April Bloomer:  
Dinner Plate Tree

Dinner Plate Tree (*Pteropermum acerifolium*)

**Origin:** Indian Subcontinent; Indo-China  
**Growth Rate:** Fast  
**Zone:** 8a—12 (Minimum 20°F)  
**Light Requirements:** High  
**Drought Tolerance:** Medium  
**Salt Tolerance:** Medium  
**Soil Requirements:** Wide  
**Nutritional Requirements:** Medium  
**Plant Type:** Evergreen tree  
**Flower Color:** White  
**Flowering Season:** Heavily in late March and April and perhaps sparingly December—March  
**Propagation:** Cuttings  
**Common Uses:** Shade, flowering tree  
**Human Hazards:** None  
**Major Problems:** None

Pine Island, early-April

Fort Myers, early-April
Flowering episodes of *P. acerifolium* come and go in short spurts during its blooming months. The flower is short lived, opening in low light and usually fading by mid-afternoon of the next day. The flower is mildly fragrant. It takes the sum of a strong flower display to register a noticeable scent. As it flowers, new brown velvety leaves simultaneously unfold. A rusty tomentose sepal encloses the flower bud. When opened, its five petals are sparkling white. The fallen flowers create a mess. This tree will be extremely difficult to locate. The three trees known to me are in older neighborhoods suggesting this tree was more prominent in years past. It is not known to produce fruits in Florida and thus no seeds are available for propagation.

**February Bloomers:** Flame Vine (*Pyrostegia venusta*); Walter’s Viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*)