

Burnt Store Marina: Landscaping Plants

Large quantities of salt (dissolved solids) in the soil and/or irrigation water harm plants by burning root hairs and leaves. An excess of salt prevents them from absorbing water properly. A salty spray carried on the wind from the harbor only exacerbates the problem. Salt tolerance of a plant relates to resistance and ability to grow under conditions of (1) high winds, (2) salt spray, (3) alkaline soils, and (4) infertile, sandy soils. The tolerance of a given plant to salt may be affected if any of the four conditions become extreme. Salt tolerant plants are typically drought tolerant, but frost tender.

Burnt Store Marina straddles USDA zones 9b/10a. Because winter conditions sometimes produce frost, even freezing on rare occasions, true tropical plants can be harmed or killed. It is routine to see defoliation and brown spot (fungus) in the winter time. Cold north winds will cause areca palm fronds to become permanently yellow-orange. Coconut palms suffer when the ground temperature hits 50 degrees. Several years ago a frost hit, killing most of the Christmas (Adonidia) palms. But, that frost line stopped at the 1300 block of Islamorada Blvd. West of that address the warmer influence of Charlotte Harbor raised the temperature enough for there to be no evidence at all of frost.

What to do:

1. Select plants rated as having *high salt-tolerance*; you may need to order some species as they are not typically grown for the mass market.
2. Plant during the rainy season, but continue to use the community irrigation water. The combination allows the plant, which was NOT raised on salty water, to acclimate before the dry season arrives.
3. When irrigation water has high salts, use irrigation bubblers or misters that avoid hitting the foliage. (BSM's community irrigation water is always high in salts. Depending on the season and the year's rainfall, it will range from 2750 to greater than 5000 ppm of Total Dissolved Solids. Soundings pond: 1500-1600 ppm. Private well: 790-900 ppm. According to the University of Florida, any reading over 2100 ppm is "unsuitable for irrigation purposes." Water tests performed 2/16/06 and 10/23/06.)
4. If your property borders water, the temperature will be moderated.
5. Position plants a bit high in the ground so that excess water can drain off.
6. Drought tolerant plants will generally be OK, if water quickly drains away. Be careful if your sprinkler zone for your turf is the same as the one for your shrub beds. Turf requires more water.
7. Provide some shade in the afternoon to conserve moisture retention. Additionally, almost all of our plants appreciate a bit of shade.
8. Mulch with organic material, not rock, to increase water retention and improve soil condition.
9. Do not over fertilize, be judicious – excess fertilizer means the need for water and pruning increase; fertilizer contains salts and can compound a bad situation.
10. Annuals – mound the soil with a high-grade annual potting mix which contains Osmocote; treat regularly with fungicide.

*****The Following Plant List Contains Plants That Have a Medium to High Salt Tolerance; some are Cold or Frost Sensitive*****

Flowers:

- Beach Morning Glory/Railroad Vine (*Ipomoea pes-caprae*) – 1/2 ft. high. Sends out very long runners and is typically used on sand dunes for erosion control. Purple flower.
- Beach or Dune Sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*) – 1 to 2 ft. high. Does best, once established, left on its own without water or fertilizer. Yellow flower with black “eye.” Full sun; drought and sun tolerant. Seeds, annual.
- Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia pulchella*) – 1 to 2 ft. high. Medium salt tolerance; high drought tolerance; full blazing sun. Seeds, annual. Striking daisy-like flower with deep purplish disk and reddish to maroon rays that are tipped in yellow. Flowers year-round.
- Blue Daze (*Evolvulus glomeratus*) – About 12 inches tall; cool weather bloomer with unique blue flower. Short lived (1-2 yrs.). High salt and wind tolerance. Blooms in sun or shade though flowers close in extreme heat.
- Crown of Thorns (*Euphorbia milii*) – About 12 to 18” tall; slow growing; lasts about 5 yrs. before becoming rangy. ‘Rosy’ best variety for bloom and staying compact. Trim back for shape every year or two. If too leggy, prune back to sticks but only during the summer. High salt, wind tolerance. Full sun, well-drained soil.
- Daylily (*Hemerocallis* hybrids) – about 10 to 12 in. tall with medium growth. Buy evergreen type only, usually yellow flowers. High salt tolerance. Medium shade to light sun.
- Geranium (*Pelargonium x hortorum*) – Used as a winter annual. Medium growth rate with high salt and wind tolerance. Provide good drainage. Spent flower clusters require removal, about weekly.
- Lantana (including *L. camara* ‘New Gold’ and *L. montividentis*) – 12 to 18 in. tall. *L. camara* is more robust. Lantana typically lasts 12-24 mos. before becoming woody and awkward. Fast growing, high salt and drought tolerance. Brown spot on leaves is a fungus; cut back on water. Blooms heaviest in the winter.
- Mexican Petunia (*Ruellia brittoniana*) – Shrub/groundcover/flowers easily kept to 3 ft. tall with fast growth. Rampant growth; prolific flowering with purple bell-shaped 1-inch flowers. Medium salt and wind tolerance. Light shade to full sun.
- Penta, Dwarf or New Look (*Pentas lanceolata* ‘New Look’) – medium-high tolerance. Used as an annual or biennial. ‘New Look’ is shorter and shorter-lived than ‘Starburst.’ The latter is about 2 ft. tall; fast growth rate; 2 to 3 yr. life span; medium salt and wind tolerance. Medium shade to full sun. Flowers form 2 to 3 in. clusters; bright to pale pink.
- Penta, Red (*Pentas lanceolata* red) – medium-high salt tolerance.
- Petunia (*Petunia* spp.) – Requires deadheading of spent blooms. Used as a winter annual, planting around the end of October. High salt and wind tolerance. Provide good drainage.
- Salvia, Victoria Blue (*Salvia farinacea*) – Medium growth rate with high salt tolerance. Flowers with a blue spike about 5 in. tall. Used as a winter and spring annual.
- Vinca/Madagascar periwinkle (*Cartharanthus*) – Used as a summer annual. Too much rain causes fungus. When happy, provides great color.

