

Beach Vitex is a Dune Wrecker

Beach Vitex crowds out native vegetation.



Native plants are choked out in areas where Beach Vitex is found. Sea oats, beach panic grasses and the Federally threatened seabeach amaranth cannot out-compete the fast growing beach vitex.

Beach Vitex causes dune erosion.



Beach Vitex lacks a fibrous root system like the native plants of our beaches and therefore lacks the ability to trap sand adequately. As the plant dies back each winter, the root systems can be found exposed where the beach has eroded from underneath the plant.

Beach Vitex may harm sea turtles.



Beach Vitex can cover sea turtle nesting areas and may cost the lives of newly emerged sea turtle hatchlings. Hatchlings can become trapped in the thick tangle of vegetation, exhausting themselves and perishing before reaching the ocean.



Keep our Dunes Diverse

Sea-pink
Sabatia stellaris



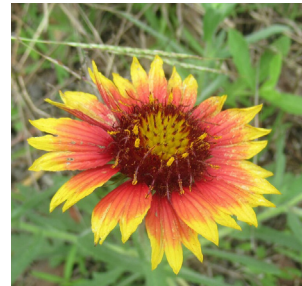
Sea Purslane
Sesuvium portulacastrum



Mound-lily Yucca
Yucca gloriosa



Blanket-flower
Gaillardia pulchella



Evening-primrose
Oenothera drummondii



Camphorweed
Heterotheca subaxillaris



Be on the Lookout for

BEACH VITEX

Vitex rotundifolium



- ✗ Woody, vine-like stems that can be reddish, also grows in bush shape
- ✗ Smooth, almost round leaves in pairs
- ✗ Clusters of purple flowers in summer
- ✗ Leaves turn red in fall, and stems are bare in winter with dry fruits
- ✗ Leaves have a spicy fragrance when crushed

Please report Beach Vitex

Location reports are being used to provide conservation organizations with information they need to plan control measures.



beachvitex.info

Plants that may look like Beach Vitex

Silver-leaf Croton *Croton punctatus*



The oval-shaped leaves are similar to Beach Vitex, but are not in pairs and are on a longer stalk. It does not have long shoots growing on the beach sand.

Seashore Elder *Iva imbricata*



Seashore elder is a shrub similar to Beach Vitex, but the leaves are long and narrow and green on both sides. It does not make runners.

Seabeach Amaranth *Amaranthus pumilus*



Seabeach Amaranth is a federally threatened plant. The stalks of the leaves are red and it grows in small clusters.

There are several plants that are native to our beach dunes that may be confused with beach vitex. Here are some hints to help identify them:

Beach Pea *Strophostyles helvola*



Beach pea has purple flowers that do not occur in clusters like beach vitex, and the leaves have three parts.

Beach Morning-glory *Ipomoea imperati*



Railroad Vine *Ipomoea pes-caprea*



Beach Morning-glory and Railroad Vine grow in tendrils across the dunes, but do not form a dense cover and do not occur as shrubs.

Sea Rocket *Cakile edentula*



Sea Rocket grows in a small clump and has thick leaves that are not in pairs and have 'toothed' edges.

Sea Oxeye Daisy *Borrchia frutescens*



Sea Oxeye can form dense stands, but does not produce runners. Leaves are opposite and gray-green, and it has a daisy-like flower.

Seaside Sandmat *Euphorbia polygonifolia*



Sandmat grows is a sprawling form on the dunes and can have a reddish stem, but the leaves are small and it does not form shrubs.