



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Scaevola frutescens*<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

This loosely rounded to spreading shrub is a robust grower that is commonly 3 to 10 feet tall with an equal spread (Fig. 1). They form a rounded clump where they have been planted along the beaches of south Florida. It has fleshy, bright green leaves that are densely clustered at the tips of the branches. The inconspicuous, axillary flowers of this shrub are borne in clusters of 5 to 9 and occur throughout the year. The individual flowers are white, fragrant, and comprised of only half of a full corolla. The medium-sized fruits of this shrub are white, pithy berries.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Scaevola frutescens*

**Pronunciation:** see-VOLE-luh froo-TESS-senz

**Common name(s):** Scaevola, Beach Naupaka

**Family:** *Goodeniaceae*

**Plant type:** shrub

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10 through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** border; mass planting; foundation; small parking lot islands (< 100 square feet in size); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); screen; superior hedge

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

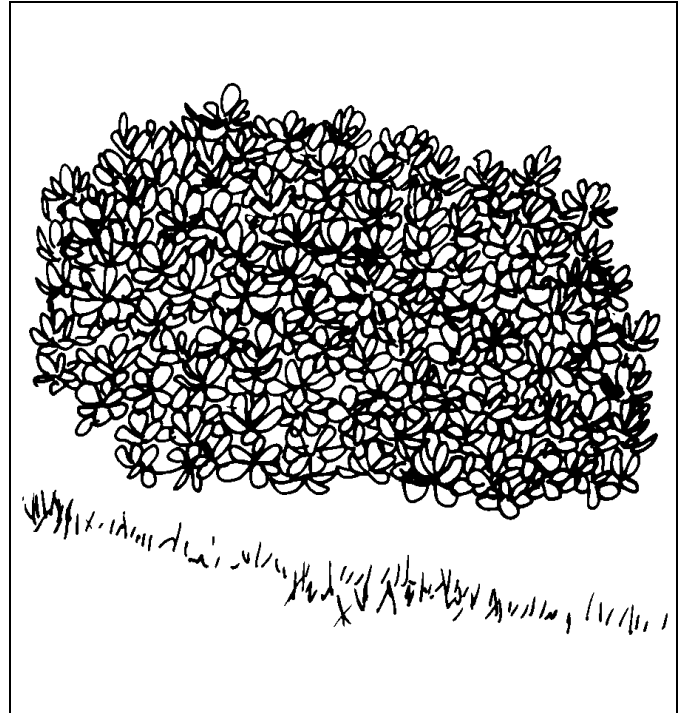


Figure 1. Scaevola.

### Description

**Height:** 3 to 10 feet

**Spread:** 3 to 6 feet

**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** medium

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** spiral  
**Leaf type:** simple  
**Leaf margin:** revolute  
**Leaf shape:** spatulate  
**Leaf venation:** pinnate  
**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen  
**Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** no fall color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** white  
**Flower characteristic:** summer flowering

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** oval  
**Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch  
**Fruit cover:** fleshy  
**Fruit color:** white  
**Fruit characteristic:** showy

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** not particularly showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems  
**Current year stem/twig color:** green  
**Current year stem/twig thickness:** very thick

### Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun  
**Soil tolerances:** alkaline; sand; acidic; loam  
**Drought tolerance:** high  
**Soil salt tolerances:** good  
**Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

### Other

**Roots:** sprouts from roots or lower trunk  
**Winter interest:** no special winter interest  
**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding  
**Invasive potential:** potentially invasive

**Pest resistance:** very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect plant health or aesthetics

## Use and Management

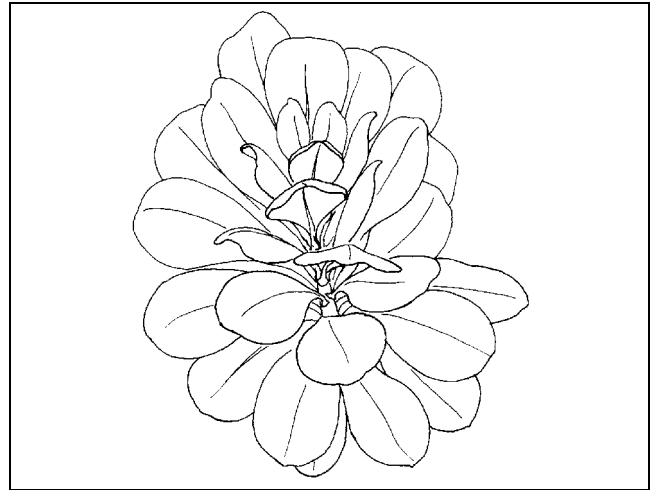
Scaevola makes a great screen or hedge and is also useful as a tall ground cover along the beach. This plant is good for erosion control and may be used as an informal hedge or clipped hedge. It is suited for planted along a foundation if the soil drains well.

Scaevola will adapt to any soil and responds to irrigation and occasional fertilization with rapid growth. However, it also thrives on neglect. This shrub flourishes with high levels of sunshine and ocean spray, and it will grow well on marl land or on beach dunes. It has invaded some coastal locations adjacent to where it was planted. It becomes much larger than the native *Scaevola plumieri*.

The propagation of Scaevola is accomplished by the use of cuttings.

## Pests and Diseases

Chewing insects may be troublesome to Scaevola, and mites may be a serious problem.



**Figure 3.** Foliage of Scaevola