

Natural Erosion Control Using Vegetated Solutions



Presented by: Sally Scalera
Urban Horticulture UF Brevard County
Extension

Ground Covers for Dry Areas Receiving Full Sun



PERENNIAL PEANUT



PERENNIAL PEANUT

- *Archis glabrata*
- High resistance to drought, nematodes, and pathogens
- Can tolerate salt spray, salt drift & short term saltwater flooding
- Minimal fertilizer needs
- Long lived
- Adapted to droughty, infertile sandy soils
- Traditionally planted from Jan. through March
- pH range of 5.0 to 7.5
- Test soil prior to planting!
- <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/EP/EP13500.pdf>



SUNSHINE MIMOSA*



SUNSHINE MIMOSA

- *Mimosa strigillosa*
- Can tolerate partial shade
- Mature spread can reach 15-20 feet
- Very drought tolerant
- Spreads quickly, as few as 4-5 plants can cover 200-300 sq. ft in less than a full growing season
- Produces a dense, deep, mat-like root system



GOLDENROD*



GOLDENROD

- *Solidago* spp
- Produces spreading underground rhizomes that can colonize, forming colonies of the original plant
- Naturally occurs in dry soils in meadows, pastures, along roads and ditches



MUHLY GRASS



MUHLY GRASS

- *Muhlenbergia capillaris* var. *capillaris*
- Grows in clumps
- Found in dry upland prairies and forests
- Best to plant in alternating rows for soil erosion control



RAILROAD VINE



RAILROAD VINE

- *Ipomoea pes-caprae*
- Naturally found on beaches, colonizing dunes, scrub and some upland areas
- The roots form large mats just above the high tide line
- One of the most widely distributed beach plants throughout the tropical and subtropical areas in the world.
- The extent of its spread is determined by its inability to tolerate prolonged frost conditions



GOPHER APPLE



Licania michauxii

photo by Gil Nelson, from his book
Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida



GOPHER APPLE

- *Licania michauxii*
- Soil stabilizer for poor, sandy, well-drained soils
- Very slow grower, can take two years to establish
- Best to interplant with sunshine mimosa



BEACH BEAN*



BEACH BEAN

- *Canavalia rosea*
- Forms mats of foliage
- Very salt tolerant and prefers sandy soils



Ground Covers for Moist Areas



BROWNE'S SAVORY



BROWN'S SAVORY

- *Micromeria brownei* var. *pilosiuscula*
- Member of the mint family
- Can spread rapidly and take over an area
- Grows in soils high in clay to sand
- Handles full sun to partial shade to mostly shade
- Grows in ditches, streams, wetlands



FROG FRUIT



Phyla nodiflora
Photo by Paul L. Redfearn, Jr.



FROG FRUIT

- *Phyla nodiflora* (also creeping charlie)
- Often grown as a groundcover or considered a weed in the lawn
- Spreading and can form dense patches
- Found in wet prairies and moist disturbed areas
- Prefers wet to moist, well-drained to poorly drained sandy soil
- Grows in nutrient poor soils
- Tolerant of short periods of drought once established
- Needs full sun locations



TWINFLOWER*



TWINFLOWER

- *Dyschoriste oblongifolia*
- Low-growing (typically only up to 12") groundcover, spreads rapidly by underground runners
- Can also spread by seed
- Deciduous perennial
- Flowers provide color
- If soil remains dry for too long it will quickly disappear
- Can tolerate high moisture for short periods without harm



SALTMEADOW CORDGRASS



Spartina patens
Photo by Shirley Denton



SALTMEADOW CORDGRASS

- *Spartina patens*
- Native along Atlantic coast from Newfoundland south
- Naturally found in the upper areas of brackish coastal salt marshes.
- Mat-forming and low-growing
- Plant in alternating rows



SAND CORDGRASS



SAND CORDGRASS

- *Spartina bakeri*
- Grows in semiaquatic and aquatic habitats including beaches and ponds
- It can tolerate flooding
- Can decline after 2 years if not in a moist area
- Plant in alternating rows



There may be times when inter-planting two ground covers in an area would be a good idea just in case one doesn't do as well.



- All photos marked with an * were provided by
Maple Street Natives
7619 Henry Avenue
Melbourne, FL 32904
(321) 729-6857

Photos with captions provided by the Atlas of
Florida Vascular Plants at

<http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>

