

FYN Garden Q & A Series



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Yards & Neighborhoods



FYN Topic: Container Trees and Shrubs

Question: I want to plant a tree or shrub in a large container beside out 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*)

Thomas Becker is an extension agent for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program at the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the Horticulture Help Desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by emailing Extgardener@leegov.com. Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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