

# Landscaping Do's & Don'ts

## Landscaping Guidelines for Bermuda Bay

Maintaining Bermuda Bay's natural beauty requires thoughtful plant choices—especially in our **coastal, beachfront environment**. Some plants may look appealing but can become invasive, attract pests, damage infrastructure, or pose safety risks to residents and pets.

Below is a list of **plants that should not be planted in the ground at Bermuda Bay**, followed by **recommended native Florida plants** that are better suited to our salt-air and coastal conditions.

### Plants Not Permitted in Bermuda Bay

The following plants are considered **invasive, destructive, unsafe, or unsuitable** for planting in the ground within the Bermuda Bay community. Some may be allowed in **pots or planters only**, but should never be planted directly into the soil.

### Invasive or Aggressive Plants

These plants spread quickly and threaten native landscaping:

- **Asian Sword Fern** – Highly invasive and difficult to control
- **Mexican Petunia** – Spreads aggressively and displaces native plants
- **Oyster Plant** – Rapid ground cover that overtakes garden beds
- **Pothos (Pathos) Vine / Ivy** – Becomes invasive when planted outdoors; can climb trees and structures
- **Philodendron** – Fast-growing and invasive in Florida landscapes
- **Snake Plant** – Spreads beyond intended areas
- **Sprenger's Asparagus Fern** – Invasive with sharp thorns
- **Bamboo (including clumping varieties)** – Spreads aggressively and is extremely difficult to remove



### Plants That Attract Pests

These plants can create habitats for insects and wildlife that become nuisances:

- **Bromeliads** – Collect standing water and can harbor mosquito larvae and roaches
- **Fruit & Citrus Trees** – Attract rodents and other pests



### Toxic or Dangerous Plants

These pose risks to children, pets, and residents:

- **Oleander** – Highly toxic to humans and animals
- **Pothos (Pathos) Vine** – Toxic if ingested by children or pets



**Any Thorned Plants or Hazardous Cacti** (especially near walkways), including:

- **Agave / Century Plants**
- **Various cactus species**



### Plants with Destructive Root Systems

These plants can damage plumbing, irrigation lines, sidewalks, and foundations:

- **Rubber Tree**
- **Schefflera**





## Recommended Native & Salt-Tolerant Florida Plants

The following **Florida-native and salt-resilient plants** are well-suited for Bermuda Bay's coastal environment. These options help preserve our landscaping, reduce maintenance issues, and support local ecosystems.



### Native Flowers & Groundcovers

- **Beach Sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*)** – Bright yellow blooms; excellent ground cover
- **Gaillardia (Blanket Flower)** – Drought-tolerant with vibrant color
- **Tickseed (*Coreopsis*)** – Florida's state wildflower; low maintenance
- **Sea Purslane** – Salt-tolerant groundcover for coastal areas



### Native Shrubs

- **Cocoplum** – Excellent for hedges and coastal conditions
- **Firebush** – Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds
- **Simpson's Stopper** – Dense foliage with seasonal flowers
- **Inkberry (Gallberry)** – Hardy shrub ideal for sandy soils
- **Buttonwood (Green or Silver)** – Very salt-tolerant and wind-resistant



### Native & Coastal-Friendly Palms

- **Sabal Palm (Florida State Palm)** – Extremely salt and wind tolerant
- **Silver Saw Palmetto** – Native, drought-tolerant, and low maintenance
- **Dwarf Palmetto** – Ideal for smaller landscaped areas



### Why Native Plants Matter

Using native and salt-tolerant plants helps:

- Protect Bermuda Bay's coastal ecosystem
- Reduce pest issues
- Minimize damage to infrastructure
- Lower water and maintenance needs
- Preserve the beauty and safety of the community



### Important Reminder

Any landscaping changes must comply with Bermuda Bay community guidelines. If you are unsure whether a plant is permitted, **please check with the Association before planting.**