



FYN Garden Q & A Series

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Yards & Neighborhoods



FYN Topic: Stoppers

Question: Which stopper would you suggest planting in a Florida-friendly yard?
 Marlene R. from Estero

Answer: Under-used in south Florida landscapes, the common name, stopper, is derived from their historical uses, meaning to stop diarrhea. The tropical native plant Stoppers include many pioneering species: Spanish, Red, Redberry, Simpson’s and White. Stopper. Seedlings often emerge from fruit spread by birds resting in open, shady places under large live oak hammock trees. Large clumps or tree thickets form providing shelter for more wildlife. Two stoppers, Simpson’s and Spanish, are very suitability Florida-Friendly landscaping™ species for coastal backyards. These stoppers grow into attractive evergreen trees or shrubs, 15 feet tall and 6 feet wide. Fragrant flowers attract pollinating insects and the berries are consumed by both birds and other wildlife. Stoppers can be sheared into hedges and work well on property borders. Their bark is grayish or reddish brown. Leaves are small, dark green and leathery. Flowers appear in the late spring as white fluffy, puffballs arranged delicately on the stem. One improved type, Simpson’s Stopper ‘Compacta’ is available as a mounding, dwarf shrub. It grows five feet tall and wide. It is drought-tolerant and requires very little maintenance during the year.



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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