**Coffea arabica Coffee**

Edward F. Gilman

**Introduction**

This medium-textured, dense, upright shrub has glossy, wavy-edged, unusually dark green leaves, fragrant, white, starry-shaped springtime flowers, and showy, fleshy, red berries (Fig. 1). Each berry contains two seeds or coffee beans suitable for home roasting and grinding.

**General Information**

**Scientific name:** Coffea arabica

**Pronunciation:** KOFF-ee-uh uh-RAB-bick-uh

**Common name(s):** Coffee

**Family:** Rubiaceae

**Plant type:** shrub

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10B through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** fruit; specimen; container or above-ground planter; hedge; near a deck or patio; espalier; border

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

**Description**

**Height:** 10 to 15 feet
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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Spread: 8 to 15 feet

Plant habit: round

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: fast

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: whorled

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: ovate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white

Flower characteristic: pleasant fragrance; spring flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval

Fruit length: less than .5 inch

Fruit cover: fleshy

Fruit color: red

Fruit characteristic: persists on the plant; suited for human consumption

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not particularly showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

Current year stem/twig color: green

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**Coffee arabica Coffee**

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** medium

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; acidic; slightly alkaline; loam;

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerances:** poor

**Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

**Other**

**Roots:** usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

**Use and Management**

Reaching a height of 15 feet, Coffee tree is a great conversation piece, growing in light rich soil and partial shade. Regular pruning can keep the plant attractive at any desirable size. This handsome shrub is suitable for containers, specimen plantings, or used as a small understory tree in hammocks and wild wooded areas. It also makes a nice backdrop in a shrub border. It has the potential to escape from cultivation.

Propagation is by seed.

Coffee plants are bothered by scales, mites, thrips, caterpillars, and mineral deficiencies.

**Pests and Diseases**

No diseases are of major concern.