

# Cape Canaveral Grows Wild

The Space Force manages the natural environment on the Cape to provide the best possible habitat for native plant growth to flourish and preserve wildlife. Control and removal of non-native plants such as Brazilian Pepper trees and Cogon grass ensure protection of native plants, food and animal habitat. The use of prescribed burns in overgrown areas not only protects the Cape from wildfires, but also preserves its natural habitat.

## Native Plant Life



## Protected Species



Sea Oats are protected due to their role in stabilizing the dune.

To the north and west of the Cape is the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (MINWR), managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

## Plant Communities on the Cape

Type	Acres
Beach Dune	157
Coastal Strand and Grassland	1,728
Basin Marsh	75
Coastal Interdunal Swale	142
Maritime Hammock	2,291
Live Oak/Saw Palmetto Hammock	1,237
Live Oak/Saw Palmetto Scrubland	1,477
Xeric Hammock	556
Scrub	1,083
Tropical Hammock	113
Hydric Hammock	9
Mangrove or Exotics	901

## Exotic Species

Other types of non-native plants that do not threaten native species are termed exotic.

One such plant growing on the Cape is the Madagascar Periwinkle. It has been used in traditional medicine.



## Invasive Species

There are also invasive, non-native species that are present on the Cape.

### Category I

These species displace and threaten native species.



### Category II

These species are increasing in abundance, but are not yet threatening native species.



The Snake plant is used both for its fiber and in traditional medicine.

The Castor plant is poisonous and used to keep bugs out of the garden.