

Pine Rockland Plant Factsheet: *Trees*

The globally imperiled pine rockland ecosystem is named for its dominant canopy tree the South Florida slash pine (*Pinus eliottii* var. *densa*). There are also a number of small hardwood tree species that are found in pine rocklands. In a natural fire regime these species will have moderate height in the shrub layer or edge of pine rocklands. In your backyard, they may become small trees.

Interesting fact: Native trees are a source of food and shelter for native wildlife. Some native wildlife depend solely on native species for survival. They will not use a non-native as a substitute.

*We greatly encourage planting as many native trees species as your yard may support. You can naturally cool your home during summer months by planting trees on the south and west sides of your home.



Tetrazygia bicolor (West Indian-lilac). Small pine rockland tree.

Tree Species Recommendations for Your Pine Rockland Stepping Stone Garden

- *Guettarda scabra*
- *Forestiera segregata*
- *Byrsonima lucida*

*To find nurseries that grow native plants visit www.fairchildgarden.org

Planting and Maintenance of Native Trees

Planting: Select a sunny location that receives 6-8 hours of sun each day. Dig a hole large enough to bury the entire root ball. Remove the plant from the pot and place into the hole straight and upright. Back fill the soil around the root ball. Be sure that all roots are covered with soil, yet avoid planting too deeply.

Watering: Water heavily at the time of planting and follow the recommended schedule below. You may not need to water as much in the summer when rain is abundant as you would in dry months.

Recommended watering schedule for your pine rockland grasses:

Week 1-3: water every other day.

Week 4-8: water every third day.

Week 8-6 months: water once a week

After 6 months: Your plants should be established and you will not have to water again except during extreme drought.

Pruning: Native trees do not require much pruning. Start with dead branches and branches that are crossing each other. Some species can be pruned to be maintained as a shrub. You can achieve this by pruning 6-10 inches once a year, preferably early in the rainy season (May-July). For species specific pruning requirements contact dpowell@fairchildgarden.org.

Fertilizing: Since native pine rockland trees normally grow in a nutrient-poor ecosystem they do not require fertilizer.

How Can YOU Help Conserve Our Remaining Pine Rocklands?

- 1- Join the Connect to Protect Network
- 2 - Support prescribed fire in pine rocklands
- 3 - Encourage friends and family to plant pine rockland plants

To join the Connect to Protect Network or to learn more, please visit www.fairchildgarden.org