

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE**Native & Non-Native Scaevola**

Native and non-native scaevola are frequently and unfortunately confused in the landscape trade. They're not really hard to tell apart. The native is smaller overall, with smaller, darker leaves, and black fruit. The non-native is a larger plant, with larger, lighter-colored leaves, and white fruit.

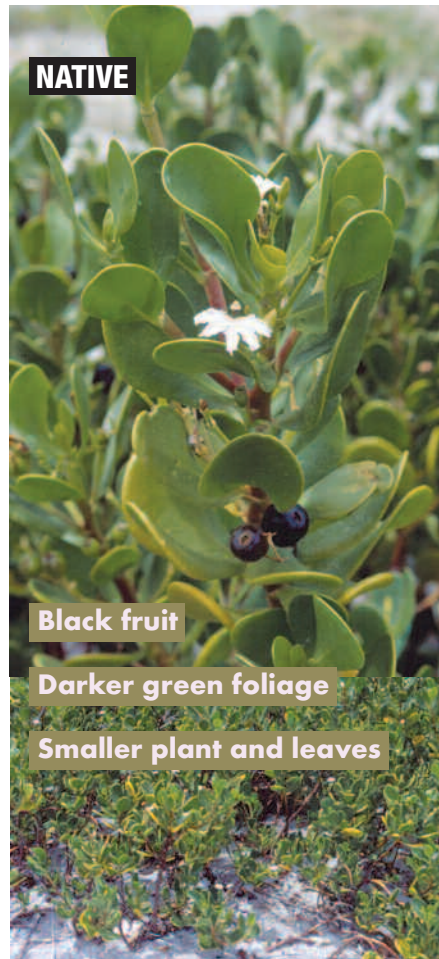
Photo by S

**NON-NATIVE**

Larger plant and leaves

Light green foliage

White fruit

**NATIVE**

Black fruit

Darker green foliage

Smaller plant and leaves



Photos by
Roger Hammer,
except where
noted otherwise

Non-native Naupaka*Scaevola spp.*

The more common non-native scaevolae are *Scaevola aemula* and *Scaevola taccada* (varieties *taccada* and *sericea*). An aggressive invader of dune habitats, *Scaevola taccada* var. *sericea*, beach naupaka, has begun to displace rare native beach plants such as inkberry (*Scaevola plumieri*) and state-listed endangered sea lavender (*Argusia gnaphalodes*). As a result, the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) has listed it as a Category 1 pest plant (under synonym: *Scaevola sericea*). Some municipalities have implemented restrictions on planting *Scaevola taccada* in coastal areas.

Native Inkberry*Scaevola plumieri*

Due to the degradation and loss of its oceanfront habitat, *Scaevola plumieri* is now a state-listed threatened species. A stout, mounding, succulent shrub of Central and South Florida beach dunes, our native inkberry (or beachberry) plays an important role in stabilizing dunes and maintaining healthy, natural beach communities. Typically 2-5' high and as wide or wider, inkberry provides perches for birds and shade for ground-dwelling creatures. Its dark green leaves resemble those of our native *Peperomia obtusifolia*. An essential component of dune restoration projects, inkberry is also a great choice for specimen and hedge plantings in coastal residential and commercial landscapes.