

Trees With Benefits- Selecting a Small Tree for the Home Landscape

Well chosen trees can add beauty, cool your home, protect soil and water resources, soften the hard lines of buildings and increase your property value. Most trees that mature at a small size also have the added benefit of resisting wind damage due to their small profile. A small growing native tree is the Jamaican caper - *Capparis cynophallophora*, grows slowly to 15 feet. Jamaican caper has evergreen leaves and showy pink/white flowers in spring. Native evergreen Lignumvitae - *Guaiacum officianale* also grows slowly to 15 feet. It has showy blue flowers during spring and has dense wood used for boat bearings. Native silver buttonwood - *Conocarpus erectus* has silver colored evergreen leaves and grows slowly to 20 feet. Jamaican caper, Lignumvitae and silver buttonwood trees all have low nutritional and water requirements and are highly salt spray tolerant. Attractive Purple Tab - *Tabebuia impetiginosa* briefly loses its dark green leaves and in late winter or early spring has showy, trumpet-shaped blooms, appearing in dense, rose-pink to purple, terminal clusters. The Purple tab tree has low nutritional and water requirements and is moderately salt spray tolerant. Your home landscape can be less work when you choose low maintenance small trees. If you are interested in accessing educational publications on trees recommended for South Florida visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> our University of Florida IFAS Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service publication website.



Jamaican Caper



Lignumvitae



Crepe Myrtle



Purple Tab



Silver Buttonwood