

# *illicium floridanum* Florida Anise Tree, Florida Anise<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman<sup>2</sup>

## Introduction

This rapidly growing, evergreen, Florida native shrub has olive green leaves and reddish-purple, starry, two-inch flowers (Fig. 1). The many slender branches of Florida anise droop to he ground, giving a rounded, open canopy in the shade, ideal for natural settings, or in sunny locations it can be pruned into dense hedges or windbreaks. The small, somewhat showy, maroon flowers appear in spring and are followed in late summer to fall by star-shaped, manyseeded pods which cling to the stems. The leaves of Florida anise give off a distinctive odor when bruised or crushed.

## **General Information**

Scientific name: *Illicium floridanum* Pronunciation: ill-LISS-see-um flor-rid-DAY-num Common name(s): Florida anise tree, Florida anise Family: *Illiciaceae* Plant type: shrub USDA hardiness zones: 8 through 10 (Fig. 2) Planting month for zone 7: year round Planting month for zone 8: year round Planting month for zone 9: year round Planting month for zone 10: year round Origin: native to Florida Uses: container or above-ground planter; hedge; espalier; screen; foundation; border Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

# Description

Height: 10 to 15 feet

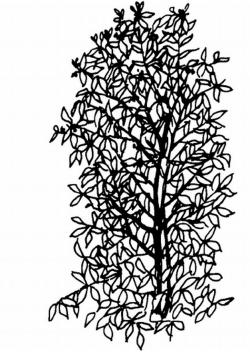


Figure 1. Florida anise tree

Spread: 6 to 10 feet Plant habit: oval Plant density: dense Growth rate: moderate Texture: medium

#### Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate Leaf type: simple

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- 2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperativee Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricutural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611

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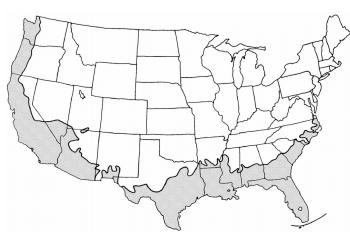


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range

Leaf margin: undulate Leaf shape: ovate Leaf venation: none, or difficult to see Leaf type and persistence: fragrant Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches Leaf color: green Fall color: no fall color change Fall characteristic: not showy

#### **Flower**

Flower color: red Flower characteristic: spring flowering; unpleasant fragrance

## Fruit

Fruit shape: irregular Fruit length: .5 to 1 inch Fruit cover: dry or hard Fruit color: green Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

### **Trunk and Branches**

Trunk/bark/branches: typically multi-trunked or clumping stems; can be trained to grow with a short, single trunk; not particularly showy Current year stem/twig color: green Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

# Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun Soil tolerances: acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay; Drought tolerance: moderate Soil salt tolerances: poor Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

# Other

**Roots:** sprouts from roots or lower trunk **Winter interest:** no special winter interest **Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding **Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive **Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

# **Use and Management**

Florida anise grows well in sun or shade, but thins out in the shade. Florida anise appreciates rich soil and ample moisture but will easily survive harsher conditions. It is an easy-to-grow, pest-free shrub. Once established it will need watering only during long periods of drought and pruning once a year to maintain its shrub form. It can be pruned and trained into a small, multi-trunked or single-trunked tree.

The cultivar 'Album' has white flowers.

Propagation is by cuttings or layering.

## **Pests and Diseases**

No pests or diseases are of major concern.