

# Right Plant, Right Place

Your go-to guide for non-invasive  
xeriscaping plant choices



DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY  
COUNTY OF HAWAII



BIISC  
BIG ISLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

# 7 PRINCIPLES OF XERISCAPING



## Planning & Design

Consider your natural property features like soil type, sun exposure, rainfall, & wind patterns.



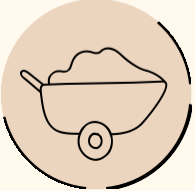
## Soil Improvement

Add organic matter like compost to improve soil structure & fertility. Good soil helps retain moisture and supports plant health.



## Plant Selection

Select drought-tolerant plants that require minimal water and are ideally suited to your climate. Native plants are frequently recommended being well-adjusted to local ecosystems.



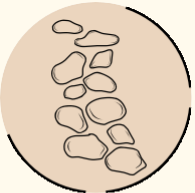
## Mulch

Add a top layer of mulch to help retain soil moisture & suppress weeds. Decomposing mulch will also add nutrients to the soil.



## Efficient Irrigation

Use drip irrigation, soaker hoses, & watering cans to minimize water waste. Water plants at the base to reduce evaporation and runoff. Aim to water plants before 10 AM or after 5PM to reduce evaporative loss.



## Landscape Design

Incorporate hardscaping elements like pathways, patios, & walls to reduce lawn areas and minimize water use. Use rocks, gravel, & other non-plant materials for creative permeable design.



## Maintenance

Monitor plant health, adjusting irrigation, and managing weeds. Maintenance ensures long-term success & optimized water efficiency.

# COLORFUL



**Rainbow shower tree** - *Cassia x nealiae*

Sunlight: full sun

Growth form: tree

Height: up to 30 ft.

Wind tolerance: sensitive

Salt tolerance: moderate



**Plumeria** - *Plumeria obtusa*

Sunlight: full sun

Growth form: small tree

Height: up to 15 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: high



**Royal poinciana** - *Delonix regia*

Sunlight: full to partial sun

Growth form: tree

Height: up to 40 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: moderate



**Peregrina** - *Jatropha integerrima*

Sunlight: full to partial sun

Growth form: shrub

Height: up to 10 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: moderate

# GROUND COVER



## ***'Ilima papa - Sida fallax***

Sunlight: full sun

Growth form: herbaceous

Height: up to 3 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: high



## ***Pōhuehue - Ipomoea pes-capre***

Sunlight: full to partial sun

Growth form: herbaceous

Height: up to 2 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: high



## ***Pōhinahina - Vitex rotundifolia***

Sunlight: full to partial sun

Growth form: herbaceous

Height: up to 2 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: high



## ***Maiapilo - Capparis sandwichiana***

Sunlight: full sun

Growth form: herbaceous

Height: less than 3 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: high

# NATIVES



**'Ūlei** - *Osteomeles anthyllidifolia*

Sunlight: full sun

Growth form: shrub

Height: up to 4 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: moderate



**'Ākia** - *Wikstroemia uva-ursi*

Sunlight: full sun

Growth form: shrub

Height: up to 4 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: high



**Pili** - *Heteropogon contortus*

Sunlight: full sun

Growth form: clumping bunch grass

Height: up to 3 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: high



**'A'ali'i** - *Dodonaea viscosa*

Sunlight: full sun

Growth form: herbaceous shrub

Height: up to 3 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: high

# ORNAMENTALS



## ***Naupaka - Scaevola taccada***

Sunlight: full sun

Growth form: shrub

Height: up to 6 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: high



## ***Dracaena (Dragon Tree) - Dracaena draco***

Sunlight: full to partial sun

Growth form: tree

Height: up to 20 ft.

Wind tolerance: moderate

Salt tolerance: moderate



## ***Oleander - Nerium oleander***

Sunlight: full sun

Growth form: shrub to small tree

Height: up to 7 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: high



## ***Milo - Thespesia populnea***

Sunlight: full to partial sun

Growth form: tree

Height: up to 15 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: sensitive

# LEI PLANTS



***Kou - Cordia subcordata***

Sunlight: full sun

Growth form: tree

Height: up to 35 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: high



***Kuluī - Nototrichium sandwicense***

Sunlight: full to partial sun

Growth form: shrub to small tree

Height: up to 15 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: moderate



***Wiliwili - Erythrina sandwicensis***

Sunlight: full sun

Growth form: large tree

Height: 30 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: high



***Hala - Pandanus tectorius***

Sunlight: full sun

Growth form: tree

Height: up to 30 ft.

Wind tolerance: high

Salt tolerance: high

# PONO

/ˈpono/ nvs.

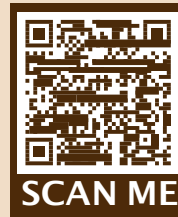
The Hawaiian word 'pono' carries a lot of depth and meaning. The Hawaiian dictionary lists over 80 English translations, with the most common one being “righteousness.”

Planting pono means choosing to grow things that are appropriate and beneficial for the landscape.



## Check to see if a plant is invasive before buying it:

- 1) Visit [plantpono.org](http://plantpono.org)
- 2) Type plant name into search box

**Search by Name**



- 3) Select desired plant to learn more

	<p><b>Dracaena draco</b> dragon tree, kite tree, Canary Islands dragon tree, drago</p>  <p>Designation: <b>Low Risk</b> Score: -5 <a href="#">Download Assessment</a></p>
	<p><b>Dracaena fragrans</b> corn plant</p>  <p>Designation: <b>Low Risk</b> <a href="#">Download Assessment</a></p>

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