

Naupaka Care Card

Scaevola taccada · beach naupaka · naupaka kahakai

Ka'ala Lush Nursery

Grown with aloha · Wai'anae, O'ahu

Quick answer: Beach naupaka (*Scaevola taccada*, naupaka kahakai) is a native Hawaiian coastal shrub that thrives in full sun, sandy well-draining soil, salt spray, and wind. Water it to get established, then it's nearly maintenance-free — one of the best native hedges for Hawaii yards, especially near the ocean.

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| Light | Full sun (tolerates light shade) | Size | 3–10 ft rounded shrub; excellent hedge |
| Water | Regular first 3–6 months, then rainfall is usually enough | Flowers | White 'half flowers' plus white berries, year-round |
| Soil | Sandy, rocky, or any well-draining soil; salt-tolerant | Native status | Indigenous to Hawai'i — true native landscaping |
| Wind & salt | Handles direct salt spray and coastal wind — a beach native | Best spot in Hawaii | Coastal yards, hot dry slopes, anywhere windward of the salt line |

Care essentials

How do you grow naupaka in a home yard? Treat naupaka like the beach plant it is: full sun, sharp drainage, and no pampering. Plant it in sandy or rocky soil (it's fine in average yard soil as long as water doesn't pool), water deeply once or twice a week for the first few months, then taper off — established naupaka on the leeward...

Why is the naupaka flower only half a flower? Naupaka's small white blossoms look like flowers torn in half — five petals fanned on one side, none on the other. Hawaiian mo'olelo explains it as two separated lovers: one banished to the mountains, one to the sea.

Is naupaka good for coastal erosion and hedges? Beach naupaka is one of Hawaii's best functional shrubs. Its dense root system helps stabilize dunes and sandy soil, its thick foliage breaks wind and catches blowing salt before it hits tenderer plants behind it, and its rounded habit makes a natural privacy hedge that needs almost no water...

How do you propagate naupaka? Naupaka grows from both cuttings and seed. Softwood tip cuttings 4–6 inches long, stuck in moist sand or perlite in bright shade, root within several weeks — keep them barely moist, not wet.

What problems does naupaka have? Very few — naupaka's problems are almost always too much care. Overwatering or heavy clay soil causes root rot and yellowing; rich fertilizer creates soft, floppy growth that pests enjoy.

Quick FAQ

- **Is naupaka a native Hawaiian plant?** Yes — beach naupaka (*Scaevola taccada*) is indigenous to Hawai'i, found naturally on coastlines across the islands and the Pacific. Planting it is true native landscaping.
- **Can you eat naupaka berries?** The white berries aren't considered good eating and are best left for the birds. Traditionally, naupaka flowers and leaves had practical uses — including rubbing the leaves on goggles or masks to prevent fogging, a...
- **How fast does naupaka grow?** Moderately fast in full sun — a 1-gallon plant can become a 4–5 foot mound in 2–3 years in good conditions, faster with occasional deep watering.

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Plants by appointment in Wai'anae, O'ahu — email kaalalush@gmail.com to arrange a pickup

Just a little 'ohana nursery — mahalo for growing with us!