strictum*
Full sun to medium shade
Water – 1x per week (Tolerates up to 6x per week)
Soil – Wide range
Low 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.
Golden Senna, Desert Cassia – *Senna polyphylla* (small tree)
Full sun to light shade
Water – 1x per week (up to 4x per week)
Soil – Wide range
Medium salt tolerance, low wind tolerance
Lifespan is unknown

Golden Dewdrop – *Duranta repens* (also variegated)
Full sun
Water 1 to 2x per week (Tolerates up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Medium salt tolerance
Lifespan is 5 to 10 years, Caution: Berries are poisonous.

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

Mexican Sage – *Salvia leucantha*
Full sun to light shade
Water 1 to 2x per week (Tolerates up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Medium wind & salt tolerance
Lifespan is 5 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

**Oleander** – *Nerium Oleander* (shrub or small tree)
Full sun
Water – 1x per week or two (up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Wind & salt tolerant
Lifespan is 5 to 10 years, Caution: Poisonous & is frequently attacked by the Oleander caterpillar.

**Philodendron Xanadu**
Medium shade to full sun
Water – 1x per week in shade, 2x per week in sun or wind (over watering can cause fungus). Will survive rainy season in well-drained soil.
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Medium wind & salt tolerance
Lifespan is 5 to 15 years. Caution: Sap causes skin irritation.

**Plumbago** – *Plumbago auriculata*
Full sun to light shade
Water – 1 to 2x per week (Over watering causes fungus if soil is not well-drained.)
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Medium wind & salt tolerance
Lifespan is 10 to 15 years.

**Porterweed** – *Stachytarpheta spp.* (the native is Stachytarpheta jamaicensis & is a ground cover)
Full sun to light shade
Water 1 to 2x per week (Tolerates up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Lifespan 5 to 10 years, but lightly reseeds once established.
**Red Pentas** – *Pentas lanceolata* red
Full sun to light shade
Water 1 to 2x per week (Tolerates up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Medium wind, medium-high salt tolerance
Lifespan is 2 to 4 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.

**Schefflera arboricola ‘trinette’**
Full sun to dense shade
Water 1x per week in sun, 1x per week or 2 in shade (Tolerates up to 3x per week) drought tolerant
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Moderate salt & high wind tolerance
Lifespan is over 20 years, Caution – not cold tolerant

**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

Medium Trees

Copperpod, Yellow Poinciana – *Peltophorum dubium*, 20’ tall &
P. pterocarpum, 35’ to 50’ tall
Full sun
Water – 1x per week, drought tolerant
Soil – Wide range, well-drained survives wet season in well-drained soil
Low wind & salt tolerance, deciduous in 20 degrees
Lifespan is unknown, Caution: Can develop large surface roots

Crepe Myrtle – *Lagerstroemia India*, 20’ to 30’ tall (some species are 2’
groundcover), deciduous
Full sun
Water – 1x per week (up to 3x per week
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Medium wind tolerance, low salt tolerance
Lifespan is over 30 years

Jacaranda – *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, 40’ tall, deciduous
Full sun
Water – 1x per week, will do all right in rainy season if soil is well-drained
Soil – Wide range, well-drained (prefers poor, well-drained soil)
Low salt & wind tolerance, but will tolerate wind better if well pruned
Lifespan is 50 years, Caution - brittle

Sunshine Tree – *Erythrina variegate orientalis ‘Sunshine’*, 20’ to 30’ tall,
deciduous
Full sun
Water – 1x per week (up to 3x per week), drought tolerant
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Medium salt & wind tolerance
Lifespan is over 20 years, Caution: poisonous & spiny, plant a minimum of
10’ from sidewalks & driveway to prevent damage from surface roots
Large Trees

Copperpod, Yellow Poinciana, *Peltophorum pterocarpum*, 35’ to 50’ tall
Full sun
Water – 1x per week, drought tolerant
Soil – Wide range, well-drained survives wet season in well-drained soil
Low wind & salt tolerance, deciduous in 20 degrees
Lifespan is unknown, Caution: Can develop large surface roots

Floss Silk Tree – *Ceiba speciosa* or *Chorisia speciosa*, 50 feet tall by 50 feet wide, deciduous
Full sun
Water – 1x per week (up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Medium salt tolerance
Lifespan is over 50 years, Caution: spiny

Hong Kong Orchid Tree – *Bauhinia blakeana*, 35 feet by 25 feet
Full sun to light shade
Water – 1x per week (up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range
Low salt & low wind tolerance, good to 28 degrees F.
Lifespan is over 50 years, Caution: Weak root system. Semi-deciduous, losing leaves when it blooms & may defoliate when planted, but will come back.

