

Ground Cover

from “Kipuka at Hoakalei Increment 3 Documents,” 6.0 Appendix A: Planting Guidelines (p19-21)
“Many ground covers and vines require regular maintenance to prevent over growth and invasion to adjoining properties.”

Send any corrections to Jill at: mrs.gump@me.com

GROUND COVERS

Zoysia Z-3 (grass)

Scientific name:

Ground cover: Z-3 is a hybrid grass developed in Waimanalo for the Hawaii environment. This high quality grass was planted in Kipuka. It is very drought tolerant and takes less water than other grasses. It grows thick and chokes out weeds better than other grasses, once established. It is comparatively slow growing. The more you water and fertilize it, the faster it will grow. Fertilize it 3 times a year with 16-4-14 or one for southern lawns.

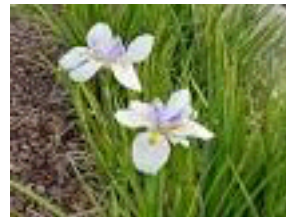
For more info, see: <https://www.hawaiiscape.com/2013/03/a-review-of-turfgrasses-used-in-hawaii/>



African Iris

Scientific name: *Dietes iridioides*

Ground cover: A clumping perennial that tolerates drought or standing water. Needs full sun. Easy care.



Agapanthus (Lily of the Nile)

Scientific name: *Agapanthus africanus*

Ground cover: A clumping perennial whose flowers bloom in balls of hues of blue, purple, or white. Drought tolerant. There are dwarf and miniature varieties whose flower stalks reach <18” as apposed to regular varieties which reach 3 feet in height. They spread by seed and are considered a weed in some environments where it grows out of control. To prevent this, remove dying flower stalks. Needs full sun to flower. Easy to grow and care for.



Ground Cover

Akia (native) (Oahu false ohelo)

Scientific name: Wikstroemia oahuensis

Ground cover: Small, hearty, sprawling ground cover. Grows to a height of 1-3 feet and spreads laterally. Very drought & wind tolerant. Has lavender-blue flowers & orange-red fruit used in haiku leis. Has few pest or problems. You can see this plant in some of the common areas of Kipuka like near the gate.



Aloe Vera

Scientific name: Aloe vera

Ground cover: This succulent to 24-39" tall, spreads by offsets and likes full sun. When the kids were little, I planted this behind some prettier plants and cut off a leaf to squeeze on burns, cuts, or scars when needed.



Asystasia

Scientific name: Asystasia gangetica

Ground cover: a spreading herb ground cover, reaching 2' in height.



Carex Wahuensis (native) (Oahu sedge)

Scientific name: Carex Wahuensis

Ground cover: Oahu sedge grows to more than 2 ft wide by 2.5 ft tall clumps. Leaves have sharp edges.



Ground Cover

False Heather, (Hawaiian False Heather)

Scientific name: *Cuphea hyssopifolia*

Ground cover/small Shrub:

Hawaiian false heather is an invasive weed, so keep it contained. It is a clumping herb and has lavender, pink or white colored flowers and fine foliage, grows to 2' high. Likes partial to full sun.



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Foxtail Asparagus Fern

Scientific name: *Asparagus densiflorus*

Fern/ground cover: reaches 2' tall, white flowers and crimson berries, drought-tolerant, relatively low-maintenance.

Warning: This is also an invasive weed, so if you plant it in your yard, keep it contained.



Golden Glory

Scientific name: *Arachis pinto*

Ground cover: low growing, perennial (dies back in the Hawaiian "winter"). Likes full sun.



Hearts and Flowers

Scientific name: *Aptenia cordifolia*

Ground cover: fast growing, full sun. Small pink flowers. Low growing (2" height)



Ground Cover

Hemigraphis (Purple waffle, red ivy)

Scientific name: Hemigraphis colorata

Ground cover: reaches 6"-12" in height, 30 varieties. Does best in shade and when well watered. Not drought tolerant.



Hinahina (also called 'Ahinahina & Hinahina Ewa,)

Endangered species

Scientific name: Heliotropium anomalum

Ground cover/shrub: Silvery leaves, likes sun, dry conditions, & sandy soil. There are 3 varieties: the high altitude "Silversword" found on & Mauna Kea & Haleakala (*I remember when the last Silversword bloomed & since has been brought back from the brink of extinction*), the mid-level dry forest variety of Makaha valley & Ka'ena point, and the coastal coral plains variety found near Ewa Beach (hence the name Hinahina Ewa, I presume).



