

SEVENTY SMALL TREES FOR SOUTH FLORIDA'S GARDENS AND LANDSCAPES

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The trees below are considered “small” trees in south Florida. Under normal growing conditions, their heights are not expected to exceed 22 feet. However, photos of some of the trees were taken overseas where their dimensions often exceed Florida grown trees of the same species. Several of the “trees” listed are large shrubs and require training to conform them into “standards” or small trees. Before selecting a tree, consult with your Extension agent for information on the adaptability of the tree in your area. For example, some trees may be too cold, pest, or disease sensitive in your location to be worthwhile. Others may be considered by some to be “dirty” trees and should be planted away from foot or vehicular traffic. Most of the trees pictured blooming have well-defined flowering season. Nearly all of the trees listed are evergreens but some are deciduous and lose their leaves for weeks or for several months. Many of these trees are not available at your local garden centers and may have to be specially ordered. Your inquiries at plant centers concerning the availability of a desired species may stimulate the production of some of the lesser used trees. The abbreviation key is at the bottom of the table.

| SOUTH FLORIDA'S NATIVE TREES | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Common Name | Botanical Name | Typical Dimension | Growth Rate | Cold Tolerance | Drought Tolerance | Salt Tolerance | Nutritional Requirement | Uses | Photos |
| Bahamas Strongbark | <i>Bourreria ovata</i> | 20'x20' | Medium | No | High | Medium | Low | A,F,M,S,FR | Tree Tree Flowers Fruits |
| Bolly (fruit-female) | <i>Guapira discolor</i> | 20'x20' | Medium | Yes | High | Medium | Low | A,F,M,S | |
| Cocoplum | <i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i> | 20'x15' | Medium | No | Medium | High | Low | A,M,S | Shrub Fruits Leaves More |
| Coral-Bean; Cherokee-Bean | <i>Erythrina herbacea</i> | 16'x14' | Medium | | High | Medium | Medium | A,M,F,FR | Tree Flowers More |
| East Palatka Holly (fruit-female) | <i>Ilex x attenuata</i> | 20' x 15' | Slow | Yes | Medium | Medium | Low | A,M,S,F R | Tree Fruits |
| Elderberry | <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> | 10'x10' | Fast | | Medium | Medium | Low | A,M,F,FR | Tree Flowers |
| Firebush | <i>Hamelia patens</i> | 10'x8' | Fast | Yes | Medium | Medium | Medium | A,M,S,R | Tree Flowers |
| Jamaican Caper | <i>Capparis cynophallophora</i> | 16'x8' | Slow | No | High | High | Low | M,S | Tree Shrub Flowers |
| Lignum-vitae | <i>Guaiacum sanctum</i> | 15'x15' | Slow | No | High | High | Low | A,M,F,S, FR | Tree Flowers |
| Myrsine | <i>Rapanea punctata</i> | 15'x5' | Medium | Yes | High | High | Low | M | |

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| Orange Geiger | <i>Cordia sebestena</i> | 20'x20' | Medium | No | High | High | Low | F,M,S | Tree Flowers More |
| Pond Apple | <i>Annona glabra</i> | 20'x15' | Medium | Yes | Low | Medium | Low | A,R,FR | Tree Fruits |
| Redberry Stopper | <i>Eugenia confusa</i> | 20'x25' | Slow | No | High | High | Medium | A,M,S | |
| Red Tip Cocoplum | <i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i> 'Red Tip' | 20'x15' | Fast | No | Medium | High | Low | M,S | Leaves More |
| Silver Buttonwood | <i>Conocarpus erectus</i> var. <i>sericeus</i> | 15'x15' | Fast | No | Medium | High | Medium | A,M | Tree Leaves |
| Simpson Stopper | <i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i> | 15x10' | Slow | Yes | High | High | Low | A,M,S,R | Tree Flowers Fruits |
| Spanish Stopper | <i>Eugenia foetida</i> | 15'x15' | Medium | Yes | High | High | Medium | A,M,S,R | |
| Spicewood | <i>Calyptanthes pallens</i> | 20'x10' | Slow | No | Medium | Medium | Low | M,S | |
| Sweet Acacia | <i>Acacia farnesiana</i> | 15'x10' | Medium | Yes | High | High | Low | F,M,S,FR | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Wax Myrtle | <i>Myrcia cerifera</i> | 20'x15' | Medium | Yes | High | Medium | Low | A,M,S,R | Tree Shrub Leaves Fruits |
| Yaupon Holly | <i>Ilex vomitoria</i> (and certain cultivars) | 20'x15' | Medium | Yes | High | High | Low | M,S,R,F R | Tree Leaves |
| NON-NATIVE TREES | | | | | | | | | |
| African Cassia | <i>Cassia afrofistula</i> | 16'x14' | Medium | Yes | High | Medium | Low | A,F,M,S, FR | Tree Flowers |
| Anderson Crepe Hibiscus | <i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> 'Anderson Crape' | 15'x10' | Fast | Yes | Low | Medium | High | A,F,M,S, FR | Tree Flowers |
| Arborvitae | <i>Platycladus orientalis</i> | 20'x20' | Medium | Yes | Medium | Low | Medium | A,FR | Tree Leaves |
| Bahamas Firebush | <i>Hamelia cuprea</i> | 16'x16' | Fast | No | High | High | Low | A,M,F,S, FR | Tree Flowers Ensemble |