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.
**Royal Poinciana** – *Delonix regia*, 40’ by 50’
Full sun
Water – 1x per week (up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range
Medium salt tolerance, but not wind tolerant – very brittle, also not cold tolerant, though grown in 9b, it grows better in 10b to 11.
Lifespan is 50 years, Caution: Roots are aggressive: locate at least 25 feet from pavement. Fallen flowers can make pavement slick. Deciduous

**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.

**Podocarpus** – *Podocarpus gracilior*, 50’ by 15’ to 30’, can be shaped or grown naturally
Full sun to light shade
Water – 1x per week (up to 3x per week), 1st 60 days requires extra watering, slowly tapering off watering
Soil – Wide range
Medium salt & high wind tolerance, not freeze tolerant, though grown in 9b, it’s best in 10a to 11
Lifespan is 50 years, Caution: Do not plant over pavement because the tree drops a lot of needles.

**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**

**Alexander Palm, Solitaire Palm** – *Ptychosperma elegans*, 20’ tall
Full sun to medium shade
Water – 1x per week in sun or wind, 1x every other week in shade (up to 3x a week)
Soil – Wide range
Medium wind & salt tolerance, cold tolerant to 28F.
Lifespan is over 75 years

**Bismarckia Palm** – *Bismarckia nobilis*, 30’ tall
Full sun to light shade
Water – 1x per week (up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range
High wind & medium salt tolerance, survives 32F, recovers from minor damage in a season
Lifespan is unknown, but they are growing in Fairchild Gardens since 1958, Caution: Large trees are difficult to transplant, requires 16’ to 20’ of space to spread

**Chinese Fan Palm** – *Livistona chinensis*, 30’ tall
Full sun to medium shade
Water – 1x per week (up to 3x per week)
Soil – Wide range
High wind & medium salt tolerance
Lifespan is over 50 years, Caution: Thorns on stalks, but self-defoliating, medium susceptibility to lethal yellowing & ganoderma
**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

**European Fan Palm – *Chamaerops humilis*, 10’ tall, clumping (multi-trunked)**

Full sun to light shade
Water – 1x to 2x per week, drought tolerant
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Medium salt & wind tolerant
Lifespan is unknown, but trees over 85 years old have been seen, Caution – spiny stems

**Foxtail Palm – *Wodyetia bifurcate*, 30’ tall**

Full sun to light shade
Water – 1x to 2x per week, (up to 3x per week), drought tolerant
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Medium salt & wind tolerant, cold tolerant to 27F for short periods
Lifespan is unknown, Caution – Poorly adapted for alkaline soils – potassium & manganese deficiencies may be a problem & can cause leaf spot (fungal disease) & are also associated with iron deficiency

**Lady Palm – *Rhapis excelsa*, 8’ tall x 6’ wide, multi-trunk palm, slow growth**

Dense to light shade (leaves turn yellow in too much light or having iron deficiency)
Water – 1x per week in deep shade, 2x per week in bright light or wind (up to 4x per week)
Soil – Wide range
High wind & medium salt tolerance
Lifespan is unknown, but they are growing in Fairchild Gardens since 1973
**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

**Pindo, Jelly Palm** – *Butia capitata*, 18’ tall, fruit used to make jelly, slow growth
Full sun
Water – 1-2x per week, drought tolerant
Soil – Wide range, well-drained, prefers sandy soil
Medium salt tolerance, cold tolerant to 14F
Lifespan is unknown, Caution – spiny stems, gets large amounts of fruit

**Ribbon Fan Palm, Weeping Cabbage Palm** – *Livistona decipiens*, 30’ tall, slow/medium growth
Full sun to light shade
Water – 1x every week or two, (up to 3x per week) drought tolerant
Soil – Wide range, well-drained
Medium salt tolerance, cold tolerant to 23F
Lifespan is unknown
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

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
**Triangle Palm** – *Dypsis decaryi*, (up to 32 degrees F.), 25’ tall
Full sun to light shade
Water – 1x per week (up to 4x per week)
Low salt & medium wind tolerance
Lifespan is unknown, but they are growing in Fairchild Gardens since 1947

**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).

**Date Palms: Presently Not Recommended**

Disease and insect problems currently impact the genus Phoenix seriously enough to make growing these palms a major risk. Included in this popular group are the Canary Island Date Palm (*P. canariensis*), the Senegal Date Palm (*P. reclinata*), the Pygmy Date Palm (*P. roebelenii*), the Wild Date Palm (*P. sylvestris*), and the true Date Palm (*P. dactylifera*), the Cliff Date Palm (*P. rupicola*), as well as other, lesser-known species. Among the hazards are Ganoderma Butt Rot, Fusarium Wilt—on landscape date palms brought from California—and a palm weevil. Ganoderma and
Fusarium Wilt are untreatable; affected palms will die from contagious infection; until some controls are found for these, Phoenix palms probably should not be planted.

Senegal Date Palm is also on the FLEPPC list (exotic invasive plant list). By Dr. John D. Kennedy, Emeritus, Indian River State College for CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY