

Non-Aggressive Rooted Trees

Fast growing, aggressive roots of large trees planted on property lines and along foundations create a real concern for homeowners. Tripping hazards from pavement buckling or cracking and roots sticking up above grade require regular maintenance. To minimize the maintenance requirements from large tree roots consider trees with unaggressive root systems.

Trees that have root systems that do not spread quickly that can be used in small yards include Lignum-Vitae-Guaiacum sanctum, Mimusops-Manilkara roxburghiana, Allspice-Pimenta dioca and Queen Crape myrtle-Lagerstroemia speciosa.

Lignum-Vitae can grow to an average of fifteen feet tall. It is an extremely slow growing native evergreen tree with stunning blue flowers clustered at its branch tips in the spring.

Mimusops grows to an average height of twenty feet. This slow growing symmetrical tree is suitable for salt spray locations.

Allspice averages twenty feet in height with a loose appearance. Allspice tolerates windy locations and is a good addition to a narrow landscape area. It has aromatic leaves are used in flavoring Bay rum.

Queens Crape Myrtle averages 35 ft in height. This round canopy tree flowers in June and July. The flowers are pink to lavender with fringed crape-like fringed petals. It has leaves that turn red then drop each winter. This tree requires a planting site with no overhead wires.

For more information on trees recommended for South Florida call the Master Gardener Volunteer hotline M-F, 9-4 call 233-1750.



Figure 1 Lignum-Vitae



Figure 2 Mimusop



Figure 3 Allspice



Figure 4 Queens Crape Myrtle