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| Bottlebrush | <i>Callistemon citrinus</i> | 20'x15' | Medium | Yes | Medium | Medium | Medium | F,A,M,S | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Bougainvillea | <i>Bougainvillea glabra</i> Many hybrids | 8'x4' | Medium | No | High | High | Low | A,M,S,FR | Tree Flowers |
| Bougainvillea | <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> | 18'x15' | Medium | No | High | High | Medium | A, F, S | Tree Flowers |
| Bridal Bouquet Frangipani | <i>Plumeria pudica</i> | 11'x8' | Medium | Yes | High | High | Low | A,F,M,FR | Tree Flowers More |
| Butterfly Flower; St. Thomas Tree | <i>Bauhinia monandra</i> | 18'x26' | Fast | No | High | High | Medium | A,F,M,S | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Cattley Guava; Strawberry Guava | <i>Psidium littorale</i> | 20x14' | Medium | Yes | High | Low | Medium | Not recc. | Tree Leaves Trunk |
| Chaste Tree | <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i> | 10'x15' | Medium | Yes | Medium | Medium | Medium | A,F,M,FR | Tree Flowers |
| Cinnecord (thorn-less) | <i>Acacia choriophylla</i> | 10'x10' | Medium | No | High | High | Low | A,M,S | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Crape Jasmine | <i>Tabernaemontana divaricata</i> | 10'x8' | Medium | Yes | Low | Medium | Medium | A,F,M,FR | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Crape Myrtle | <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> | 15'x8' | Medium | Yes | High | High | Medium | A,F,M,FR | Tree Flowers |
| Desert Cassia | <i>Senna polyphylla</i> | 10'x10' | Slow | Yes | High | High | Low | A,F,M,S,FR | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Dusty Yellow Senna | <i>Senna fruticosa</i> | 15'x18' | Medium | Yes | Medium | Medium | Medium | A,F,M,FR | Tree Ensemble |
| Dwarf Poinciana | <i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i> | 10'x12' | Fast | Yes | High | Medium | Medium | A,F,M,S,FR | Tree Flowers More |
| Dwarf Schefflera Tree | <i>Schefflera arboricola</i> | 12'x12' | Fast | Yes | High | Medium | Medium | A,M,S,FR | Tree Leaves |

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| Frangipani | <i>Plumeria rubra</i> | 15'x18' | Slow | Yes | High | High | Low | A,F,M,FR | Tree Flowers Flowers More |
| Gardenia 'Veitchii' | <i>Gardenia jasminoides</i> 'Veitchii' | 7'x6' | Slow | Yes | Low | Low | High if in alkaline soils | A,M,S,F,FR | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Glaucous Cassia | <i>Senna surattensis</i> | 14'x11' | Fast | Yes | Medium | Low | Medium | A,M,F,FR | Tree Flowers Ensemble More |
| Golden Dewdrop | <i>Duranta erecta</i> | 12'x12' | Medium | Yes | High | Medium | Low | A,F,M,S,FR | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Jackwood | <i>Cordia dentata</i> Syn: <i>Cordia alba</i> | 20'x20' | Medium | No | High | Medium | Medium | A,M,F,S | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Jatropha | <i>Jatropha integerrima</i> | 12'x10' | Medium | No | High | Medium | Low | A,F,M,FR | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Lignum-vitae | <i>Guaiacum officinale</i> | 15'x15' | Slow | No | High | High | Low | A,M,S,F,FR | Tree Flower Trunk Ensemble |
| Loquat | <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> | 22'x30' | Medium | Yes | Medium | Medium | Low | A,M,S | Tree Leaves Fruits |
| Lucky Nut | <i>Thevetia peruviana</i> | 12'x18' | Fast | No | Medium | High | Medium | A,M,F,FR | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Madagascar Olive Tree | <i>Noronhia emarginata</i> | 20'x18' | Medium | No | High | High | Low | M,S | Tree Leaves Ensemble |
| Madagascar Palm | <i>Pachypodium lamerei</i> | 8'x6' | Slow | Yes | High | Medium | Medium | A,F | Tree Flowers Trunk |
| Majestic Beauty Indian Hawthorne | <i>Raphioleosis indica</i> 'Majestic Beauty' | 20'x15' | Slow | Yes | Medium | Medium | Medium | A,F,M,S,FR | Tree Flowers Ensemble |