Foliage/Accent:

- Agave/Century Plant (many *Agave* “Century” plants) 6-8'. Falling out of favor due to size and sharp needle points.
- Agave/Foxtail Agave – Expensive, difficult to find, slow growing. See example on north basin Marina Walk.
- Bromeliad spp. – 1 to 3 ft. tall with slow growth. *Aechmea* and *Blanchetiana* have better salt tolerance, medium to high. Crucial to provide excellent drainage. *Aechmea* require light to medium shade; *Blanchetiana* can take sun. Single plant lives about 2 years, but send up pups to replace itself.
- Black Magic Ti (*Cordyline fruticosa* ‘*Black Magic*’) – see this category, Hawaiian Ti, below.
- Crinum spp. – Crinum is a genus of about 180 species of perennial plants that have large showy flowers on leafless stems, and develop from bulbs. Large basal growing, with 4 ft.-long strappy leaves. Suckers at base. Large delicate lily flower produced on thick stem. Fast growing, medium salt tolerance. Does best with some shade and protection from winds. At BSM examples of the green crinum are in a bed at 1509 Islamorada Blvd., and, the boulevard strip leading into Prosperity Pt. Queen Emma is bronze-leaved with purple flowers and can be seen at the corners of Islamorada and Marianne Key, and, Islamorada and Big Pass Rd.
- Croton (*Codiaeum* spp.) – see Shrubs, below.
- *Dracaena* spp. – several types, multi-trunked, about 3 to 7'. Leaves stripped with color depending on variety. Leaves litter, falling from the cane-line trunks. Cut way back to produce new growth. Common varieties: ‘Song of India’ which has a whimsical branching habit; ‘Colorama’; ‘Madagascar’; and, ‘Tri-color.’ Salt and wind tolerance medium.
- Dwarf False Agave (*Furcraea foetida*) – Striking plant with large succulent strap-shaped leaves. Must be purchased in greater than as a 3 gal. plant if in an unprotected area (wind) and drainage isn’t acute. Very mixed success. May take several years to produce a very tall spike topped with a flower. Once that happens the plant will wither slowly. They normally will pup at the base with a new plant.
- Foxtail Asparagus Fern (*Asparagus densiflorus* ‘*Myersii*’) – 18 to 24 in. high, slow to moderate growth. Bushy fox’s tail appearance. Salt and drought tolerant; some shade to full sun.
- Giant Leather Fern (*Acrostichum danaeifolium*) – up to 8 ft. tall, native. Requires high moisture, bordering waterway; littoral plant. Planted around interior waterways at Prosperity Pt.
- Hawaiian Ti/*Cordyline* (*Cordyline fructisosa* ‘*Black Magic*’) – Usually 4 ft. tall with medium growth rate. Medium shade to full sun. The most popular variety for BSM is Black Magic with its striking dark bronze-purple/deep burgundy leaves. Medium salt and wind tolerance. Prune tallest canes back to about 6 in. off the ground to force new growth.
- Purple Queen (*Tradescantia pallida* ‘*Purpurea*’) – 6 to 12 in. tall. High salt and wind tolerance; light shade to full sun. Medium growth rate; 1-3 yrs. Used for its striking purple leaf color.
- Sago Palm (*Cycas revoluta*) – Usually planted as a specimen plant at 2 ft. tall. Very symmetrical plant supporting a crown of shiny, dark green leaves on a thick shaggy trunk. Trunk lengths with age. Drought and salt tolerant. Susceptible to cycad scale and must be aggressively treated. See specimens at BSM front entry island and on Cape Cole Blvd. just south of the golf gate.
- Society Garlic (*Tulbaghia violacea*) – about 12-18 in. high. A clump-forming herbaceous perennial with narrow, grayish green leaves and large clusters of lavender or lilac flowers. Salt tolerant.
- Song of India (*Dracaena* spp.) – see *Dracaena* spp. above.