Impatiens - Varieties

Scientific name: Impatiens

Ground cover: Perennials with a variety of pink and white flowers. "Impatiens prefer rich, loose, well drained soil. ... keep your impatiens well mulched. "



Ground Cover

Ice Plant

Scientific name: *Dinteranthus wilmotianus*

Ground cover: Varieties include narrow, succulent-type leaf with round, flat, fringed edge flowers that vary from pink to white with white and yellow centers (planted at Ko 'Olina.) and a red flower on a broader, shiny leaf. Full sun. Easy care.



Ice Plant (native - 'Ākulikuli)

Scientific name: *Sesuvium portulacastrum*

ground cover: This is the only **Ground** of the commonly called "ice plant" that is native, though it has a different scientific name (possibly a synonym or error), I'm not sure which varieties of ice plant on the approved list were to be included, but it is always better for the environment to plant native species when you can. It is a salt-tolerant, coastal plant which will matter the closer you live to the ocean. Can tolerate wet and dry conditions.



Ground Cover

Joyweed

Scientific name: Amaranthera tenella

Ground cover: “Low growing herb, ... commonly used as a border planting.” Very narrow, purple leaves with tiny white flowers. Many plants are called *joyweed*, but I think this is the species planted in Kipuka.



Lantana - [Trailing ?]

Scientific name: Lantana camara

Ground cover: “This thorny shrub is a noxious weed. It can form impenetrable thickets which crowd out other plants. ... It is capable of surviving all but the hottest fires regenerating from basal shoots.” Its root system can travel under driveways. Hawaii is currently battling this weed. Its leaves are poisonous to animals.

Warning: Do not plant this extremely invasive weed!



Lillies - Varities

Scientific name: Liliium

Ground cover: “tall perennials ranging in height from 2–6 ft... The flowers are large, often fragrant, and come in a range of colors including whites, yellows, oranges, pinks, reds and purples.”



Ground Cover

Liriope - Varieties

Scientific name: Liriope

Ground cover: "There's no groundcover known to humankind that's as successful as liriope at preventing erosion on even the steepest hillsides, at surviving wet or bone dry conditions, and doing all that in full sun or deep shade." Best to get the clumping variety (Liriope muscari) over the running variety which spreads aggressively & quickly and can choke out other plants. The clumping variety needs almost no care and you can divide it in half to spread it out. A hardy and easy ground cover with colors from green to variegated and dwarf varieties.



Marigolds

Scientific name: Tagetes

Ground cover: Easy care and natural pest repellent. Flowers range from white - red - yellow - orange and come in miniature to giant.



Mondo Grass-Varieties

Scientific name: Ophiopogon japonicus

Ground cover: Slow growing grass-like ground cover, very low maintenance, though hard to grow especially in Ewa Beach. Prefers moist soil and part to full shade. Dwarf varieties spread very slowly and can be very tricky to grow.



Ground Cover

Nehe (native)

Scientific name: *Melanthera integrifolia*

Ground cover: “Nehe is tolerant of high heat, salt spray and strong winds. This native groundcover looks great in rock gardens and draped over retaining walls or can be grown between stepping stones if the soil is well drained and not part of a high traffic area.”



Neomarica - Walking Iris

Scientific name: *Neomarica northiana*

Ground cover: “clumping perennials that reach anywhere from 18 to 36 inches.”



Ground Cover

Oyster Plant - varieties

Scientific name: Rhoeo spathacea

Ground cover: A low clumping plant that is very easy to care for. Don't over water. Under the right conditions, this is a very aggressive plant. Some people & dogs are very allergic to this plant and develop a Poison Ivy-like rash. It spreads by rhizomes and can be very difficult to eradicate. Some have said that the dwarf variety is not invasive.

Warning: Besides causing a burning, itchy rash to people and pets, it is on the Hawaii invasive species list. You should not plant it unless you can be sure to contain it on your property, which is not as easy as you think. It can keep popping up for years after you have removed it.



Pansies

Scientific name: viola tricolor

Ground cover: come in a variety of colors. Tend to die out after a few years.