| Mexican Poinciana | <i>Caesalpinia yucatanensis</i> | 18'x15' | Medium | Yes | Medium | Low | Medium | A,F,M,S,FR | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
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| Mussaenda; Tropical dogwood | <i>Mussaenda philippica</i> | 9'x10' | Fast | No | Medium | Yes | Medium | A,F | Tree Flowers |
| Ochrosia | <i>Ochrosia elliptica</i> | 20'x15' | Medium | No | High | High | Medium | A,F,M | Tree Leaves Fruits |
| Oleander | <i>Nerium oleander</i> (certain cultivars) | 15'x10' | Fast | Yes | High | High | Low | A,F,M,FR | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Potato Tree | <i>Solanum wrightii</i> | 16'x25' | Fast | Yes | Medium | Low | Medium | A,F | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Purple Glory Tree | <i>Tibouchina granulosa</i> | 12'x15' | Medium | Yes | Low | Low | Medium | A,F,M,S,FR | Tree Flowers |
| Red Cluster Bottlebrush | <i>Callistemon</i> 'Red Cluster' | 9'x6' | Slow | Yes | Medium | Medium | Medium | A,M,FR | Tree Ensemble |
| Red Powderpuff | <i>Calliandra haematocephala</i> | 15'x15' | Medium | Yes | High | Low | Medium | M,S,FR | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Screw Pine | <i>Pandanus utilis</i> | 20x8' | Slow | No | High | High | Low | A | Tree |
| Singapore Frangipani | <i>Plumeria obtuse</i> 'Singapore' | 20'x12' | Slow | Yes | High | High | Low | A,F,M,FR | Tree Flowers Flowers |
| Starburst Clerodendrum | <i>Clerodendrum quadricoculare</i> | 15'x15' | Fast | Yes | Medium | Medium | Medium | A,F,M,S,FR | Tree Flowers Flowers |
| Sweet Viburnum | <i>Viburnum odoratissimum</i> | 14'x8' | Medium | Yes | Medium | Low | Medium | A,M,FR | Tree Leaves & Flowers |

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| Texas Geiger | <i>Cordia boissieri</i> | 20'x20' | Medium | Yes | High | Medium | Medium | F,A,M,S,FR | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Tube Flower | <i>Clerodendrum minahassae</i> | 12'x10' | Fast | No | Medium | Low | Medium | A,F | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Wax Leaf Privet | <i>Ligustrum japonicum</i> | 15'x15' | Fast | Yes | Medium | Medium | Medium | A,F,M,FR | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| West Indian Ebony | <i>Brya ebenus</i> | 20'x14' | Slow | Yes | High | Medium | Low | A,F,M,FR | Flowers |
| White Geiger | <i>Cordia superba</i> | 18'x16' | Medium | Yes | High | Medium | Medium | F,A,M,S,FR | Trees Flowers Ensemble |
| White Ixora | <i>Ixora finlaysoniana</i> | 15'x10' | Medium | No | High | Medium | High if in alkaline soils | A,F,M,FR | Trees Ensemble |
| Yellow Elder | <i>Tecoma stans</i> | 18'x12' | Fast | No | High | Medium | Medium | F,A,M,S,FR | Tree Flowers Ensemble |
| Yellow Geiger | <i>Cordia lutea</i> | 15'x15' | Medium | Yes | High | Medium | Medium | A,F,M,FR | Trees Flowers Ensemble |

Growth Rate: F = Fast; M = Medium; S = Slow

Cold Tolerance (based on 4 hours at 32°F): **Yes; No**

Drought Tolerance: Low = frequent irrigation; Medium = plants can survive on normal rainfall after establishment; High = require very little water after establishment

Salt Tolerance: The plant's relative tolerance of salt, both from salt sprays and brackish irrigation water. Low; Medium; High

Nutritional Requirement: Low; Medium; High

Uses: A = accent; F = flowering; M = median; R = retention pond; S = streetscape; FR = may be considered frangible