Ornamental Grasses:

- Fakahatchee (*Tripsacum floridana*) – dwarf (2 ft. tall) and regular (3-4 ft. tall) are dense groundcovers with medium salt tolerance. Best planted in masses fronting coarse-texture native plants (e.g., Sabal/Cabbage palms, palmetto, seagrape) and seen from a distance. Can be unattractive viewed up-close.
- Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaries*) – 1 to 3 ft. tall, native. Perennial bunchgrass best planted in large masses to be viewed from a distance. Hardy, requiring little care, primarily cutting back once a year. Outstanding showy flowering periods during the fall, producing a stunning display of pinkish to purplish inflorescences. Salt tolerant.
- Sand Cordgrass (*Spartina bakeri*) – 3 to 5 ft. tall, native. Excellent for commercial installations, golf courses. Best suited to moist areas, salt tolerant. Small test plot on north basin Marina Walk.

Groundcovers and Vines: (Note: some vines can be pruned to form hedges.)

- Bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea glabra*) – Maintain at minimum of 7 ft. Grown as a vine, shrub or small tree. Fast growing; high salt tolerance. Requires good drainage, full sun and lots of room.
- Carissa/Natal Plum/Boxwood (*Carissa macrocarpa dwarf*) – About one to 3 ft. high. At BSM this plant will quickly revert to the parent plant which can be 6 ft. Large stems coming from the plant's center must be pruned out; can handle severe pruning to shape. Attractive dark green, shiny evergreen leaves. Produces sporadic, fragrant white flower, followed by a round fruit. Salt tolerant. Note: branches have sharp forked spines. Varieties include: Emerald Blanket and Boxwood Beauty.
- Confederate jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) – medium-high tolerance. Usually used as a low hedge.
- Coontie (*Zamia floridana*) – 2 to 3 ft. tall, native. Slow growing, compact, fernlike/palmlike fronds/leaves. Best planted in masses. Salt tolerant, drought and cold tolerant. Mixed success with red scale and mealy bug issues. Probably best left on its own.
- Coral Creeper (*Baleria repens*) – 2 ft. tall, spreading and dense with small leaves. Flowers sporadically with tubular coral flowers. Salt tolerant; prefers a bit of shade. See it in the test bed, north basin Marina Walk.
- Giant Leather Fern (*Acrostichum danaeifolium*) 8'. See under Foliage/Accent plants.
- Juniper, Parsons (*Juniperus parsonii*) – about 18 to 30 in. high. In itself does not form a groundcover, but is generally planted in masses to create a groundcover. Low maintenance. Salt and drought tolerant. Cold hardy.
- Purple Queen (*Tradescantia pallida 'Purpurea'*) – see Foliage/Accent plants, above
- Sea Oxeye Daisy (*Borrchia frutescens*) – yellow flowers, 3', seed. Can be seen in a test bed on south basin Marina Walk.
- Spider Lily (*Hymenocallis latifolia*) – 2 to 3 ft. tall, clumping perennial, forming large groundcovers. Attractive dark green, straplike leaves. Large interesting, showy white flowers, borne in cluster spring through fall. Low maintenance. Salt tolerant. Seems to prefer some afternoon shade. Can be seen on north basin Marina Walk.

Shrubs: (Note – some shrubs are routinely not allowed their full height potential. Many can be made into multi-trunked small trees.)

