

QUICK FACTS ABOUT JOST VAN DYKE

(and its surrounding Cays)

Conserving Biodiversity—Plants

Summarised from the draft Environmental Profile for Jost van Dyke

1. There are 13 terrestrial vegetation or plant communities found today on Jost van Dyke and its neighbouring islands. Examples of plant communities include Semi-deciduous forest and coastal hedge.
2. For their size, Jost van Dyke and its sister islands are very diverse. Together, the islands host about 200 native and naturalized plant species, of which about 5 to 10 per cent are non-native introduced species. Some of these plant species .
3. The Indian Mallow Tree (*Bastardiopsis eggersii*) is endemic to the British Virgin Islands and Culebra and is only found in JVD and Little JVD in the BVI.
4. The Cockspur or Coral Tree (*Erythrina eggersii*) is endemic to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Only one specimen of this plant is located on JVD.
5. The Simple-leaf Bushweed (*Flueggea acidoton*) is a new record for the BVI. This plant is rare throughout the Virgin Islands, but is endemic to the Greater Antilles and the Bahamas.
6. A number of medium sized specimens of Lignum vitae (*Guaiacum officinale*) have been identified on Jost van Dyke. This tree is quite rare on JVD.
7. The Thatch Palm or Tyre Palm (*Coccothrinax alta*) is endemic to (i.e. found only in) the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.
8. The Thatch or Tyre Palm is now extremely rare on Jost van Dyke. Goats eat the seedlings and ripe fruit of Tyre Palm's and make it difficult for this species of Palm to regenerate.
9. In the past, the Tyre Palm was an important crop for making crafts and brooms and as thatching for roofs.
10. There are at least six species of cacti on Jost van Dyke and surrounding islands.
11. The Barrel Cactus or Turks cap cactus (*Melocactus intortus*) and the tree cactus /Tree Prickly Pear (*Opuntia rubescens*) are considered to be species of special concern.