

Some Planting Suggestions for Fire Island

Common Name	Botanical Name	Damp Soil		Max Height	Sun or Shade	Special Notes
		Tolerance	Deer Resistant			
<u>Evergreens - many pines, junipers, cypress and spruce are suitable.</u>						
<u>Trees</u>						
River(black) birch	Betula nigra	Yes	Yes	10'-20'	Shade to part sun	Young bark is pinkish in color
Sweet bay (magnolia)	Magnolia virginiana	Yes	Yes	10'-20'	Sun or shade	Energy source for migrating birds
Swamp white oak	Quercus bicolor	Yes	Yes	50-60'	Sun, partial shade	Pollen provides food for pollinators
Black willow	Salix nigra	Yes	No	35'-60'	Shade tolerant	Nectar, pollen are early food for bees
Fringe tree (old man's beard)	Chionanthus virginicus	Moderate	Yes	12'-20'	Sun, partial shade	Fruit is food source for birds
Tulip poplar (little volunteer)	Liriodendran tulipifera	Moderate	Yes	up to 50'	Shade tolerant	Attracts birds, bees, tiger swallowtail
American holly	Ilex opaca	Moist, well drained	Yes	30' or more	Sun, partial shade	Native to Fire Island
Black cherry	Prunus serotina	Moist, well drained	Fair	30' or more	Sun, partial shade	Fruit is food source for birds
Eastern red cedar	Juniperus virginiana	Moderate	Yes	<30'	Sun	Fruit food source for birds; salt tolerant
Black oak	Quercus velutina	Moderate		>30'	Sun	Foliage turns red in fall
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Yes	Moderate	>30'	Sun	Foliage turns red in fall
<u>Shrubs and Bushes (Evergreens)</u>						
Highbush blueberry	Vaccinium corymbosum	Yes	No	6'-12'	Sun, partial shade	Fruit eaten by many birds
Winterberry (holly)	Ilex verticillata	Yes	Yes	up to 10'	Sun, partial shade	Males & females are separate plants
Coast pepperbush (Summer sweet)	Clethra alnifolia	Yes	Yes	3'-10'	Sun, partial shade	Attracts bees
Red chokeberry	Aronia arbutifolia	Yes	Yes	6'-10'	Sun, partial shade	Self pollinating
Beach plum	Prunus maritima	Fair	Fair	10'	Sun	Good jam & jelly
Northern bayberry	Morella pensylvanica	Yes	Yes	3' - 5'	Sun, partial shade	Aromatic
Swamp milkweed	Asclepias tuberosa	"Mucky" soil	Yes	3'-10'	Sun	Food for monarch larvae; attracts butterflies and birds
Common milkweed	Asclepias syriaca	No	Yes	3'	Sun	Food for monarch larvae
<u>Grasses</u>						
Little bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium	Yes	Yes	4"-8"	Sun, partial shade	Attracts birds & butterflies
Switchgrass	Panicum vergatum	Yes	Yes	3-8'	Sun, partial shade	Seeds are food source for songbirds
Tussock sedge	Carex stricta	Yes	Yes	2-3'	Sun	Birds use leaves & stem for nests
Tufted hairgrass	Deschampsia cespitosa		Yes	1-3'	Partial shade	Food for many birds
Northern Sea Oats	Cansmanthium latifolium	Moderate	Yes	5'	Sun	Grown ornamentally for its fruit
Beach grass	<i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>		Yes	1-2'	Sun, light shade	Salt tolerant; stabilizes sandy soils

Usefull references include:

US Department of Agriculture, NRCS, National Resouces Conservation Service, <https://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ny/home>
Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants, Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, 2007.
 Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, wildflower.org.
 Deer Resistant Plants, deerxlandscape.com.