- Allamanda Shrub or Bush (*Allamanda schottii*) – Usually maintained at 3 ft. tall with medium growth rate. 2 to 3 in. green pointed leaf. Flowers about half the year with yellow trumpet-shaped flowers. Light shade to full sun. Medium salt and wind tolerance. Requires 18-24 months to establish in BSM.
- Arboricola (*Schefflera arboricola*) – usually maintained at 2 to 3 ft. tall for ‘Trinette/Goldfinger’, ‘Capella’ (4 to 5 ft. tall) and solid green varieties – medium-high salt tolerance, 10’; Dazzle variegated, sending out 6-12’ limbs that can be left to gracefully fall to the ground, acting as a groundcover, or, when planted at the base of a tree/palm, tied to the trunk for clinging vine appearance. Slow growing with high salt and wind tolerance. Light requirements wide ranging, shade to full sun. A much-used foundation and hedge plant at BSM.
- Bay Cedar (*Suriana maritima*) 10’. Little used.
- Bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea glabra*) 8’
- Cape Honeysuckle (*Tecomaria capensis*) – medium-high tolerance, 4 to 10 ft. high. Actually, a vine but rarely used as such. Fast growing with medium salt and wind tolerance. Tubular flowers are intense orange. (Other colors available but not as vigorous.) Medium salt tolerance. Handles pruning well and recovers quickly. Can be seen in the 200 block of Islamorada, north side, and, in a test bed on the Marina Walk, north basin.
- Cardboard Palm (*Zamia furfuracea*) – 4 to 6 ft. tall; cannot be pruned in height. Becomes very large and dense. Found around BSM as huge to medium sized. Growth habit is to cluster, sending up pups. No flower, but produces a cone that opens revealing many sticky red seeds—all viable. High salt tolerance.
- Carissa/Natal Plum (*Carissa macrocarpa*) 10’. Fragrant sparse flowers; produces edible fruit.
- Confederate Jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) – Used as a shrub and maintained at 2 to 3 ft. tall. Dark glossy green foliage with fragrant white flowers. Short bloom period in the spring. Medium growth rate with medium salt and wind tolerance.
- Cocoplum (*Chrysobalanus icaco*) – Easily maintained at 3 to 12 ft. tall. Used as a hedge; partial shade to full sun. Tolerates drought. Inconspicuous flower produces 1 in. round, edible “plum.” Red Tip is prettier, but more salt sensitive than green variety. Not as common after a killing frost around 1997 and 2009. Test bed on Marina Walk, north basin.
- Crotons (*Codiaeum spp.*) – many varieties, colorful, widely varying leaf patterns/shapes. Installing larger gallon sized plants beneficial. They do not like too little or too much water; causes leaf drop. Good selection fronting Grande Isles buildings. Medium to high salt and wind tolerances. Some leaf drop at 40 deg., but recovers quickly. Varieties to look for: Petra, Mammy, Magnificent, Gold Dust, Picasso, etc.
- Fiddlewood (*Citharexylum spinosum*) – panicles of white flowers, 6-15’. Best as a single trunked small tree. See Trees, below.
- Firebush (*Hamelia patens*) – usually maintained at 3 to 4 ft. tall, but can easily reach 8 ft., fast growing. Flowers readily producing many tubular orange clusters. Native; attracts butterflies, hummingbirds and dark berries are eaten by birds. Light shade to full sun; medium salt and wind tolerance. Slower growth till about the 3rd year, when it takes off. Requires drastic rejuvenation pruning annually to maintain bushy appearance. Drops leaves at 40 deg. but recovers quickly with both leaves and flowers. Readily seen at BSM. (Note: there is a dwarf called Firefly.)
- Firecracker (*Rusellia equisetiformis*) – Beautiful when cascading or in hanging basket, 4-5’. Easily becomes littered with dead wood; tends to be poorly pruned when planted in the ground.

Shrubs, continued...

