



## Expanding Tree Diversity in Hawai'i's Landscapes: Beach Heliotrope, *Tournefortia argentea*

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The beach heliotrope is a small, hardy tree reaching 25–30 feet at maturity, with a rounded crown of contorted branches that can reach 40 feet in diameter. Its tiny white to salmon pink flowers are found year round in attractive spiraled inflorescences. Basically shrubby, it requires pruning to develop a main trunk to form a tree. Beach heliotrope can withstand very hot and dry conditions and coastal environments and can survive on almost no soil at all, which makes it suitable for problematic areas in the landscape and along the seashore.

### Recommended Use in Landscapes

- Beach plant
- Coastal garden plant
- Specimen plant
- Barrier
- Windbreak

### Distribution

Native to all tropical seashores of the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

### Propagation Techniques

- Seeds
- Cuttings
- Air-layering

### Cultural Requirements and Tolerance

- Tolerant of very full sunlight
- Very salt, wind, and drought tolerant
- Can withstand very thin soils, even pure sand and limestone soils
- Disease resistant



**Flower and Fruit Characteristics**

- Small white flowers in cyme inflorescence
- Blooms almost year round
- Fleshy, opaque, curling fruits

**Leaf Characteristics**

- Translucent foliage
- Light green, silky, and hairy
- Fleshy
- Simple, alternate
- Obovate

**Advantages for Use in Landscapes**

- Screen against salt spray
- Coastal soil stabilization
- Coastal gardens
- Weed Risk Assessment score: 4

**Disadvantages for Use in Landscapes**

- Can be slow growing in poor soils
- Not tolerant of poor drainage

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