

Home Grounds Fact Sheet

Landscaping at the Seashore

The seashore is one of the most difficult areas to landscape. Dry sandy soils, wind, salt sprays and hot sun make conditions too harsh for many plants to survive.

The proper selection of plant materials for this situation is the key to a successful landscape. An awareness of the conditions in the areas to be planted will help make your selection the best possible. The Japanese Black Pine, while quite rugged and able to withstand the exposure of the unprotected shoreline, is no longer recommended for use on Long Island. This is due to major problems with insects, disease and nematodes in this species. (See Home Grounds Fact Sheet E-1-26; Japanese Black Pine: What's Happening?) Others need more protection, such as an area between a screen provided by sturdier plants and sand dunes, or near buildings and fences.

Extra care should always be taken to help your landscape get off to a better start. Before planting, improve the soil conditions. Sandy soils are usually low in organic material, so incorporating peat moss and/or compost will benefit the plants. Topsoil is also a helpful addition. Fertilizer is important for establishing a landscape along the beach. After planting, provide plenty of water during droughty periods and keep insect and disease problems to a minimum.

The following lists will help you select the proper plants for a seashore landscape:

GROUND COVERS

For seashore conditions

- American Beachgrass, *Ammophila breviligulata*
- Bearberry, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
- Shore Juniper, *Juniperus conferta*
- Virginia Creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

For more sheltered seashore areas

- Rock Cotoneaster, *Cotoneaster horizontalis*
- English Ivy, Baltic Ivy, *Hedera helix* 'Baltica'
- Creeping Juniper, *Juniperus horizontalis* and varieties
- Everblooming Honeysuckle, *Lonicera x heckrottii*

- Common Periwinkle, *Vinca minor*

TREES

For more sheltered seashore areas

- Sycamore Maple, *Acer pseudoplatanus*
- Gray Birch, *Betula populifolia*
- Honeylocust, *Gleditsia triacanthos* and varieties
- Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana* and varieties
- Colorado Spruce, *Picea pungens*
- Korean Pine, *Pinus koraiensis*
- London Plane, *Platanus x acerifolia*
- Bolleana Poplar, *Populus alba* 'Pyramidalis'
- Niobe Weeping Willow, *Salix alba* 'Tristis'
- American Holly, *Ilex opaca*

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BEDDING AND HERBACEOUS PERENNIAL PLANTS

- *African Daisy
- *Bachelor's Button
- *Calendula
- Candytuft
- California Poppy
- *Cleome
- Coreopsis
- *Cosmos
- *Creeping Zinnia (*Sanvitalia*)
- *Daylily (*Hemerocallis*)
- Dianthus
- Dusty Miller
- Gaillardia
- *Gazania
- Hardy Cactus (*Opuntia*)
- *Hibiscus
- Lantana
- Lupine
- *Love-in-a-mist (*Nigella*)
- *Marigold
- *Nasturtium
- Montauk Daisy
- *Petunia
- *Portulaca
- *Scabiosa
- Sea Pink (*Armeria*)
- Sea Holly (*Eryngium*)
- Sedum
- Snow-in-Summer (*Cerastium*)
- Statice
- *Sweet Alyssum
- *Sweet Pea
- *Sunflower
- *Vinca rosea
- Yarrow (*Achillea*)
- Yucca
- *Zinnia

*Annuals

SHRUBS

For seashore conditions

- California Privet, *Ligustrum ovalifolium*
- Inkberry, *Ilex glabra*
- Bayberry, *Myrica pensylvanica*
- Beach Plum, *Prunus maritima*
- Rugosa Rose, *Rosa rugosa*

For more sheltered seashore areas

- Service-berry, Shadbush, *Amelanchier* sp.
- Chokeberry, *Aronia arbutifolia* and *A. melanocarpa*
- Wintergreen Barberry, *Berberis julianae*
- Summersweet, *Clethra alnifolia*
- Spreading Cotoneaster, *Cotoneaster divaricatus*
- Japanese Holly, *Ilex crenata* and varieties
- Winterberry, *Ilex verticillata*
- Pfitzer's Juniper, *Juniperus chinensis* 'Pfitzeriana' and similar varieties
- Regel Privet, *Ligustrum obtusifolium* var. *regelianum*
- Swiss Mountain Pine, *Pinus mugo*
- Purple Osier, *Salix purpurea*
- Japanese Yew, *Taxus cuspidata*
- European Cranberrybush, *Viburnum opulus*, and varieties
- Black Haw, *Viburnum prunifolium*
- Firethorn, *Pyracantha coccinea*
- Highbush Blueberry, *Vaccinium corymbosum*
- Withe-Rod, *Viburnum cassinoides*
- Arrowwood, *Viburnum dentatum*

NATIVE SEASHORE PLANTS

These are seldom available from nurseries unless advance arrangements are made.

- Beachgrass (*Ammophila breviligulata*)
- Little Bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius*)
- Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
- Beach Wormwood (*Artemisia stelleriana*)
- Groundsel-bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*)
- Beach Heather (*Hudsonia ericoides* and *H. tomentosa*)
- Beach Pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*)
- Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*)