FYN Topic: Container Trees and Shrubs

Question: I want to plant a tree or shrub in a large container beside our porch. I would prefer something that flowers and does not reach more than 15 feet after trimming. What about a crape myrtle?

Answer: The plant selection is limited only by how large a container you can obtain. Secure a container slightly larger in diameter than the original tree’s nursery pot or shrub root ball. Seek out dwarf plant forms and/or only trees known to stay small trees. A few large container plants that have done well for me under different light levels include the Christmas palm (Adonidia merrillii), traveler's tree, bird of paradise, frangipani, bottle palm, croton, pitch apple, and others. Use only crape myrtles that stay small, whether as a large shrub or small tree—not Queen crape myrtle. Crape myrtles do not like severe extensive trimming.

Christmas palm (Adonidia merrillii)  
Frangipani (Plumeria rubra)