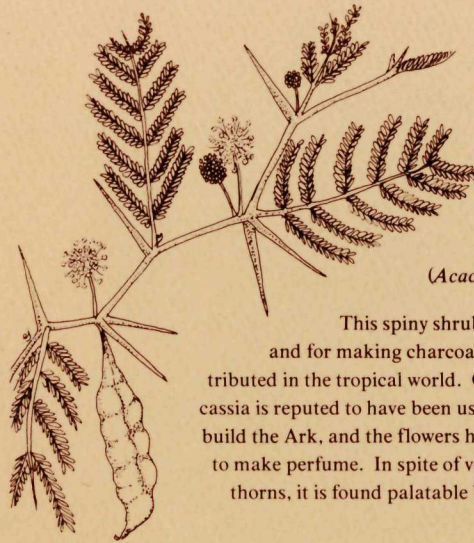


Soursop
(*Annona muricata*)

The immature fruit of this small evergreen tree, found along the Centerline Road and abundantly around Susannaberg, has been cooked as a vegetable. The white, juicy pulp of the ripe fruit has a sweet-sour taste and is used for beverages, preserves, and ice cream.



Cassia
(*Acacia farnesiana*)

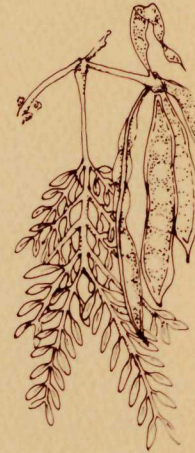
This spiny shrub used for fuel and for making charcoal is widely distributed in the tropical world. One species of cassia is reputed to have been used by Noah to build the Ark, and the flowers have been used to make perfume. In spite of very dangerous thorns, it is found palatable by local goats.



West Indian Almond (*Terminalia catappa*)

Tan Tan
(*Leucaena glauca*)

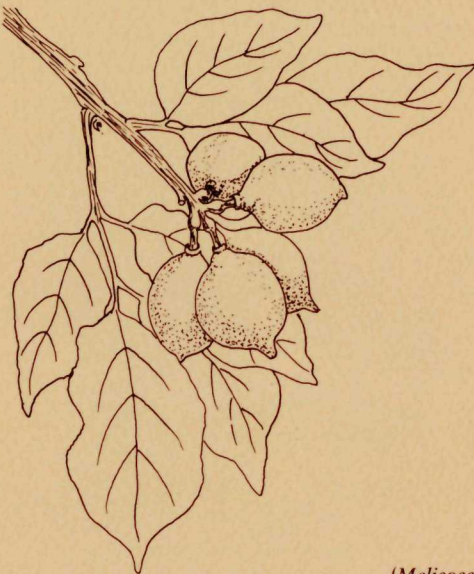
This prolific shrub, also known as wild tamarind, thrives in dry areas and is found on most roadsides. The shiny dark brown seeds are used to make ornaments, mats, necklaces, and baskets. The wood is used to make charcoal. Pods and leaves, which are rich in protein, are fed to cattle, goats, sheep, and other livestock. However, horses, mules, and donkeys that consume the foliage shed excessively.



Cover: West Indian Almond
(*Terminalia catappa*)

The leaves of this large ornamental shade tree turn intense crimson before they fall. The fruit turns yellow when ripe. The edible nut has a flavor resembling that of the sweet almond.

Genip
(*Melicoccus bijugatus*)



Genip, or kenip, is a true evergreen found throughout the island. It has a lush dark green canopy and a light gray mottled bark. The fruits which grow in dark green clusters are considered the most popular on St. John. When collecting fruit, please take care not to break large branches.

SOME COMMON PLANTS OF ST. JOHN'S NORTH SHORE

The North Shore of St. John comprises at least four ecological zones, each of which is characterized by a distinct vegetation. Within the National Park one finds the beach zone immediately adjacent to the sandy shore, where beach maho and sea grape are abundant. A little farther from shore one encounters the moist beach berm area. Here can be found such plants as black wattle, painkiller, sweet lime, and hoop vine. Leaving the berm area, one enters the tropical forest, typified by larger trees and a thicker canopy. Here such fruit-bearing trees as tamarind, soursop, genip, and sugar apple are found, as well as gombo limbo, black mam-poo, and many other trees. Where man has disturbed the environment by cutting and clearing, a fourth habitat—open and dry—is formed. It is characterized by such dry scrub as maran and by such trees as cassia and tan tan.

Over the years the trees and plants of St. John have been used by its people for food and beverages, for medicines to cure various ills, for building materials for boats and houses, for charcoal, and for making baskets and fish traps. We hope that this guide will aid you in identifying the plants and give you an interest in learning more about their natural history.

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