

# Parks That Teach



Punta Gorda

FLORIDA

Take a Walk on the wild side ...



# With the Master Gardeners!

Well, maybe not too wild, but you can take a leisurely walk along The “Parks that Teach” corridor of the City’s newly completed Punta Gorda’s Pathways. Guided tours will be led by the University of Florida’s Master Gardener, individuals who have completed an extensive train-

ing course in gardening sponsored by the University of Florida. As you walk thru the pathway, view the unique ecosystems of the mangroves, identify trees and shrubs, and learn how these plants can fit into your home landscape. In addition, experience the habitats that support many different Florida creatures including alligators, wading birds, turtles, fish, raccoons, and crabs.



**Gumbo Limbo**  
*Buzara almeruiba*  
Native  
Height: 25-40 ft.  
Spread: 25-40 ft.  
Partial Sun-Full Shade  
High Drought Tolerant  
High Salt Tolerant  
Semi-evergreen Tree  
Soft, light-weight wood  
that is easily carved, used for  
making canoe hulls.

The Master Gardener guides will introduce native, non-native Florida Friendly (good to plant ) and invasive plants (not good to plant) and the difference between each. Learn about the importance of the mangrove community, it's value as a habitat and the support it provides as nursery grounds for fish, birds, crabs and other creatures as well as the ability of the mangroves to survive under low oxygen and saline environments.

Join us and get to know the Nature of Florida!

# All tours are free!

**TOURS ARE HELD ON THE  
1ST SATURDAY & 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EACH  
MONTH AT 9:30AM OCTOBER THRU MAY**

**No RSVP required**

**Walks depart from the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library at  
401 Shreve Street. Parking available in library parking lot**

**Tour will last approximately 1 ½ hours**

**Wear comfortable clothing & footwear**

**Florida Master Gardener's are happy to accommodate individual, bicycle or  
"doggie" groups wishing to schedule guided walks outside of regularly  
scheduled walks....**

***Call the Florida Master Gardener at***

***941-764-4340***

**to schedule your group or for more information.**

Additional information and guided walks will be posted in the kiosk on the Parks that Teach corridor of the Punta Gorda Pathways at the Shreve Street and West Virginia Avenue crossing.

# ALLSPICE

**Pimenta dioica**



**Non-Native**

**Height: 30-40 ft.**

**Spread: 20 ft.**

**Full Sun**

**Drought Tolerant**

**Not Salt Tolerant**

**Evergreen Tree**

**Large Glossy Aromatic Leaves**

The spice or condiment, allspice, is made from the dried, unripe fruit of the allspice or pimento tree. This is a small tree that grows to 40 ft tall, with large 4-8 in long leaves. These are leathery, evergreen, opposite, oblong, aromatic and quite attractive. The whitish gray bark peels in thin sheets. The white flowers are about a 0.25 in across and borne in many flowered pyramidal cymes originating from the leaf axils. The fruit is a brown berrylike drupe, about a 0.25 in long. The leaves and fruit smell like a combination of cloves, black pepper, nutmeg, and cinnamon, hence the common name.

# AUTOGRAPH TREE

*Clusia rosea*

**Native**

**Height: 25 -30 ft.**

**Spread: 15 - 25 ft.**

**Evergreen**

**Pest Resistant**

**Highly Drought Tolerant**

**Highly Salt Tolerant**

**Can be used in different  
landscapes as a street  
tree, specimen tree or**



According to Florida's Nature the Autograph Tree (*Clusia rosea*), also known as the Pitch Apple, is considered native to South Florida. A medium sized landscape tree that matures with a short, stocky trunk, this tree is noted for its thick, long leathery leaves that can be autographed, preserving a name or message until the leaf is shed. The black material inside of the mature fruit was once used to seal and waterproof boats, hence the common name Pitch Apple.

Although the Pitch Apple can grow to over 50 feet tall in its natural habitat, in Florida landscapes 30 feet with an equal spread is more typical. *Clusia rosea* is often used as screen plant, making good use of its low branching, spreading habit of growth. It can be used as a small to medium sized specimen tree. With good salt and drought tolerance once established, this tree enjoys full sun to partial or high shade, and is not fussy about soil pH or composition.

## BAY LEAF

*Pimenta racemosa*



**Non-Native**

**Height: 20 ft.**

**Spread: 10-15 ft.**

**Full Sun - Partial Shade**

**Drought Tolerant**

**Low Salt Tolerant**

**Evergreen Shade Tree**

**Used to flavor bay rum, fruit is**

**NOT edible**

*Pimenta racemosa* is a species in the myrtle family (Myrtaceae) that is native to the islands of the Caribbean. This small sized tree is related to the Allspice tree. The leaves contain an aromatic oil that somewhat resembles clove oil. Common names include West Indian Bay Tree and Bay Rum Tree. The tree grows to about 20 feet tall and the white flowers become black oval fruits. The ideal conditions for *Pimenta racemosa* include regular irrigation and bright sunshine. While the fruit is not edible, leaves of *Pimenta racemosa* can be used in cooking and tea and a cologne can be distilled from the toxic essential oil.

# CABBAGE PALM

## Sabal palmetto

**Native**

**Height: 40-50 ft.**

**Spread: 10-15 ft.**

**Full Sun – Partial Shade**

**High Drought Tolerant**

**High Salt Tolerant**

**Best Hurricane Proof**

**Tree**



The cabbage palm is a large robust palm with a single unbranching trunk that grows to about 50 ft but may occasionally reach heights of 70 ft. The crown is relatively small and like many palms the crown is typically wider when grown in shade and more compact when grown in full sun.

The large leaves have a dull finish and are a medium green, sometimes yellow-green, in color depending on the individual and situation. Each leaf is up to 12 ft long overall including the spineless petioles (leaf stems) which measure about 5-6 ft in length. They are up to 6 ft in width with drooping leaf segments. These segments are split to about half the width of the leaf and typically slough off tan fibers at the edges. Cabbage palm leaves are said to be *costapalmate* meaning that the leaflets are arranged on the stem in a pattern that is midway between palmate (leaflets arranged like the fingers on the palm of your hand) and pinnate (feather shaped).

# FAKAHATCHEE GRASS

*Tripsacum dactyloides*



**Height: 4 - 6 ft.**

**Spread: 4 - 6 ft.**

**Full Sun**

**Pest Resistant**

**Low Drought Tolerant**

**Low Salt Tolerant**

**Can tolerate occasional wet soil**

This Southeast U.S. native grass is becoming increasingly popular among gardeners and it's easy to see why. Easy to grow and virtually pest-free, this grass is stunningly beautiful with its rich green foliage erupting from fountain-like clumps that will grow to 5 ft (1.5 m) in height and 4 ft (1.2 m) wide. The leaves are erect up to 6 ft (1.8 m) in length and about 1 in (2.5 cm) wide. Distinctive flowers appear in late spring (in the Deep South) to mid-summer and rise above the leaves on slender stems. Gamma grass is evergreen in sub-tropical areas. When exposed to frosts the leaves assume shades of red and bronze. Severe cold will clobber the leaves and cut the plant to the ground



# FIREBUSH

## *Hamelia patens*

**Height: 6 - 12 ft.**

**Spread: 5 - 8 ft.**

**Partial Sun – Partial  
Shade**

**Moderately Pest Resistant**

**Moderately Drought**

**Tolerant**

**Low Salt Tolerant**

**Hummingbirds and  
butterflies enjoy the nectar in the  
year-round orange- red flowers**



Firebush is a perennial shrub that is used by gardeners because it produces flowers from late spring until the first frost. The bright red-orange flowers attract hummingbirds, honey bees, and butterflies, including the zebra longwing and gulf fritillary butterflies. Song birds also like to feed on the berries.

In South Florida this plant can reach fifteen feet tall, though it can easily be kept to three to eight feet tall. It works well in hedges, mixed borders, or as a stand-alone shrub. Once established it is heat and drought tolerant. It can grow in a range of soils, and has no serious insect or disease problems. If temperatures get too cold during the winter months, it may die back after the first freeze but will re-grow in the spring, making it what some people call a "root-hardy perennial."

# FOXTAIL PALM

*Wodyetia bifurcata*



**Non-Native**

**Height: 30 ft.**

**Spread: 10-15 ft.**

**Full Sun – Partial Shade**

**Moderate Drought Tolerant**

**Low Salt Tolerant**

**Attractive palm used in areas  
where Royal Palms are too tall**

The Foxtail Palm has a full, dark-green appearance resembling the larger Royal Palm, and is one of the most commonly used landscape palms in the world. Foxtail palms are native to Australia. The Foxtail palm is popular because of its ability to tolerate a wide variety of soil conditions. This palm tree can reach a height of approximately 30 feet, is drought tolerant and very adaptable to many environments. It has a smooth, self-cleaning trunk and feather-like fronds which resemble a fox's tail. Although the Foxtail is best grown in sunny, open areas, it can grow in both sun and shade. The Foxtail will enhance the look of any commercial or residential area, creating a tropical feel to any environment.

# GREEN BUTTONWOOD

*Conocarpus erectus*

**Native**

**Height: 30-35 ft.**

**Spread: 20-50 ft.**

**Full Sun – Partial Shade**

**Pest Resistant**

**High Drought Tolerant**

**High Salt Tolerant**

**Shrubby Evergreen**

**Provides food and cover  
for wildlife**



Green Buttonwood is an ideal plant for City homeowners. It is a low-branching, multi-trunked, shrubby, evergreen tree, which has small leaves. The inconspicuous, small greenish flowers appear in dense heads in the spring and are followed by half-inch red-brown, cone-like fruits. When planted in the open, Buttonwood will grow to about 20 to 25 feet tall and wide and is ideal for specimen planting. The species is less common and grows taller than the Silver Buttonwood. Due to the attractive, ridged bark and soft foliage, a multi-stemmed specimen makes a nice patio or street tree as it is quite tolerant of urban conditions. The wood of Buttonwood was formerly used for firewood, cabinetwork, and charcoal making and is very strong. It is an ideal wood for smoking fish and meats. A Florida native, the Buttonwood is a good choice for planting in wet soil conditions particularly along brackish water body shorelines.

# LEATHER FERN

## *Acrostichum danaeifolium*



**Native**

**Height: 4 - 8 ft.**

**Spread: 3 - 5 ft.**

**Pest Resistant**

**Low Drought Tolerant**

**Highly Salt Tolerant**

**Can be grown in mangrove swamps, mass plantings, and roadway medians**

The Leather Fern, *Acrostichum danaeifolium*, is native to Florida and is widely distributed in central and southern portions of the State. The giant leather fern grows in coastal hammocks and in brackish and mangrove swamps and further inland along canals and pond edges. It grows vigorously in full sun to full shade but it will not tolerate freezing temperatures.

The Leather Fern is Florida's largest fern with erect fronds that are typically 6 feet tall but can grow to 12 feet long and up to 2 feet wide. It is a natural clumper that is best featured in a landscape with plenty of room where it will make a dramatic statement. It grows in width by suckering from underground rhizomes. In a damp location the giant leather fern requires no fertilization to become established and to maintain its best appearance.

# MACADAMIA TREE

## *Macadamia integrifolia*

**Non-Native**

**Height: 30-40 ft.**

**Spread: 30 ft.**

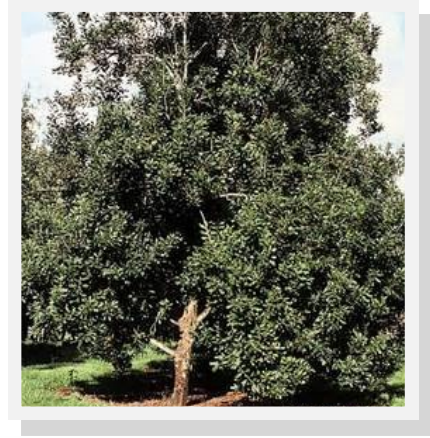
**Full Sun**

**Drought Tolerant (once established)**

**Not Salt Tolerant**

**Can handle some flooding**

**Light frosts may damage young trees**



Macadamia nut trees are native to tropical rain forests of Australia. While the tree will do fine in direct sun, it will need protection from the hotter rays of the afternoon sun and plenty of moisture. Macadamia nuts grow on large bushy trees which start producing after four or five years in October or November every year.

# GUMBO LIMBO

*Bursera simaruba*



**Native**

**Height: 25-40 ft.**

**Spread: 25-40 ft.**

**Partial Sun– Full Shade**

**High Drought Tolerant**

**High Salt Tolerant**

**Semi-evergreen Tree**

**Soft, light-weight wood that is easily carved, used for making carousel horses**

Gumbo-limbo is a medium sized fast-growing tree native to Florida and the islands of the Caribbean. Semi-deciduous it loses all its leaves in early spring just before the new leaves appear. The Gumbo Limbo makes for a beautiful specimen tree in a mild coastal location as it is fast growing and tolerant of salt and calcareous soils. The attractive shiny red exfoliating bark of the Gumbo Limbo leads to one of its common names the Tourist Tree. Thriving with little or no care, the Gumbo Limbo makes a handsome summertime shade tree, and is often used as a street tree.

Haitians make drums from the trunk of gumbo-limbo. A resin obtained from the trunk and bark is called chibou, in the West Indies, and is used to make glue, varnish, water repellent coatings and incense. The resin smells a little like turpentine. The fruits are eaten by several kinds of birds. The soft wood is easily carved.

# JACARANDA TREE

## Jacaranda mimosifolia

**Non-Native**

**Height: 25-45 ft.**

**Spread: 45-60 ft.**

**Full Sun**

**High Drought Tolerant**

**Not Salt Tolerant**

**Deciduous (lose leaves seasonally)**

**Spectacular Flowering Ability**



The Jacaranda Tree is a tropical beauty native to Central and South America with its clusters of fragrant, purple, trumpet-shaped blooms. It makes an excellent shade or street tree. It needs a well-drained soil and is very drought tolerant. Careful planning is necessary when planting because of its large surface roots.

## MANGROVE COMMUNITY



Mangroves filter and remove runoff, debris, and pollutants from adjacent uplands. This prevents the pollutants from contaminating waters and helps to maintain and improve water quality, as well as protecting the sea grass beds.

Fish in south Florida depend on the mangrove ecosystem at some point in their life. The mangrove branches also serve as rookeries (nesting areas) for a diversity of diving and wading birds.

## BLACK MANGROVE

*Avicennia germinans*



**Native**

**Height: 40 ft.**

**Spread: 30 ft.**

**Full Sun**

**High Salt Tolerant**

**Top side of leaves may appear white due to formation of crystals from salt excreted from the leaves**



## RED MANGROVE

### *Rhizophora mangle*

**Native**

**Height: 20-40 ft.**

**Spread: 20-30 ft.**

**Full Sun**

**Likes Wet Soils**

**Walking prop roots for support & stability**

**One of the most valuable trees for creating and preserving shorelines in south Florida**



Red Mangrove is one of the most valuable trees for creating and preserving shorelines in south Florida.

## WHITE MANGROVE

### *Laguncularia racemosa*

**Native**

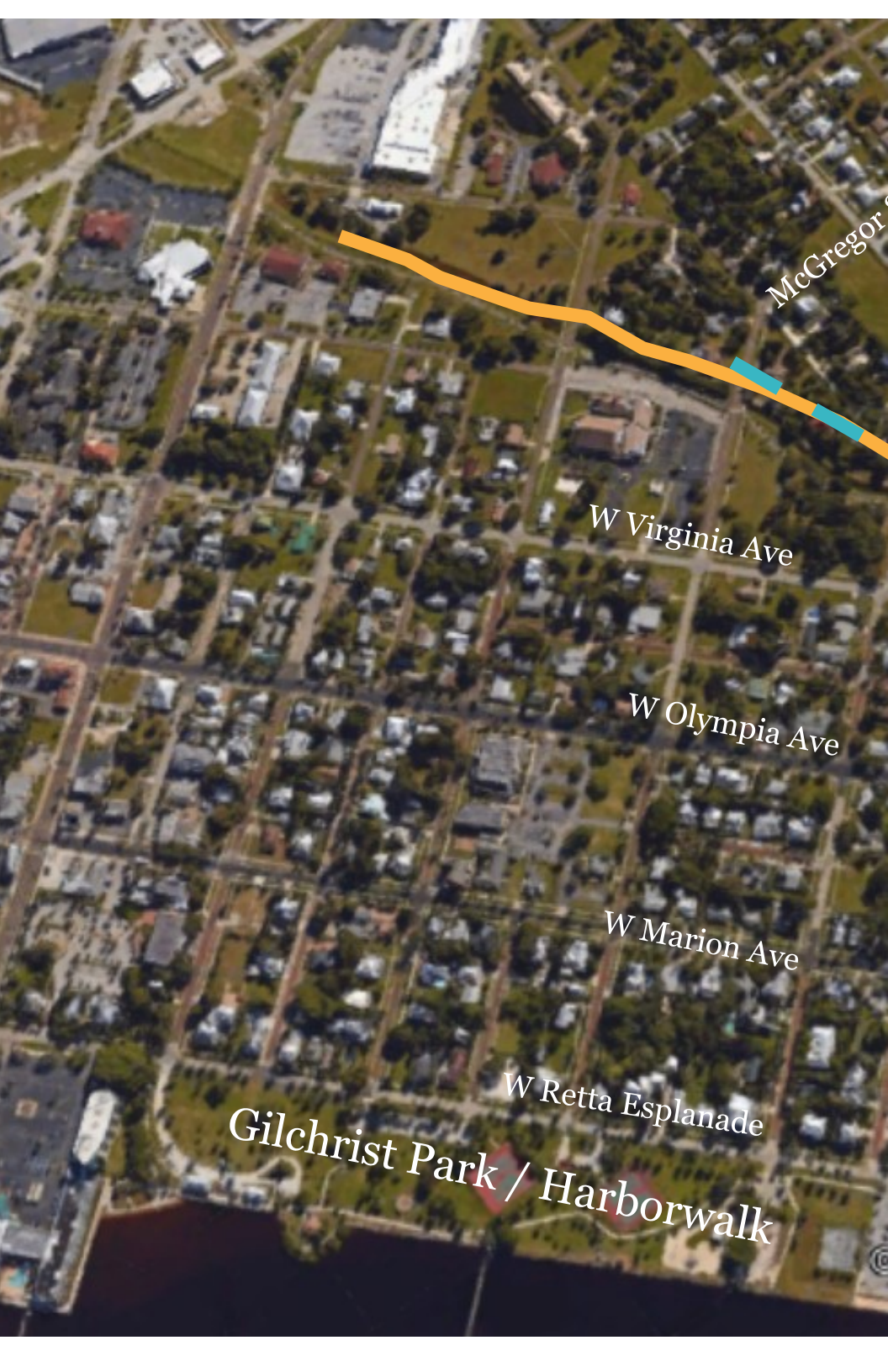
**Height: 40 ft.**

**Full Sun**

**High Salt Tolerant**

**Evergreen Bark used to treat fevers, skin wounds, ulcers, scurvy and prevent tumors by native cultures**





McGregor

W Virginia Ave

W Olympia Ave

W Marion Ave

W Retta Esplanade

Gilchrist Park / Harborwalk

Walks depart from  
the Punta Gorda  
Charlotte Library at  
401 Shreve Street.

Parking available in  
library parking lot

Berry St

Shreve St

W Henry St

Linear Park

Fisherman's  
Village

# MUHLY GRASS

*Muhlenbergia capillaris*



**Height: 3 - 5 ft.**

**Spread: 2 - 3 ft.**

**Full Sun**

**Pest Resistant**

**Highly Drought Tolerant**

**Moderately Salt Tolerant**

**Can tolerate periodic  
flooding and blooms pink  
flowers in the fall**

Muhly Grass, a decorative grass native to Florida, has a clumping form, growing 3- to 4-feet-tall and about as wide. A stiff, upright growth habit makes this markedly different from many other grasses. Delicate, purple flowers emerge in the fall well above the foliage and can literally cover the foliage. Muhly grass is naturally found in Florida's pine flatwoods, coastal uplands and even along its highways. It is a great choice for both home and commercial landscapes due to its growth habit, distinct appearance, attractive fall flowers, and ease of maintenance.

# POND CYPRESS

## Taxodium ascendens

**Native**

**Height: 50-60 ft.**

**Spread: 10-15 ft.**

**Full Sun – Partial Shade**

**Pest Resistant**

**High Drought Tolerant**

**Moderate Salt Tolerant**

**Slow growing tree with thick, shaggy bark; loses leaves in the fall**

**Used as canoes by Native**

**Americans**



Pond Cypress is very similar to Bald Cypress distinguishable by the scale-like leaves which overlap on the twigs. Pond Cypress isn't as prone as Bald Cypress to have knees, and when it does, they tend to be shorter and more rounded. Pond Cypress usually has a more columnar growth habit than Bald Cypress and is often preferred in landscape design for this reason. Pond Cypress occurs naturally in shallow ponds and wetlands along the southeastern U.S. coast from Virginia to Louisiana. Its distribution area is smaller than that of the Bald Cypress.

# ROYAL PALM

*Roystonea elata*



**Native**

**Height: 50-80 ft.**

**Spread: 15-25 ft.**

**Full Sun – Partial Shade**

**Moderate Drought Tolerant**

**Moderate Salt Tolerant**

**Susceptible to Royal Palm Borer**

**Produces fruits which are  
enjoyed by birds**

Notably popular as street or specimen trees, Royal Palms make a neat, tidy, yet stately landscape element for large landscapes, often reaching 50 or more feet in height growing nearly a foot per year. The tall, smooth, cement grey trunks are capped with a glossy, green crown shaft several feet high and a beautiful, broad, dense crown of soft, gently drooping, fronds. Flowers are incredibly fragrant, even from 50 feet away and are produced periodically throughout the year but mostly in summer. The Royal Palm is self-cleaning with old fronds drop off, but due to the height from which the fronds drop they can cause injury or damage to plants or property. One frond will fall about every month.