- Florida Hydrangea (*Dombeya 'Seminole'*) – Easily maintained at 6 ft. tall with fast growth rate. Medium green leaves with round clusters of medium pink flowers, about 4-5 in. across. Irrigation spray using community water will burn the leaf margins. Salt and wind tolerance are medium. Plant lower growing plant in front to hide this plant's legginess. Nice foundation planting against Grand Isles I on the south marina basin.
- Green Buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*) – Usually treated and maintained as a hedge, 5 to 6 ft. tall. Left alone, can become a multi-trunked tree 25 ft. tall. Native, salt and drought tolerant, but can handle saline wetlands. Fast growing.
- Green Island Ficus (*Ficus microcarpa 'Green Island'*) 2-8'. Remember this is a ficus. Robust, aerial roots; clean shiny dark green leaves. Used throughout BSM.
- Hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*) As a dwarf must be sprayed with *Bonsai*, a growth inhibitor, when normal larger growth appears. Vanderlaans Nursery, Lake Worth, FL is the major grower. As a shrub, generally kept to 4 ft. tall. Standards, about 6 ft. tall in various colors (red flowering the strongest), must be staked and sucker growth along trunk, removed. High salt and wind tolerance. Important: flowers on new wood.
- Ilex 'Schilling' (*Ilex vomitoria 'Schilling'*) – usually maintained at less than 3 ft. high with a wider, round form; slow growing. High salt tolerance, pest free, low maintenance.
- Indian Hawthorne (*Raphiolepis indica*) – 2 to 4 ft. high, moderately growing. Versatile, salt and drought tolerant (once established). Pale pink flowers in spring. Used widely throughout BSM. Some areas have encountered various fungal diseases.
- Ixora (*Ixora spp.*) – a species with many varieties, though at BSM primarily Nora Grant and dwarf Thai are used. Nora Grant has handsome green foliage and large balled, composite flowers in a rose-coral. Usually kept at 3 to 4 ft. tall. Leaves develop leaf spot during chilly damp winters. This is a chemical reaction within the leaf. Plant can take a couple years to truly come into its own. Semi-sun best. Dwarf Thai has a very small leaf and smaller flowers of intense orange. Does well edging a bed with larger-formatted plants behind. Frost tender. Medium salt and wind tolerance.
- Juniper, Shore (*Juniperus conferta*) – 2 ft. high, slow growth rate. Medium-high tolerance of salt and drought. Requires good drainage and looks best when allowed to cascade. Good example on the S Curve, Matecumbe Key Blvd.
- Marbleberry/Japanese Ardisia (*Ardisia escallonioides*) – fragrant white flowers, 10-15'. Uncommon native.
- Necklace Pod (*Sophora tomentosa*) – 4 to 5 ft. tall, native. Light yellow flowers in panicles against soft furry silver-grey foliage. Common name comes from peapod-like seed. Full sun; highly salt tolerant. Planted in a test bed, Marina Walk north basin.
- Oleander (*Nerium oleander*) – various flower colors available, 10 – 15 ft. tall. Medium growth rate. 'Icy Pink' is a dwarf, about 3 ft. tall; only color available. New group of Icy Pink on Islamorada Blvd. by Commodore Club's Bldg. 7. Also found on Prosperity Pt. The typical oleander is kept to about 5 to 6 ft. tall, sometimes taller, but it can get leggy. Oleander has an impressive root system and with successive rejuvenation pruning, becomes woody and unattractive after about 5-7 yrs. Full sun; high salt and wind tolerance. Oleander caterpillars frequently attack, doing considerable leaf damage. Spray immediately when noticed.
- Pittosporum (*Pittosporum tobira*) 6-8'. Variegated and solid available, evergreen. Inconspicuous fragrant white flowers. Salt tolerant; prefers a bit of shade. Limited success at BSM.
- Podocarpus (*Podocarpus macrophyllus*) – easily maintained at 3 to 4 ft. tall as a hedge, or, let loose becoming a 30-ft. tall tree. Medium growth rate with medium salt and wind tolerance. Leaf is needle-like, dark green. Prone to scale and black sooty mold. Look for the new variety, 'Pringles' which, due to its shorter 3 ft. stature, is useful in front of taller shrubs. Pringles has a fine texture, dark green.

Shrubs, continued...

- Saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) – *S. repens* ‘Silver’ also available, 3’ and greater. Slow to establish. Native with low water and fertilizer requirements. See test bed, Marina Walk’s north basin. See Palms, below. Actually, considered to be a “tree” due to its growth habit.
- Sea Grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*) - To 30 ft. tall with widely branching form. Typically grown as a large hedge, 4-7’, but given room does very well as a multi-trunked tree. Leaves large, about 8 in., rounded and leathery. Foliage turns colors with fall-type temperatures; leaves drop with cold; new leaves uniformly bronze. Note: leaves drop continuously, decay slowly. Panicles of fruit are used for jam. Native with high salt, drought and wind tolerances.
- Silver Buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus* var. *sericeus*) - 3 to 20 ft. tall. Performs best as a short 3-4’ hedge, or, as a multi-trunked tree, 12-20 ft. tall. Found all over BSM. Medium growth with silver-green 2 in. long leaf. High salt and wind tolerances; full sun. Becomes very leggy if only pruned at the top; correct with severe rejuvenation pruning. Recovers quickly.
- Southern Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) – 4 to 20 ft. tall. Native which does best left alone once established. Good in mixed native areas, screening. Salt tolerant; prefers moist soil.
- Spanish Stopper (*Eugenia foetida*) – 15 ft. tall, slow growth rate. Native with salt and drought tolerance. Dense attractive foliage with black fruit.
- White Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia Nicolai*) – easily maintained at 8 ft. high, but can reach 15 ft. To prune, remove the tallest clump, cutting off at the bottom. Readily sends up new pups. Medium growth rate with medium salt tolerance, but low wind tolerance. Large flower looks like a bird with white on the top and blue on the bottom.
- Xanadu (*Philodendron* ‘Xanadu’) – 2 to 3 ft. tall, forming a large tropical looking shrub. Medium salt tolerance if irrigated with a low emitter system, otherwise leaves will burn.

