



Staying Green While Conserving Water in Miami-Dade: A Selection of both Native and Non-Native Fruit Trees

The list below is a selection of highly drought tolerant trees (non-native as well as those native to south Florida) that bear edible fruit. Palatability of fruit from native trees can be variable (most are grown from seed); some are more suited to use in preserves or pies rather than consumed directly from the tree. At the very least the fruit can attract birds to your yard, plus all the trees have ornamental and/or environmental attributes that warrant their use in local landscapes. For more information on all of the listed trees go on line to the [Miami-Dade Extension Office](#). If a fruit tree is not available from your local garden shop try area nurseries that specialize in fruit trees and Florida native plants (lists are available on our office web site).

SIZE: locally expected height in feet

- **tr/shr** (grown as a **t**ree or **s**hrub – most usual indicated first).

USE: utility in the landscape other than as a fruit tree

- **sp** (specimen tree/shrub)
- **scr** (screen/barrier)
- **sh** (shade)
- **orn** (attractive form, and/or leaves and/or flowers with ornamental appeal)

SEASON: season of year during which tree produces fruit.

MISC:

- Separate male(♂) and female(♀) flowering tree necessary for fruit
- **§** = two or more trees required for reliable and/or bountiful fruit production
- **Tol:** tolerant of salt
- **Coastal:** tolerant of both wind and salt

Asterisk (*) = native to South Florida

	<i>SIZE</i>	<i>USE</i>	<i>SEASON</i>	<i>MISC.</i>
<i>Anacardium occidentale</i> (Cashew)	30	sp.	late spring	Cold sensitive Anthracnose disease
<i>Brosimum alicastrum</i> (Mayan breadnut)	60	sp/sh/orn	Summer - Fall	Well adapted to limestone
<i>Carissa carandas</i> ¹ (Karanda)	10-15 shr	scr/orn	Summer - Winter	Fragrant flowers Thorny
<i>Carissa macrocarpa</i> (Natal plum)	5-10 shr	sp/orn/scr	Year round (sporadic)	More attractive than karanda Tol
<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i> * (Seagrape)	10-35 shr	sp/orn/scr	Summer	♂ ♀ Coastal
<i>Dovyalis hybrid</i> (Florida apricot)	15-20 tr/shr	scr	Fall –Winter	Tolerant of wind Spiny
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> (Loquat)	20	sp/orn	Late fall - Winter	Fragrant flowers
<i>Eugenia pyriformis var. uvalha</i> (Uvalha)	15	sp/orn	Spring- Summer	Fruit highly aromatic
<i>Garcinia livingstonei</i> (Imbe, African mangosteen)	15-20 tr/shr	sp/orn/scr	Late spring- Winter	Unusual angular growth habit Coastal §
<i>Garcinia xanthochymus</i> (False mangosteen/ Gamboge)	20	sp/orn	Winter- Summer	Broad, low canopy Cold tolerant
<i>Melicoccus bijugatus</i> (Spanish lime/Mamoncillo)	40-50	sp/sh	Summer	Fragrant flowers ♂ ♀
<i>Morinda citrifolia</i> (Noni)	20 shr	sp	Year round	Juice used used as a health drink. Fruit has rancid odor Tol
<i>Pleiogynium timoriense</i> (Burdekin plum)	30-40	sp/sh	Late Summer -Winter	Fruit best in preserves ♂ ♀
<i>Reynosa septentrionalis</i> * (Darling plum)	10-25 tr/shr	sp	Summer	Tol

¹ Karanda grows as a scandent shrub and requires support, e.g. a chain link fence.

<i>Sideroxylon celastrinum</i> * (Saffron plum)	15-25 tr/ shr	sp/scr	Year round	Coastal
<i>Spondias mombin</i> (Yellow mombin)	25-40	sp/sh	Summer-Fall	Deciduous; poor wind tolerance
<i>Spondias purpurea</i> (Red mombin, Ciruela)	15-25	orn	Summer	Deciduous; brittle, sprawling limbs
<i>Talisia oliviformis</i> (Yellow genip, Cotopriz)	40	sp/sh	Summer	Limited cold tolerance Fragrant flowers
<i>Tamarindus indica</i> (Tamarind)	40	sp/sh/orn	Late Spring	Excellent storm tolerance Tol
<i>Ximenia americana</i> * (Florida hog plum Tallow wood)	10-25 tr/ shr	sp	Year round	Spiny, sprawls; can be difficult to grow Tol
<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> (Indian jujube)	20-30	sp/orn/scr	Fall/winter	Weeping habit; Spiny \$

John McLaughlin
 Miami-Dade Cooperative Extension Office
 January 17, 2011