



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Illicium parviflorum*<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

This rapidly growing, large, evergreen, Florida native shrub has medium- to coarse-textured, olive green, leathery leaves and small, greenish-yellow flowers (Fig. 1). The many slender, drooping branches of Anise give a rounded, open canopy in the shade, ideal for natural settings, or can be pruned into dense hedges, screens, or windbreaks in sunny locations. Branches often root when they touch the ground and root sprouts appear several years after planting. This adds to the density of the shrub. The slightly fragrant spring flowers are followed by brown, star-shaped, many-seeded pods which cling to the stems. The leaves of Anise give off a distinctive fragrance of licorice when bruised or crushed.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Illicium parviflorum*

**Pronunciation:** ill-LISS-see-um par-vif-FLOR-um

**Common name(s):** Anise

**Family:** *Illiciaceae*

**Plant type:** tree

**USDA hardiness zones:** 7B through 10A (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:** hedge; espalier; screen; foundation; border

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

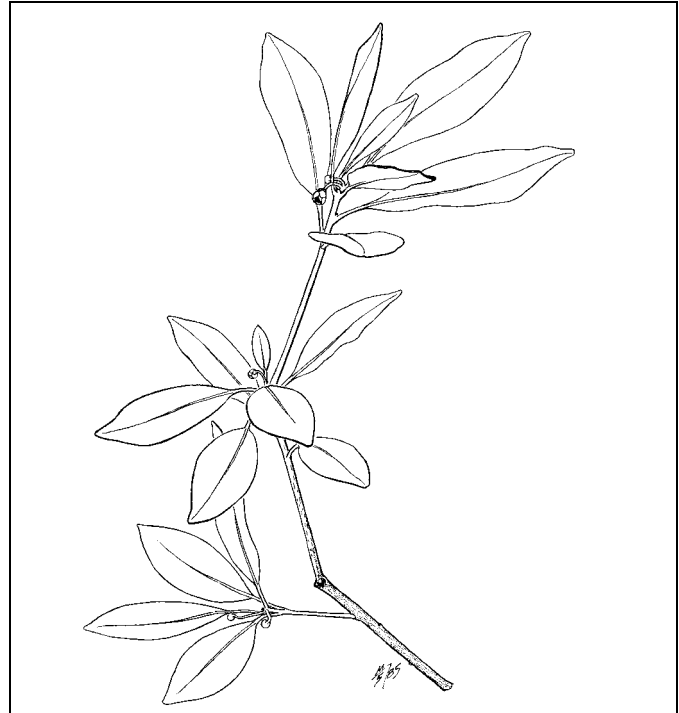


Figure 1. Anise.

### Description

**Height:** 15 to 20 feet

**Spread:** 10 to 15 feet

**Plant habit:** oval

**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** medium

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Foliage**

- Leaf arrangement:** alternate
- Leaf type:** simple
- Leaf margin:** undulate
- Leaf shape:** elliptic (oval)
- 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:** yellow
- Flower characteristic:** pleasant fragrance; summer flowering

**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

Anise grows well in sun or shade, but thins out in the shade. Anise appreciates rich soil and ample moisture but will easily survive harsher conditions. Anise 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. Plant on five to seven-foot centers to establish an unpruned screen, closer for a tall clipped hedge. Allow plenty of room for this shrub. It grows too large for a residential foundation planting but can be pruned into a small, multistemmed tree.

Propagation is by cuttings or layering.

### Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.