Royal Palms grow quite rapidly when given an abundance of water and fertilizer in full sun or dappled shade. They withstand strong winds and salt spray very well but some foliage injury will be evident on Royal Palm located next to the ocean.

# ROYAL POINCIANA

*Delonix regia*

**Non-Native**

**Height: 40 ft.**

**Spread: 60 ft.**

**Full Sun**

**Pest Resistant**

**High Drought Tolerant**

**Not Salt Tolerant**

**Brilliant display of orange-red  
colored flowers**



This many-branched, broad, spreading, flat-crowned deciduous tree is well-known for its brilliant display of red-orange blooms, which cover the tree top from May to July. The fine leaflets of the tree, a native of Madagascar, offers light shade during the remainder of the growing season, making Royal Poinciana a favorite shade tree or freestanding specimens in large, open lawns. The Royal Poinciana is also a nitrogen fixer improving soil conditions as it grows. Trunks can become as large as 50 inches or more in diameter, and the canopy may spread to 60 feet wide requiring a large open space when choosing this tree.

# SAND CORDGRASS

*Spartina bakeri*



**Height: 3 - 4 ft.**

**Spread: 3 - 5 ft.**

**Full Sun**

**Pest Resistant**

**Highly Drought Tolerant**

**Highly Salt Tolerant**

**Can tolerate periodic flooding**

Sand Cordgrass is a robust ornamental grass that can form clumps that are up to 20 feet in diameter. It can be used as an accent or border and is striking when planted in a mass. Space plants about 3 to 4 feet apart to form a mass of foliage several years after planting. It is a good native grass for use on the shorelines of ponds and streams and is exquisite when backlit by the sun. It also is suited for planting in and around water retention and detention areas because of its tolerance for wet soil. Sand Cordgrass grows well in full sun or light shade on medium dry to wet soils. This plant can tolerate periodic flooding during the growing season and will also grow well on the margins of sand ponds and fresh water marshes.



# SEAGRAPE

**Coccoloba uvifera**

**Native**

**Height: 25-30 ft.**

**Spread: 20-30 ft.**

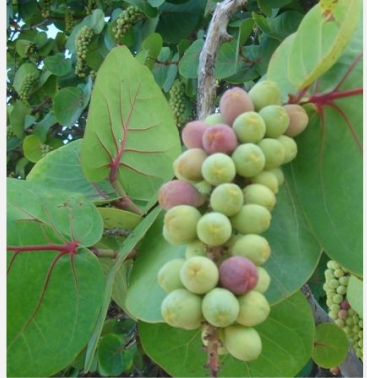
**Full Sun – Partial Shade**

**Pest Resistant**

**High Drought Tolerant**

**Moderate Salt Tolerant**

**Clusters of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch diameter green grapes, female trees only, ripening to deep purple in late summer**



The contorted, twisting trunk and unique branching habit makes Seagrape an interesting, shade tree or specimen planting. It can be pruned into a dense hedge, screen, or windbreak. Because of its size and coarse texture, Seagrape as a clipped hedge is more suited to foundation plantings for large buildings where it will lend a tropical effect. The fruit of the Seagrape is quite attractive to birds and is edible by humans. Seagrapes were often used in jams and preserves when settlers first came to Southern Florida.

The tree will perform well with little care, except for occasional pruning of lower branches. Some people object to the litter created by the large, slowly-decomposing leaves which fall from the tree during the year. Plants should be well-watered until established and then should only require occasional pruning to control shape.

# SILVER BUTTONWOOD

*Conocarpus erectus var. sericeus*



**Native**

**Height: 15-20 ft.**

**Spread: 15-20 ft.**

**Full Sun**

**Pest Resistant**

**High Drought Tolerant**

**High Salt Tolerant**

**Attractive silver foliage can be used in seaside plantings**

Capable of reaching a height of 40 feet with a 20-foot spread, Silver Buttonwood is often seen as a small, somewhat asymmetrical shrub but is ideal for use as a screen, clipped hedge, or specimen planting. Due to the attractive bark and soft silver foliage, a multi-stemmed specimen can make a nice patio or street tree. Planted in the open as a tree, Silver Buttonwood will grow to about 15 to 20 feet tall and will often take on a picturesque, contorted appearance when exposed to constant seashore winds, creating an attractive specimen. The crown is more symmetrical 1/2 mile or more from the coast or on the inland side of a tall ocean-front building. The wood of Silver Buttonwood was formerly used for firewood, cabinetwork, and charcoal making and is very strong. It is an ideal wood for smoking meats and fish.