Trees:

- Cuban Laurel (*Ficus microcarpa*) – Very large native, 50x50’. Low wind tolerance, hence reason to allow the aerial roots to take hold to anchor the tree. Massive tree; massive roots. See several mature examples on Cape Cole Blvd. between Islamorada and Matecumbe Key.
- Fiddlewood (*Citharexylum spinosum*) – 15 to 25 ft. tall, medium growth rate. Single or multi-trunk, with shiny medium green leaves. Produces fragrant, white flower panicles year-round, followed by yellow berries that then turn orange before finally becoming dark brown. Salt and drought tolerant once established. Lovely small, native tree. Two were planted around 2015 in the 1200 block of Islamorada, north side, amongst cabbage palms and fronted by Indian Hawthorne.
- Frangipani/Plumeria (*Plumeria* spp.) – medium-high tolerance, various flower colors determine fragrance, 15-25’. Typically gets rust on leaves annually; remove affected leaves from tree and the ground. Usually found in a resident’s yard.
- Geiger (*Cordia sebestena* and *C. lutea*) – 15 to 20 ft. small tree with showy orange or yellow flowers, 25’. Native; being used more in landscape. Leaves will be damaged in wind, but structure has high wind tolerance. Salt and drought tolerance high. Orange flowering variety seems to be overall a stronger, more vigorous, plant.
- Gumbo Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*) – 40 ft. tall. Native with medium growth rate. Semi-wind tolerant; high salt and drought tolerance. Displays wonderful peeling bark. Semi-deciduous. A few still at Egret Pt. Assoc.
- Hong Kong Orchid (*Bauhinia x blakeana*) – 30 ft. tall with very fast growth. Leaf has a distinctive cloven-hoof appearance. Pink-purple flowers dramatic, orchid-like. Blooms October-April for 2 to 3 months. Growth tends to be irregular; important to purchase one that is well-shaped and seedless. Low salt and wind tolerance. Cobia Cay Villas has some at their entrance, but they were installed when the community’s irrigation water was less saline.

Trees, continued...

- Jamaican Caper (*Capparis cynophallophora*) – 8 to 15 ft. tall; native, natural pyramidal or rounded shape, slow growth rate. Pruning not needed. Handles tough conditions well; high salt and drought tolerance. Leaves are shiny on top. Flowers are white when new, purplish with age, fragrant, with purple stamens and yellow anthers; delicate, striking. One at Marlin Run II. Shrub form on north basin Marina Walk.
- Jamaican Dogwood (*Piscidia piscipula*) – Up to 35 ft. tall, native. Great tropical tree. Lavender/white flowers. Salt and drought tolerant. Deciduous during dry season. Trees serve as larvae hosts for the hammock skipper (*Polygonus leo*) butterfly.
- Madagascar Olive (*Noronhia emarginata*) – 25 ft. tall and as wide, slow growing. Evergreen broadleaf tropical. High salt and drought tolerance.
- Mahoghany (*Swietenia mahogany*) – 35 ft. tall, fast growth rate. Interesting large, ball-like seed pod. High wind tolerance against uprooting, but branches are not wind resistant, brittle. Most along Islamorada Blvd. blew down during Hurricane Charley. More recent plantings split during wind.
- Oak, Live (*Quercus virginiana*) - 40x50'. Very slow to establish, leaving it vulnerable to winds. High drought and wind tolerance (once established after several years). Important to purchase Florida Grade A Fancy stock. Old mature trees fronting Rudder Club on Islamorada Blvd.
- Paradise (*Simarouba glauca*) – medium-high salt tolerance, small yellow flowers, 25x25'. Uncommon; medium wind tolerance; has not been successful at BSM.
- Pigeon Plum (*Coccoloba diversifolia*) – 20 ft. tall, native closely related to *Coccoloba uvifera*. Requires good drainage; relative to seagrape; medium growing; medium-high wind resistance. Several along Islamorada and Cape Cole Blvds.
- Pitch Apple or Autograph Tree (*Clusia rosea*) – 25 ft. tall. Slow growing; pink-white flowers. Salt and drought tolerant. One in a test bed, south basin Marina Walk.
- Plumeria/Frangipani (*Plumeria spp.*) – Small tree, about 12 ft. tall. Slow growing with high salt and wind tolerance. The fragrant flower comes in many colors, each giving off its unique scent. Grows best in high light and with little water, once established. Routinely gets rust on its leaves which look like orange spots; goes away naturally. Leaves drop in the winter.
- Podocarpus, Broadleaf (*Podocarpus nagi*) – 25 ft. tall. Only one at BSM (Islamorada/Big Pass Rd.) and doing well. Salt and wind tolerant.
- Royal Poinciana (*Delonix regia*) - 40x50'. Very large, spreading tree with compound leaves, intense red-orange flowers May through mid-summer, followed by large hanging pods. Defoliates during cold temperatures. Many along Islamorada and Cape Cole Blvds., Commodore Club's property and residents' yards. Has done very well. Not considered very wind resistant. Medium salt tolerance.
- Screw Pine (*Pandanus utilis*) – 25 ft. tall. Creating a striking landscape effect wherever it is used. Pyramidal, sometimes irregular, open, but much-branched silhouette. Smooth, stout trunks topped with full, graceful heads of long, thin leaves, 3 ft. long and 3 in. wide, emerging spirally from stubby branches. Interesting ball-shaped fruit somewhat resembling a pine cone. Exposed prop roots. Moderate drought and high salt tolerances. About a dozen at BSM, doing well. Unusual conformation; requires room.
- Sea Grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*) – up to 30 ft. tall, but at BSM only used as a short to medium hedge. See Shrubs, above.
- Shady Lady Black Olive (*Bucidia*) 25'. Many at BSM, doing well. Caution: do not plant over a hard surface due to staining. Can get a caterpillar infestation; ignore it. Typically will receive a horizontal "tattoo" winding around the trunk, complements of the yellow-bellied sapsucker bird.
- Silver Buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus var. sericeus*) – 12 to 15 ft. tall, spreading, multi-trunked. Native. Salt and drought tolerant. Seven along Islamorada, large, doing well but probably have a lifespan of 15-20 years. Note: This is the same as the shrub, just grown to encourage a tree-like form.

