



Stephen H. Brown
Horticulture Agent,
Tropical Flowering Tree Specialty

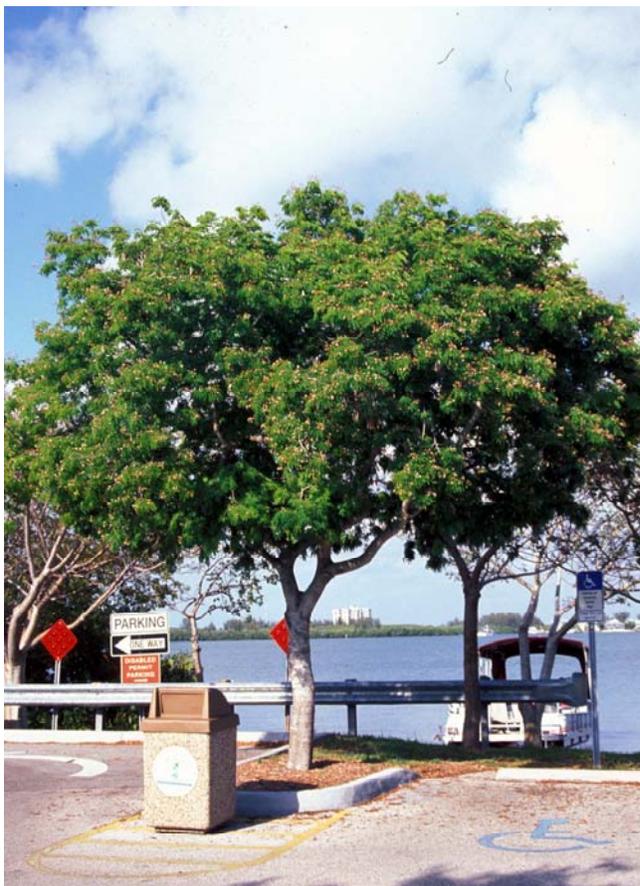
Lee County Extension
Fort Myers, Florida
shb@ifas.ufl.edu

Lysiloma latisiliquum

Wild Tamarind, Bahamas Lysiloma

Fabaceae

Flower Display: D



Fort Myers Beach, Florida

Late April

L. latisiliquum gets better with sun and age. Fern-like leaves and conspicuous, white to greenish white, brush-like flowers characterize this hardy tree. It is an erect tree with a thick trunk and a wide, flat crown of spreading branches. Its fast growth and wide crown makes it an excellent shade tree. New wood and trunk are gray, but with time the bark on old wood darkens and separates into large attractive plates. This is especially striking on the massive trunks of old trees. Fallen pods can be a little messy but the delicate leaves seem to ‘melt’ into the ground when they fall from the tree. Use *L. latisiliquum* for seaside and streetscape median plantings. It does well on well-drained alkaline soils. It does have several disadvantages. The branches are somewhat brittle, and fallen leaves may stain most things brown. For these reasons, it is not appropriate as a parking lot or patio tree. Cottony cushion scales can be a problem in winter and spring. Thorn bugs can cause minor branch dieback. Prune this tree carefully to maintain its wide spreading crown. Unlike the true tamarind, *Tamarindus indica*, it has no edible a fruit.



Fort Myers Beach , Florida

Late April



Fort Myers, Florida

Mid August

Leaves: Bipinnate, alternate, usually with 3-4 pairs of pinnae each with 8-18 pairs of elliptic to oblong leaflets

Flowers: Staminate, globular, white, to greenish white, showy stamens, to 1 inch long

Fruits: Pods, thin, flat green, becoming twisted and gray when dried and remaining on the tree for several months

[Tropical Flowering Trees List](#)

Questions/Comments:

Email: brownsh@leegov.com