



FYN Garden Q & A Series

Thomas Becker
Extension Agent, Florida
Yards & Neighborhoods



FYN TOPIC: Sweet Acacia, Fiddlewood and Cinnamon Trees

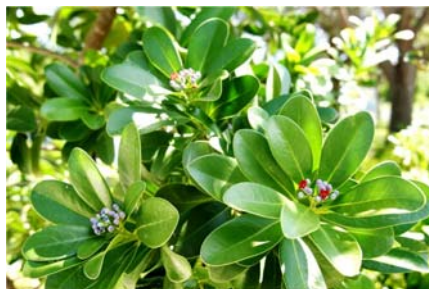
Question: Thank you for the ID on my tree..... woman's-tongue, *Albizia lebeck*. I liked its perfect shape, size and fragrant blooms. Thanks to your office, I now know it is highly invasive and cannot be planted. Can you suggest a similar tree growing 25'-30' tall and have umbrella-like, spreading branches? Blooms should be fragrant, although size and shape is much more important. Ann P.,email

Answer: Consider Florida-Friendly alternatives that grow into small trees. Sweet Acacia and Fiddlewood are Florida natives, keep their leaves all year and max out at 15-20 feet. Sweet Acacia is very thorny and in the same family as woman's tongue. It has tight, ball-like, fragrant yellow flowers in the late Fall. Birds love the protection sweet acacia's thorns provide. Otherwise, Sweet Acacia creates dappled shade from an open leaf canopy. The other choice, Fiddlewood blooms continuously in the spring, summer and fall. Look for its lilac-like, white tubular and fragrant flowers that attract butterflies for nectar. After flowering, golden berries attract birds. Use either type of tree in full sun. Other tree possibilities include Gumbo Limbo, Pigeon Plum, Geiger Tree and Cinnamon Bark. The gumbo limbo tree has artistic, open branching, often with peeling bark. Cinnamon bark has thick wind resistant, leathery leaves and multi-colored flowers. Growing slowly, it has virtually no maintenance. All these trees and others like them can be seen at the FYN demonstration garden at Rutenberg Park. They also appear online in the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Design Guide at: http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/FFL_Plant_Selection_Guide.pdf.



Fiddlewood

<http://www.floridayards.org>
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>
<http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>



Cinnamon Bark in bloom



Sweet Acacia in bloom

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 239-533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or by emailing Extgardener@leegov.com. Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A. & M. 8/25/2012.

