

THE BERMUDA BAY “DO NOT PLANT” LIST

This is a current list (as of January 1, 2026) of the “invasive” plants that can be controlled when planted in pots/planters, but they should not be planted in the ground because they represent an invasive threat to our Bermuda Bay Community. Also included are plants/trees that attract pests, those that are poisonous to pets and humans, and others that can damage plumbing/irrigation pipes, sidewalks, and foundations.



Bermuda Bay

EST. 1974

Beach
Natures Hidden Paradise

ST. PETERSBURG

FLORIDA

Asian Sword Fern



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nephrolepis_brownii

Bromeliads



Habitat for insects, including mosquito larvae and roaches.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2832612/>

- **Oyster Plant**

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tradescantia_spathacea

- **Mexican Petunia**

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruellia_simplex



Leaves and stems grow huge on trees and can climb 20+ feet up a tree. This beautiful vine has colorful heart-shaped foliage often grown in a hanging basket or up an upright support as an indoor or patio specimen. A wonderful plant when kept in its “cage” under cultivation, but once the pothos vine is released, it can change into an invasive. The leaves are poisonous to children, toddlers and babies if ingested.

Pathos Vine/Ivy



- **Philodendron**

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syngonium_podophyllum



- **Schefflera**



POTENTIALLY DESTRUCTIVE PLANTS/TREES: These plants/trees will quickly grow into large trees when planted outside. They have invasive and destructive root systems that can severely damage plumbing, sidewalks, and foundations.

Rubber Tree



- **Snake Plant**

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dracaena_trifasciata



Sprenger's Asparagus Fern

<https://www.tcpalm.com/story/life/columnists/carol-cloud-bailey/2018/09/02/asparagus-fern-thug-florida-landscapes-and-difficult-remove/1047344002/>



Another variety with sharp thorns

Bamboo: Fast-Spreading Plant

Rapid Growth of Bamboo

Bamboo is famous for its incredibly fast growth, with some varieties spreading quickly and dominating landscapes.

Varieties Spread Differently

Running bamboo types are highly invasive, while clumping varieties also spread but more slowly over time.

Need for Control Measures

Homeowners should research bamboo varieties and use barriers or management to prevent unwanted spreading.



ANY PLANTS WITH THORNS. AND CACTI THAT ARE NOT INVASIVE, BUT DANGEROUS WHEN PLANTED NEAR WALKWAYS:

- **Agave/Century Plants**

- **Various Cacti (a few are pictured here)**



Bougainvillea: Beauty and Risks

Vibrant Floral Appeal

Bougainvillea flowers are highly valued for their vivid colors and ability to thrive both in pots and wild settings.

Thorns and Allergic Risks

Bougainvillea plants have sharp thorns that may cause allergic reactions, especially in sensitive individuals and pets.

Safety Recommendations

Extra caution is needed when planting bougainvillea in spaces frequented by children, elderly, or pets to prevent injuries.



Fruit Trees (not allowed at Bermuda Bay) and Pests

Fruit Trees Attract Pests

Fruit and citrus trees attract pests like rodents, birds, and insects, especially when fruit falls to the ground.

Infestation Risks

Unmanaged fallen fruit can lead to rapid pest multiplication and infestations in gardens and communities.

Effective Pest Management

Regular monitoring and removing fallen fruit help reduce pest populations and protect fruit trees.





Variegated Arboricola Concerns

Extensive Root System Damage

The large roots of Variegated Arboricola can crack sidewalks and foundations, leading to costly property damage.

High Maintenance Challenges

These trees create a mess, increasing maintenance requirements and making landscape management more difficult.

Growth Restrictions Enforced

Moving forward in 2026, Variegated Arboricola growth is restricted at Bermuda Bay due to property concerns, making them unsuitable for the community.



IMPORTANT:

We are **discouraging** the use of **Black Mulch**. The reason being is that the color black attracts the sun more, therefore drying out the mulch, which in turn dries out the ground. You want your mulch to hold in the moisture for better growth. Plants are not successful in black mulch. We request people to purchase a NATURAL/NEUTRAL colored mulch, which is better for the environment.

Benefits of Cypress Mulch

Cypress mulch helps retain soil moisture and suppress weeds, making it a practical choice for garden beds.



Advantages of Pine Needle Mulch

Pine needle mulch improves soil acidity and provides a natural appearance, blending well in landscaped areas.



Choosing the Right Mulch

Both mulch types offer unique benefits, allowing gardeners to select the best fit for their specific landscaping needs.

When in Doubt—Check It Out

<https://www.fnai.org/species-communities/invasives/invasives>

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<https://www.floridainvasives.org/plant-list/2023-invasive-plant-species/>

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