

Salt-Tolerant Trees for Pinellas

Compiled by Jane Morse, UF/IFAS Extension, Pinellas County

Choosing correctly: Always select plants for the specific site conditions of sun, soil moisture, salt tolerance and size. Be sure to allow for the mature size of the plant when selecting a site.

When selecting trees look for those with a single main trunk that is not divided and has evenly spaced side branches. Young, immature trees establish more quickly than older, more mature trees. Young, immature trees are also cheaper to buy and catch up very quickly to planted older, mature trees.

Before planting: Read *Specifications for Planting Trees and Shrubs in the Southeastern U.S.* This document can be found at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep112>

Make sure you have the proper amount of space for the tree so it does not encroach on buildings, roads, walkways, etc. Also, be sure to look up and make sure there are no objects such as power lines that can be impacted by the height of the tree.

Soil requirements for trees based on their size at maturity: Small trees (shorter than 30 feet) need a 10 x 10 foot soil area and need to be 2 feet from a paved surface. Medium trees (*height or spread less than 50 feet) need a 20 x 20 foot soil area and need to be 6 feet from a paved surface. Large trees (*height or spread greater than 50 feet) need a 30 x 30 foot soil area and need to be 10 feet from a paved surface. *For soil less than 3 feet deep, such as with a high water table, smaller maturing trees are recommended.

Pruning is necessary to keep your tree in good condition. A Suggested minimum pruning cycle: At planting; year 2 or 3; year 5 or 6; year 8 to 10 year 13 to 15. It is a worthwhile investment to hire an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) trained and certified person. Trees increase property value when they are well maintained, but can be a liability if poorly

pruned or unhealthy. For more information see *Developing a Preventative Pruning Program: Young Trees*. This document can be found at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/EP/EP31500.pdf>

When hiring someone to do your tree pruning be sure to ask these questions:

1. Are you insured for property damage, personal liability, and worker's compensation? You can be held responsible for medical bills and lost wages for injured workers if you hire an uninsured company. Ask to see their insurance in writing with a current date to make sure it is valid.
2. Are you certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and will you personally be pruning the tree? Being certified requires professional experience and knowledge of the best techniques in the industry. Just as with any profession, some are much better than others at their job (ask to see their prior work). Make sure either they personally do the work or are on-site supervising their workers.
3. What are the ANSI Z133.1 and ANSI A300 guidelines? The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) prints these two guidelines, with which all tree care professionals should be familiar. ANSI Z133.1 represents safety standards for tree care operations in the United States. ANSI A300 represents the best management practices in the industry for pruning and other tree care operations.
4. What are the procedures involved, equipment used, price, and time frame? Get more than one written estimate. Keep in mind that specialized equipment, qualified skills, and insurance will cost more. Quality tree work is worth the additional investment. Improper pruning can ruin a tree and cost much more in the long run.

Remember that a healthy tree can save you money by keeping your house cool. Trees improve air quality and benefit your health. They reduce flooding and erosion and help to lessen hurricane force winds (especially when grouped together). Healthy trees increase the value of your property. Take good care of your trees and be sure to care for them properly. If a tree is removed, plant another one to take its place.

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Name	Light	Moisture range	Salt Tolerance	Native habitats	Uses	Height x Width	Notes
Varnish leaf, hopbush <i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	FS, PS	Dry to very dry	High	Dry sites near the coast. Hammocks and pinelands. Sand. Alkaline soil.	Small specimen tree.	Height: 1-15 (25) feet	Evergreen. Showy fruits, interesting foliage. Attracts pollinators. Dense foliage can be good bird nesting habitat.
Florida privet <i>Forestiera segregata</i>	FS, PS	Moist to dry	High	Dry sites. Coastal hammocks, coastal scrub, thickets. Alkaline soil.	Small tree. Hedge or screen. Very tolerant of pruning.	Height: 5-15 feet Width: 5-10 feet	Deciduous. Birds and other wildlife consume the fruit and use the privet for cover. Its nectar attracts insects, butterflies and honeybees.
Myrsine <i>Myrsine cubana</i>	FS, PS, S	Moist to slightly dry	High	Hammocks, pinelands, sloughs, seasonally flooded marshes in pine rocklands.	Hedge or screen plant. Can be used on the edges of parking lots. Fairly narrow in form.	Height: 8-20 feet; Width: 3-5 feet	Evergreen. Interesting foliage. Good wildlife shelter. Hardy and tolerant of difficult environments.
Sweet acacia <i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	FS	Moist to very dry	High	Coastal uplands, ruderal, shell middens. Alkaline soils.	Specimen tree. Good for barrier shrub and as wildlife thicket. Not near walkways.	Height: 8-20 feet Width: 6-10 feet	Evergreen. Showy yellow flowers, aroma, fragrance, thorns, interesting foliage. The thorny branches make good cover for birds and other wildlife. Fruits are not generally valued. Attracts pollinators.