A Florida native, Silver Buttonwood is ideal for seaside plantings as it is highly tolerant of full sun, sandy soils, and salty conditions. It also tolerates brackish areas and alkaline soils, thriving in the broken shade and wet soils of hammocks. This is a tough tree! It withstands the rigors of urban conditions making a durable street or parking lot tree.

# SLASH PINE

*Pinus elliottii*

**Native**

**Height: 75-100 ft.**

**Spread: 35-50 ft.**

**Full Sun – Partial Shade**

**High Drought Tolerant**

**High Salt Tolerant**

**Evergreen**

**Susceptible to Pine Borers**

**Historically used to produce  
turpentine and resins**



Slash Pine is self-pruning of its lower branches, is somewhat pyramidal when young and forms an open, rounded canopy creating a light, dappled shade beneath as it matures. This allows just enough sun to filter through for maintenance of a lawn beneath this tall, evergreen tree or for under plantings of dogwoods, azaleas, camellias and other plants which thrive in this high, shifting shade. Aggressive root competition takes place beneath Pines so the shrubs and lawn beneath and around the canopy often require more frequent irrigation, particularly during the dry season. Pines have some deep roots except in poorly-drained soil typical of South Florida lowlands where all roots are shallow. The tap root is prominent in well-drained soil and can make them difficult to transplant from the wild. This native plant is best used to create a natural-like setting or backdrop for other plantings.

# SOUTHERN LIVE OAK

*Quercus virginiana*



**Native**

**Height: 80 ft.**

**Spread: 60-100 ft.**

**Full Sun – Partial Sun**

**High Drought Tolerant**

**High Salt Tolerant**

**Evergreen Shade Tree**

**Can live greater than 200 years**

Once established Live Oak will thrive in almost any location and has very good wind resistance. Live Oak is a tough, enduring tree that will respond with vigorous growth to plentiful moisture on well-drained soil. Like other Oaks, care must be taken to develop a strong branch structure early in the life of the tree and must be given plenty of space to grow. One of the biggest problems with Live Oak in our cities is the lack of pruning. Therefore, it is not a plant-and-forget tree. Although roots will grow under curbs and sidewalks when planted in confined soil spaces allowing the tree to thrive in urban sites, in time, they lift sidewalks, curbs and driveways causing unsightly and expensive damage.

# WASHINGTONIA PALM

## Washingtonia robusta

**Non-Native**

**Height: 40-50 ft.**

**Spread: 10-15 ft.**

**Full Sun**

**High Drought Tolerant**

**Moderate Salt Tolerant**

**Extensive Maintenance**

**Required**



Washington Palm makes a dramatic statement in the large landscape growing rapidly up to 80 feet. As such it creates a striking accent for multi-storied homes and commercial building, but often grows out of scale in landscapes with single-story buildings looking like a tall telephone pole with a little green hat. Washington Palm needs full sun for best growth but will endure some shade while young. It will tolerate poor soil and quite drought and freeze hardy (20-degrees F).

# [WEST INDIAN] MAHOGANY

*Swietenia mahogany*



**Native**

**Height: 40-50 ft.**

**Spread: 40-60 ft.**

**Full Sun – Partial Shade**

**Resistant to Pest/ Diseases**

**High Drought Tolerant**

**Moderate Salt Tolerant**

**Semi-evergreen Tree**

**Used for cabinet and  
furniture making**

The West Indian Mahogany, a native of the Caribbean basin including Florida, is a popular avenue, shade, and framing tree. It often is used in parks, commercial landscapes, and parking lots in South Florida. Mahogany casts only a light shadow and doesn't discourage grass and other plantings beneath it. West Indies Mahogany is renowned for its ability to withstand strong winds, and it is moderately tolerant of salt spray and salty soils. It's a good large shade or specimen tree for coastal (but not fully exposed to the sea) landscapes.