Trees, continued...

- Spanish Stopper (*Eugenia foetida*) – See Shrubs, above.
- Tabebuia (*Tabebuia spp.*) ~25'. Three species along Islamorada Blvd., Silver Trumpet (deciduous, golden yellow flowers), IPE (deciduous, supposedly purple flowers, but actually pale pink-lavender; Pink (semi-evergreen, medium-intense pink flowers). High drought and wind tolerance. Seed.
- Variegated Sea Mahoe (*Hibiscus tiliaceus 'Tricolor'*) Started showing up at BSM at Esplanade, Cape Cole/golf course and Islamorada. Variegated floppy leaf with a hibiscus flower that changes color during the day, falls off. Doing well through the 2017 drought and subsequent rains. Tends to sucker along trunk.
- Verawood (*Bulnesia arborea*) – 20 to 30 ft. tall native tree. Has a spreading, rounded, finely branched growth habit. Golden yellow flowers for 2-3 months during the summer. Medium-high tolerance for salt, slow growing. One on Matecumbe Key Blvd., top of mound opposite boaters' parking lot. Brutal exposed area-wind, salt from harbor. Knocked down twice and uprighted. Wood is 2nd only to Ironwood in strength. Three new ones installed 7/2017 at 1101, 1509 and 1548 Islamorada Blvd., flowering.
- Wild Cinnamon/Cinnamon Bark (*Canella winterana*) – 20 ft. tall but only about 10 ft. wide. Beautiful, typically small, low maintenance tree. Dark green, leathery leaves are clustered at the end of branches. A straight trunk supports a neat, well-kept canopy. High salt, drought, wind tolerance. Slow growing, white flowers with berries. Native. See examples on the Marina Walk north basin.
- Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) – 8 to 25 ft. tall, moderately fast growth rate. Female plant produces bright red berries. (Male specimen required for fruit production on female.) Salt tolerant but requires evenly moist, well-drained, soil. Shade to part-sun.
- Yellow Tabebuia (*Tabebuia caraiba*) – 20 to 30 ft. tall with medium growth. Silvery green leaf with showy clusters of yellow flowers in the early spring. Blooms only for a few weeks annually and all will fall at once. Medium salt tolerance, but not wind resistant and will fall over easily. Upright and stake. Frost tender but will survive at 30 degrees.

Palms:

- Alexander or Solitaire Palm (*Ptychosperma elegans*) – 20 ft. tall; medium growth rate. Tropical palm (USDA zone 10b-11) but survives 32 deg. Medium salt and wind tolerances. Self-pruning. Susceptible to lethal ganoderma?
- Areca Palm (*Dypsis lutescens*) – 20 ft. tall, clustering habit sending up multiple trunks. Pinnate fronds are greenish-yellow, about 6 ft. long. Salt tolerance medium; low wind tolerance. Can handle shade to full sun. Can form large dense clustering group. Option to thin out some trunks to open it up. Fronds turn orange-ish when exposed to cold north wind. Lethal ganoderma a possibility.
- Bismarck Palm (*Bismarckia nobilis*) – 30 ft. tall. Attractive gray-blue palmate fronds up to 9 ft. long. Slow growth till trunk is formed, then increases to medium rate. Medium salt tolerance; high wind tolerance. Light shade to full sun. Highly susceptible to the large palmetto weevil, requiring preemptive insecticidal injections. Not self-pruning.
- Bottle Palm (*Hyophorbe lagenicaulis*) – 12 ft. tall, slow growing. Grown for its wonderfully novel shape and beautifully sculpted crownshaft. Loves the heat, moderate amounts of water and regularly fertilized. Very salt tolerant. Susceptible to potassium deficiency. Several can be seen in residents' yards on Linkside Dr. in BSM. Not self-pruning.
- Cabbage/Sabal (*Sabal palmetto*) – 40 ft. tall; slow growth rate. Native; state tree. Frond is palmate, gray-green 3-8 ft. long palmate fronds. High tolerances to salt and wind. Full sun. Found all over BSM. Not self-pruning.