Name	Light	Moisture range	Salt Tolerance	Native habitats	Uses	Height x Width	Notes
Buttonwood & Silver buttonwood <i>Conocarpus erectus</i> & <i>Conocarpus erectus</i> var. <i>sericeus</i>	FS, PS	Moist to very dry	High	Upper edges of mangrove swamps and on lower parts of dunes. Calcareous soil (high pH).	Specimen plant, shade tree, hedge. Will tolerate shearing. Helps prevent coastal erosion.	Height: 20-40 (50) feet Width: 20-40 feet	Evergreen. Showy fruits, high hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage. Nectar source and larval host plant for martial scrub hairstreak and tantalus sphinx.
Hercules-club <i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>	FS, PS	Moist to very dry	High	Hammocks, wet woods, dunes, shell middens.	Specimen tree.	Height: 10 to 25 (50) feet Width: 10-25 feet	Deciduous. Showy white flowers, <u>thorns</u> , interesting foliage, interesting bark. Larval host for Giant Swallowtail. Birds and other wildlife eat the yellow fruit.
Seagrape <i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	FS, PS	Moist to very dry	High	Coastal uplands.	Specimen plant where its coarse (heavy, thick, large leaves) is an asset.	Height: 10-50 feet Width: 3-35 feet	Semi deciduous. Showy edible fruits, medium-high hurricane wind resistance, fall color, interesting foliage. Attracts pollinators. Birds and other wildlife consume fruit. Tends to sprawl. Leaves take a long time to decompose, so plant where leaf litter is not a problem.
Yaupon holly <i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	FS, PS	Moist to very dry	High	Coastal scrub, coastal dunes, coastal flatwoods, river swamps, scrub, secondary woods, pine-oak-hickory woods.	Specimen tree. Remove suckers, if you wish to have a specimen tree. Need one male plant in the vicinity to produce berries on the females.	Height: 8-25 feet Width: 5-8 feet	Evergreen. Dioecious. Showy white flowers, showy red fruits on female trees, hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage. Various bird species eat the fruit and many use the evergreen foliage for cover. Bees and other insects pollinate the flowers.

Name	Light	Moisture range	Salt Tolerance	Native habitats	Uses	Height x Width	Notes
Sabal palm, cabbage palm <i>Sabal palmetto</i>	FS, PS, S	Moist to very dry	High	Flatwoods, moist hammocks, swamps, river floodplains, ruderal	Specimen plant or in a hurricane resistant grove.	Height: 100 feet; Width: 10-20 feet	Palm. Evergreen. Highest hurricane wind resistance, interesting foliage, interesting bark. Larval host plant for Monk Skipper butterfly. Seeds used by small mammals such as raccoons. Used by birds for nesting. Brown fronds provide nesting for bats. Never prune above 9 and 3 o'clock position.
Red cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	FS	Slightly moist to very dry	High	Calcareous soils, shell mounds, coastal hammocks, second growth on open rocky fields.	Screen by planting in one or two fairly dense rows. Also useful as a background tree.	Height: to 40 feet Width: to 20 feet	Evergreen. Interesting foliage. Birds eat the fruit and use for cover.
Paurotis palm, Everglades palm <i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i>	FS, PS, S	Very moist to dry	High	Moist hammocks, swamps, but can adapt to drier sites.	Specimen plant. The lower fronds can be removed for a sculptured look. Sometimes used as a street tree. Allow for its clump-forming habit and tendency to lean.	Height: 20 to 30 feet Width: 15 to 25 feet	Palm. Evergreen. Showy flowers, thorns, interesting foliage.