



FYN Garden Q & A Series

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Yards & Neighborhoods



FYN Topic: Coral Honeysuckle with Native Shrubs

Question: I am looking for a vine to climb over a fence to increase privacy when we are sitting on our lanai. What should I plant in front of the vine to also improve privacy? Matt from Cape Coral

Answer: First, keep it simple. Establish a native vine on your fence like Coral Honeysuckle. It establishes quickly with minimal care and won't damage your fence. It gets woody over time and will produce some weight on top of the fence but fills-in quickly and looks attractive all year. This Florida native blooms well in the early spring right into the late fall. If you want to see the amount of space it requires trained on a fence, visit the Eco-Living Center at Rutenberg Park. See it growing on the North facing corner of the center's gardens as part of our Florida Yard and Neighborhood landscaping display. There it is on a chain-link fence surrounding the building's air conditioning units.

In front of the vine, group shrubs or create staggered rows of medium or tall-growing native shrubs. Plant the vine and shrubs during the upcoming rainy season. A few choices include: red-tipped coccolupum, Florida privet, Simpson's stopper, firebush, wild sage, wild coffee, varnish-leaf, beautyberry, golden dewdrop (species or white-growing form), necklace-pod, dahoon holly and others. No matter what you use, obtain high quality, nursery-raised plants and space the plants according to recommendations from the Extension Service.



Cape Honeysuckle bloom

Useful Links

<http://www.floridayards.org>
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>
<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>
<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>

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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