# WILD CINNAMON

## *Canella winterana*

**Native**

**Height: 20-30 ft.**

**Spread: 6-8 ft.**

**Full Sun – Partial Shade**

**Pest Resistant**

**High Drought Tolerant**

**Salt Tolerant**

**Endangered plant in  
Florida**



Wild Cinnamon is a salt tolerant large evergreen shrub or small tree native of Florida and tropical America. Purple and white showy flowers cover the tree in summer and fall followed by bright red berries clustered near the tips of branches. It can be used as a specimen planted alone in the landscape as a small tree. They can be trained with several stems reaching up into the canopy, or left to grow with one trunk as seen in the wild. The rich, dense foliage creates a cooling shade beneath the tree and makes this a good native plant for locating near patios and decks for large and small residences alike. The narrow canopy makes it a good candidate for a clipped or unclipped screen along a property line. The Wild Cinnamon is endangered in Florida.

## WILD LIME

### Zanthoxylum fagara



**Native**

**Height: 15-25 ft.**

**Spread: 15-20 ft.**

**Partial Shade**

**Pest Resistant**

**High Drought Tolerant**

**Unknown Salt Tolerant**

**Stems have sharp spines, do not  
use where people walk**

Wild Lime is a small tree native to south Florida and the Caribbean Basin. It grows as an understory tree in the coastal upland plant communities on the lee side of the dunes in south Florida. Although tolerance to shade allows wild lime to germinate and grow successfully as an understory tree, it adapts well to the full sun. Plants grown in the full sun are full, nearly symmetrical and make nice multi-trunked small patio trees. They can also be planted in a container or other area with limited soil space due to the small size of the mature plant, but use care where placing, stems contains sharp spines that can cause severe pain when they contact flesh.



## WINTER CASSIA

### *Cassia bicapsularis*

**Non-Native**

**Height: 8-12 ft.**

**Spread: 8-10 ft.**

**Full Sun - Partial Sun**

**Moderate Drought**

**Tolerant**

**Moderate Salt Tolerant**

**Semi-evergreen Tree**

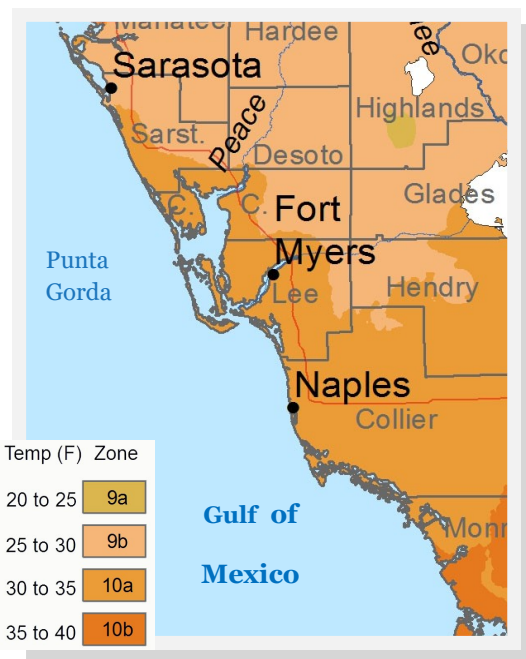
**Known as the Butterfly Bush**



This sprawling, semi-evergreen shrub, reaching a height of 8 to 10 feet with an equal spread, produces blossoms in fall that resemble golden butterflies. Bright yellow flowers appear at a time of year when little else is in bloom. This plant is good in any sunny landscape. There is concern about this plant being invasive. Tolerant of many soil conditions, Winter Cassia needs full sun for best growth and flowering, and needs little care once established. Plant it and forget about it, except for occasional watering during drought.

# FLORIDA PLANT HARDINESS ZONE MAP

Punta Gorda is in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 10a. Due to the micro-climates created by proximity to Charlotte Harbor, other water bodies, buildings, and other site specific conditions, plants rated for 10b may perform well in this area.



## ALLIGATORS AND PEOPLE

Population growth and the tourism industry have increased the frequency of human-alligator interactions in Florida. You can prevent unpleasant encounters by following these Alligator Safety Tips

- ⇒ **Leave alligators alone.**
- ⇒ **Pay attention.**
- ⇒ **Do not feed alligators.**
- ⇒ **Throw fish scraps into trash**
- ⇒ **Follow directions on signs.**
- ⇒ **Swim during daylight hours only.**
- ⇒ **Stay with children.**
- ⇒ **Keep an eye on your pets.**



*If you have a nuisance alligator in your area, contact the FWC office or call 866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286). Please be aware, nuisance alligators are killed, not relocated.*

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# A Public-Private Partnership



**TEAM Punta Gorda**  
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[www.teampuntagorda.org](http://www.teampuntagorda.org)

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Punta Gorda  
FLORIDA