

Florida Native Trees



WHY NATIVE TREES? Native trees have been part of Florida's landscape for eons, adapting to scorching sunlight, intermittent freezes, torrential rains, long droughts, and hordes of insects. Once established, the right tree in the right place will thrive on natural rainfall, without fertilizers or insecticides. It will also attract and provide shelter and food for birds, butterflies and other indigenous wildlife.

SELECTING AND PLANTING NATIVE TREES: Look for a single main trunk with branches evenly distributed around the tree (except bush-like, multi-trunked species). Don't buy overgrown, root-bound specimens. Young trees grow quickly and establish faster than older nursery stock. Deciduous trees planted on the south side of buildings allow sunlight to warm them in winter, yet provide shade in summer. Evergreen trees planted on the west side temper the sun's harshest rays all year. Plant shade trees at least 25' from your house, other trees, and impervious surfaces to encourage root growth in all directions. Dig the planting hole three times as wide but no deeper than the tree root ball. Trees may need supplemental water for up to three years, depending on their size at planting, and pruning to establish optimal shape.

WHERE TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION IN PINELLAS COUNTY:

- Wilcox Nursery (727)595-2073
- Florida Botanical Gardens/Pinellas County Extension (727)582-2110
- Pinellas Chapter Florida Native Plant Society

Wet/Dry D=Dry Avg=Average Fl=Flooded	Range N = North Florida C = Central Florida S = South Florida	<i>Adapted from a brochure produced by Florida Native Plant Nurseries paid for this brochure as a partner in the Florida Native Tree Walk Project. The project was funded by a grant awarded to Friends of Myakka River by the USDA Forest service through the Florida Division of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program</i>
*Note: Heights are approximate; trees grow taller in north Florida and shorter in south Florida.		

NATIVE TREES

Common Name	Botanical Name	Avg Size	Range	Wet/Dry	Ever-green?	Comments
Bay, Loblolly	<i>Gordonia lasianthus</i>	35 ft	N-C		Yes	White fragrant flowers in summer, prefers semi-shade and undisturbed soils (no fill dirt)
Bay, Red	<i>Persea borbonia</i>	40 ft	N-C-S		Yes	Small shade tree, fragrant leaves; attracts birds and butterflies; leaf galls common; fair salt tolerance.
Bay, Sweet	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	40 ft	N-C-S		Yes	Fragrant, white flowers; large leaves with silver undersides; slow grower that prefers wet areas.
Bay, Swamp	<i>Persea palustris</i>	35 ft	N-C-S		Yes	Tolerates shade; leaves used in flavoring foods; wetlands hedge tree; cluster with other "bays."
Cedar, Red	<i>Juniperus silicicola</i>	45 ft	N-C		Yes	Nice hedge tree, pyramid-shaped first 20 years; needs calcareous soils, attracts birds and wildlife; salt tolerant
Cherry Laurel	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	30 ft	N-C		Yes	Fast-growing, small shade/hedge tree for well-drained natural soils (no fill dirt); reseeds easily; birds eat fruit.
Cypress, Bald	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	50 ft	N-C-S		No	Long-lived tree with soft, weeping foliage, grows cypress knees around base in wet areas; pest resistant.
Cypress, Pond	<i>Taxodium ascendens</i>	40 ft	N-C-S		No	Smaller and prefers drier sites than bald cypress; upright form with soft foliage; no cypress knees.
Elm, Florida	<i>Ulmus americana</i> var. <i>floridana</i>	55 ft	N-C-S		No	Moderately fast-growing; long-lived; provides nice shade with filtered light; fruit important wildlife food
Elm, Winged	<i>Ulmus alata</i>	35 ft	N-C		No	Excellent small-leafed specimen tree for dry sites; has corky, winged branches; tolerates shade of larger trees.
Hickory, Pignut	<i>Carya glabra</i>	50 ft	N-C		No	Majestic shade tree with spreading crown for well-drained

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						calcareous soils; nice fall color; 30 yrs to produce nuts.
Holly, Dahoon	<i>Ilex cassine</i>	25 ft	N-C-S		Yes	Nice little tree for small yards; red berries on female trees
Holly, East. Palatka	<i>Ilex X attenuata</i>	35 ft	N-C		Yes	American holly/Dahoon hybrid; prefers well-drained, moist soils; all trees have red berries for wildlife.
Holly, Yaupon	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	18 ft	N-C		Yes	Weeping and columnar forms; small specimen or hedge tree; female has red berries; salt tolerant.
Magnolia, Dwarf	<i>Magnolia grandiflora cultivars</i>	25 ft	N-C		Yes	Compact, narrow, upright form; fragrant white flowers; needs shade & moisture; fair salt tolerance
Maple, Red	<i>Acer rubrum</i>		N-C-S		No	Fast growing, excellent shade tree for moist sites; red flowers & seeds in winter; colorful leaves in fall.
Mulberry, Red	<i>Morus rubra</i>		N-C-S		No	Very durable, stress tolerant tree with large leaves; edible fruit on female trees also attracts wildlife
Oak, Laurel	<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>		N-C-S		Yes	Fast growing, large shade tree; lives 40 to 60 years; replaces leaves in winter; not for small yard.
Oak, Live	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>		N-C-S		Yes	Large, long-lived, spreading shade tree; replaces leaves as it loses them; not for small yard; fair salt tolerance.
Oak, Myrtle	<i>Quercus myrtifolia</i>		N-C-S		Yes	Small tree or hedge for dry sites; good cover and acorns for wildlife; good for coastal areas, salt tolerant.
Oak, Sand Live	<i>Quercus geminata</i>		N-C-S		Yes	Slow growing shade tree suitable for coastal or very dry, sandy lots; acorns for wildlife; salt tolerant.
Oak, Water	<i>Quercus nigra</i>		N-C		No	Nice shade tree, lives 40 to 60 years; adapts to wide range of sites; acorns for wildlife.
Palm, Everglades	<i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i>		C-S		Yes	Spiny, clump-forming, multi-stemmed palm with 3-foot, fan-shaped, divided fronds; prefers damp sites.
Palm, Sabal (Cabbage palm)	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>		N-C-S		Yes	Our State Tree; large, palmate fronds; young trees have cross-hatched "boots"; wildlife use fiber (nests) & fruit.
Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>		N-C-S		No	Female plants bear edible, fleshy fruit in the fall; important wildlife food; tolerant of poor soils & salt.
Pine, Longleaf	<i>Pinus palustris</i>		N-C		Yes	Long lived, disease resistant tree for well-drained soils; seeds are important wildlife food; salt tolerant.
Pine, South Florida Slash	<i>Pinus elliottii var. densa</i>		N-C-S		Yes	Fast growing; light, even shade; drops needles & limbs, nesting cavities and food for wildlife; salt tolerant.
Chickasaw Plum	<i>Prunus angustifolia</i>		N-C		No	Small specimen tree for dry, sandy calcareous soils; fragrant, showy flowers; fruit and shelter for wildlife
Sugarberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>		N-C-S		No	Fast growing shade tree with interesting, knobby bark; attracts wildlife, especially song birds; fair salt tolerance
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>		N-C		No	Fast-growing shade tree for moist sites; good fall color; seeds in "gum" balls attract birds but also litter ground.
Viburnum, Walter's	<i>Viburnum obovatum</i>		N-C		Yes	Versatile small tree, or prune for hedge; white flower clusters late winter; attracts birds; fair salt tolerance.
Wax Myrtle	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>		N-C-S		Yes	Highly adaptable, multi-trunked, small tree or hedge (don't prune); good wildlife food & cover; salt tolerant.