



FYN Garden Q & A Series

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Yards & Neighborhoods



FYN Topic: Southern Slash Pine, Sand Pine are Our Native Trees

Question: I am looking for pine trees. Can you tell me the best place to purchase and plant them?
 —Email from FloridaYards Website

Answer: Hopefully, Australian “Pine” is not what you are seeking. It is not a true pine species and should not be planted or transplanted into your yard. Two true native pines, southern slash pine and sand pine can be obtained at one of several, local, and mostly native, plant nurseries or garden centers. Pick up a copy of the 2012, "Guide for Real Florida Gardeners" at the extension office or go to: <http://plantrealflorida.org>. Call each source listed for Lee County. Compare prices and available container sizes. If you are looking for bare root pine tree seedlings, contact the local Florida Forest Service at 239-690-3500. <http://www.floridaforestservice.com> On Saturday, April 21, 2012 at Rotary Park between 9AM and 2PM, Cape Coral hosts a native plant sale. Plant your slash pines in small groups using three or more trees per group. Grouping them improves survival of the trees planted on ‘fill’ soil. They also prefer less irrigation and fertilizer than other landscape plants.

Another true pine choice is the Sand Pine. Rarely seen in home landscapes, it survives best under natural growing conditions in a preserve or shrubby understory. Its long-term survival seems to require a high intensity fire every 20 to 80 years.



Sand Pine



Mockingbird in Slash Pine



Slash Pine Walkway

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://gardeningolutions.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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