Palms, continued...

- Chinese Fan Palm (*Livistona chinensis*) – 30 ft. tall with slow growth rate. Sometimes sold as a multi-trunked specimen, which grows more slowly and not as tall. Medium salt and high wind tolerances. Handles medium shade to full sun. Not self-pruning. Triple (3 palms) Chinese Fan palms planted, space out, along wall on Burnt Store Rd.
- Christmas/Adonidia/Dwarf Royal Palm (*Adonidia merrillii*) – Up to 15 ft. tall; medium growth rate; generally available with 2 or 3 trunks, forming a single palm appearance. Attractive smaller palm, self-pruning. Reddish fruit cluster usually appearing around the holidays gives rise to name Christmas palm. Medium salt tolerance; high wind tolerance; medium shade to full sun. Self-pruning. Frost can kill. Susceptible to lethal yellowing, but has not appeared to be susceptible to the lethal fungus of ganoderma.
- Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) 60'. Falling out of favor due to height, falling coconuts. Susceptible to spiraling whitefly. High salt and wind tolerance. Not self-pruning.
- Florida Thatch (*Thrinax radiata*) – Up to 20 ft. tall. Slow to establish; mixed success, though BSM now has several good looking specimens on the south basin Marina Walk and at the T Intersection of Islamorada and Cape Cole Blvds. Not self-pruning.
- Foxtail Palm (*Wodyetia bifurata*) – 30 ft. tall with fast growth. Dark green pinnate fronds resembling a fox's tail, about 5-7 ft. long. Medium salt and wind tolerances. Expect damage at 32 deg. Requires regular fertilization. Grows in light shade to full sun. Self-pruning.
- Paurotis Palm (*Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*) – 20 to 30 ft. tall, clump-forming native. Provides a tropical effect. Fronds palmate/fan shaped, not self-pruning. Prefers moist areas, but adapts to drier sites; fun sun. Tolerant of salt air, but not cold hardy. Specimens in various areas at BSM, including front of homes. Several on the top of the Islamorada Blvd. berm at Spinnaker Club.
- Seashore Palm (*Allagoptera arenaria*) – 4 to 8 ft. tall, shrubby appearance. Uncommon; very attractive. Several on the south basin Marin Walk, installed summer 2013. Doing well. High salt and drought tolerance. Not self-pruning.
- Pygmy Date Palm (*Phoenix roebelenii*) – 10 ft. tall with slow growth rate. Typically sold with multiple trunks/plants. Medium salt tolerance; high wind tolerance. Grows in medium shade to full sun. Caution: sharp long thorns on 3-5 ft. long pinnate fronds. Not self-pruning.
- Queen Palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*) – 30 to 40 ft. tall; fast growth. Dark green pinnate fronds 5-10 ft. long. Fronds sway gracefully in the wind. Salt tolerance medium with low wind tolerance. Susceptible to mineral deficiencies and ganoderma. Grows in light shade to full sun. Not self-pruning.
- Royal Palm (*Roystonea elata*) – 60+ ft. tall with medium growth rate. Pinnate frond medium lime green, about 8-10 ft. long. Self-pruning. Give full sun. Medium salt tolerance with high wind tolerance. Shows damage at 32 deg., but recovers. Requires regular fertilization. Susceptible to manganese and potassium deficiencies.
- Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) – 6 to 8 ft. tall; much of the trunk under the ground, running parallel. Native. Pinnate frond light green to silvery green shaped like a fan (palmate) about 2-6 ft. long. High salt and wind tolerance. Grows in light shade to full sun.
- Silver Palm (*Coccothrinax argentata*) – 5 to 20 ft. tall, slow growing native. Attractive palmate fronds green above and silvery below. Flowers are tiny, white, fragrant in large showy clusters during the spring. Full sun. Tolerates wind, drought, salt spray and light freezes. Why are we not growing this small palm at BSM?!
- Spindle Palm (*Hyophorbe verschaffeltii*) – 20 ft. tall. Uncommon; only 1-2 at BSM but doing well. Slow growing with high salt tolerance and moderate drought tolerance. Not as unique in its shape as the Bottle palm, above.
- Triangle Palm (*Dypsis decaryi*) – 35 ft. tall, medium growth rate. Grayish-green pinnate fronds (looking like a duck's feather) about 6-10 ft. long. Low salt tolerance; medium wind tolerance.

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