MANCHINEEL
Hippomane mancinella L.

Synonyms: none

Family: Euphorbiaceae (spurge)

FNAI Ranks: G5/S2

Legal Status: US–none FL–Endangered

Wetland Status: US–UPL FL–UPL

Field Description: Small tree or shrub with rough, fissured, dark brown or gray bark and toxic milky sap. Leaves 1 - 4.5 inches long, alternate, oval to lance-shaped, slightly toothed, soft, shiny, with conspicuous bright midvein; semi-deciduous; long leaf stalks with large, round gland at point of attachment to leaf. Male and female flowers on short, fleshy stalks at the ends of branches; flowers yellowish-green, inconspicuous, surrounded by yellow glands. Fruits round, yellow-green with pink blush, sweet smelling and apple-like but highly toxic. All parts of the plant are poisonous if handled or eaten.

Similar Species: Wild banyan tree or shortleaf fig (Ficus citrifolia) leaves are similarly shaped and have a bright midvein but leaf margins are entire.

Related Rare Species: Other woody species in the spurge family in this guide: Blodgett’s wild mercury (Argythamnia blodgetti), Bahama maidenbush (Savia bahamensis), and milkbark (Drypetes diversifolia).
**Manchineel**

*Hippomane mancinella*

**Habitat:** Coastal berms and hammocks in brackish areas just inland of the mangrove zone.

**Best Survey Season:** Flowers in April; fruits and leaves are present almost all year except for a brief time in mid-winter.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Dade County Keys and Monroe County Keys, FL; Mexico, Central America, South America.

**Conservation Status:** About 20 populations are known in FL, most in parks and preserves.

**Protection & Management:** Avoid impacts to coastal berms, mangroves, and adjacent thickets.