

# WHY NATIVE?

Ficus hedges in town have become infested with white flies and are being drenched and injected with more and more synthetic chemicals. There are reports of the white flies developing resistance to the chemicals. These synthetic chemicals are not a sustainable solution to the white fly infestations. They can result in **killing our essential pollinators, starving our birds and polluting our groundwater.** There are concerns about the long term impact of these chemicals on our health, the health of our children and pets and the **overall health of our fragile ecosystem** including our birds, bees and butterflies that are essential to life.

**The Garden Club of Palm Beach** is recommending native plants as replacements for ficus hedges. Natives support our birds and butterflies, do not require chemicals or excessive water once established and will help restore our island to a healthy environment. The Town of Palm Beach through its new **“Green Initiative”** will assist residents in the removal of ficus hedge material. We are pleased to present this **“Top Ten”** list of native plants as hedge replacements. There are many choices beyond these. As we learn more we will update the list on our Garden Club website. Natives will add flowers, fragrance, berries, butterflies and birds to our gardens and most importantly, we will all be restoring the health of our island, one garden at a time.

**\*\*Note:** *The non-native **Clusia guttier** (small leaf) has been frequently planted in Palm Beach as a native hedge, but it is NOT native. **Culsia rose** (large leaf) is native but because of the confusion, we have left it off the top recommendations.*

# PRESENTED BY



**The Garden Club of Palm Beach was established in 1928. The mission of the club is focused on horticulture, the environment, conservation and civic improvement.**

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# GOING NATIVE

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*Silver Buttonwood*

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# TOP 10 NATIVE HEDGES

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**A guide for the use of native plants as garden hedges.**





**Green Buttonwood**  
(*Conocarpus erectus*) &  
**Silver Buttonwood**  
(*Conocarpus erectus* var.  
*sericeus*) They

are tolerant of extreme exposure to salt spray and moderate to high drought. They have low to moderate nutritional requirements and like full sun. They are great for formal and informal landscapes. Their flowers, leaves and rough bark attract insects which provide food for birds.



**Cocoplum**  
(*Chrysobalanus icaco*) This lovely evergreen makes an excellent hedge in sunny to partly shaded areas. A fast grower, up to 20ft, it can be

trimmed to almost any height. The lush, shiny, dark green foliage and distinct new growth is stunning in filtered light. Drought tolerant, it produces tiny, fragrant white flowers providing nectar for moths and butterflies, and it produces edible fruits for jelly.



**Florida Privet**  
(*Forestiera segregata*) It is salt and drought tolerant and likes full to partial sun. It grows 10-15ft tall and 5-10ft wide.

It is known for its hurricane wind resistance. It has green and glossy leaves and produces flowers in late winter and early spring. Its berries are an excellent food source for birds and pollinators.



**Jamaica Capertree**  
(*Quadrella jamaicensis*) This is a highly ornamental broadleaf evergreen shrub/tree. It grows 6-12ft high and 6-10ft wide. It is a long-lived perennial

which is wind resistant as well as drought and salt tolerant. In summer it produces exotic spidery flowers whose fragrance attracts pollinators.



**Marlberry** (*Ardisia escallonioides*) It produces berries and fragrant white flowers that bloom all year, and it has shiny, dark green foliage. It thrives in full to moderate sun and is salt, drought and wind tolerant. It

likes sandy soil, grows 8-15ft and can be pruned into a beautiful hedge which attracts butterflies and birds.



**Simpson's Stopper** (*Myrcianthes fragrans*) It is very versatile and thrives in shade and sun. It has small evergreen leaves with fragrant white flowers that attract many species of butterflies. It also produces small edible, red berries that are the favorite of cardinals, blue jays and mockingbirds.



**Spanish Stopper** (*Eugenia foetida*) It makes a tall, thick clipped hedge, growing 12-20ft high. It has a fibrous root system and is a slow grower. It is drought and salt tolerant and has oval green leaves with yellow underneath. It produces small white flowers in summer and berries in December providing fruit for birds.



**Locustberry**  
(*Byrsonima lucida*) This is a low spreading evergreen shrub with large clusters of flowers that change as it ages from white and pink to crimson. It is drought tolerant and likes full sun to light shade. It reaches a height of 8-10ft in rich soil. Its flowers host numerous butterfly species and its berries attract birds year round.



**Seagrape**  
(*Coccoloba uvifera*) It has enormous round leaves which can be pruned into hedges or it can grow into 50-60ft tall trees. It is tolerant of ocean winds and sandy

soil. White flowers appear in the spring, and in the summer its dangling green "grapes" are edible for both humans and birds.



**Wild Coffee** (*Psychotria nervosa*) This makes a dramatic screen in light sun or partial shade. It grows to 10ft in height and has glossy, bright green foliage and clusters of white flowers. Berries and flowers provide nectar for numerous pollinators. It thrives near the coast, is fast growing and is great as a mixed hedge.