Ground Cover

Portulaca

Scientific name: Portulaca grandiflora

Ground cover: “small, but fast-growing annual plant growing to 30 cm tall.” Flowers range in color from red, orange, pink, white, to yellow.



Pothos

Scientific name: Epipremnum aureum

Ground cover/Vine: Easy care. Green & variegated varieties. It is a vine that climbs and attaches to surfaces or takes root in ground if running along it.

Beware: This plant will run shoots under siding, so keep away from the walls of your house!



Ground Cover

Rhoeo - Oyster plant (same as above)

Scientific name: Rhoeo spathacea

Ground cover: A low clumping plant that is easy to care for. Do not overwater. Under the right conditions, this is a very aggressive plant and you will need to cut it back frequently to contain it. Some people & most dogs are very allergic to this plant and develop a poison Ivy-like rash. Hawaii dog owners have reported how painful and itchy the rash is for their pets and have ended up removing this plant once they discovered the cause. It spreads by rhizomes and can be very difficult to eradicate. Some have said that the dwarf variety is not invasive.

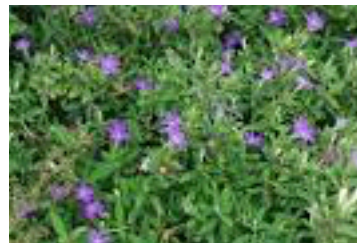


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Ruellia

Scientific name: Ruellia (varieties)

Ground cover: Small bell shaped flowers that come in a variety of colors. Wide range of varieties. The top picture is a variety found wild on Kauai and the bottom picture is a common variety seen in gardens.



Ground Cover

Shore Juniper

Scientific name: Junipers procumbens & conferta

Ground cover: A low growing, very broad spreading (forming mats) with needle like leaves. Needs full sun. Let it dry out between watering. Tolerant of salt, heat, wind, poor soil. Easy to care for, but does need to be edged.

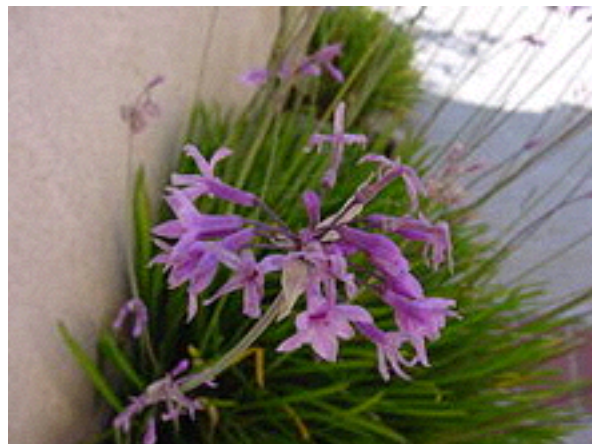


Society Garlic - Varieties

Scientific name: Tulbaghia violacea

Ground cover: A “clump-forming perennial with narrow leaves and large clusters of fragrant, violet flowers from midsummer to autumn.” Easy care.

FYI: It smells like garlic, so be careful how many you plant! These are planted at some of the Ka Makana koa series model homes and after a rain, it stinks.



Ground Cover

Spider Plant

Scientific name: Chlorophytum
comosum

Ground cover: Clumping grass-
like herb that reaches 1-3 feet
by 1'-1.5' spread as a ground
cover. Solid green and
variegated varieties. Partial
shade to full sun. Easy care.
(Often seen in hanging pots.)



Ground Cover

Sprenger Asparagus (foxtail fern)

Scientific name: *Asparagus aethiopicus*

Ground cover/Fern: Has small white or pinkish-white flowers. Another invasive weed, so plant it in a place where you can keep it contained.



Uki uki (native)

Scientific name: *Dianella sandwicensis*

Ground cover: “perennial, clumping lily that thrives in the undergrowth of diverse habitats. It grows in wet forest, dry shrub land, grassy land and near or on lava fields.” Spreads by rhizomes. “Has petite blue to white flowers with yellow stamens spring forth from spikes.” It is wastewater tolerant.



Ground Cover

Wedelia

Scientific name:

Wedelia trilobata

Ground cover: Creeping herb with yellow daisy-like flowers that can be trimmed with mower or weed eater. It "is very aggressive. It can and will overgrow planting areas, low-growing shrubs, other groundcovers, and small items in the bed."

