



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## ***Randia aculeata***<sup>1</sup>

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### **Introduction**

*Randia aculeata* has been rated by some as one of the best shrubs for the south Florida area, but it is little known (Fig. 1). This 6- to 10-foot-tall, evergreen shrub has small, spiny, leathery leaves that are clustered toward the tips of the branches. These leaves and the stiff branching habit of this plant give it a sort of geometric look. The small, white, axillary flowers produced by this plant are fragrant and occur throughout the year. The White Indigoberry also has showy white fruits that give this plant a certain appeal. In the landscape this plant could be commonly used as a specimen.

### **General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Randia aculeata*

**Pronunciation:** RAN-dee-uh ah-kew-lee-AY-tuh

**Common name(s):** White Indigoberry

**Family:** *Rubiaceae*

**Plant type:** shrub

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

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

**Origin:** native to Florida

**Uses:** specimen; foundation; border

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

### **Description**

**Height:** 6 to 10 feet

**Spread:** 5 to 8 feet

**Plant habit:** round

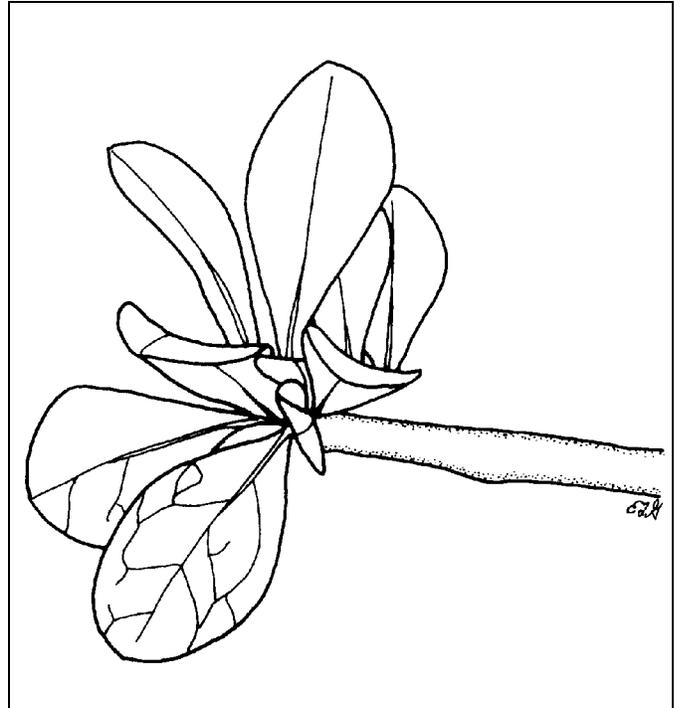


Figure 1. White Indigoberry.

**Plant density:** open

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** medium

#### **Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite

**Leaf type:** simple

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf margin:** entire  
**Leaf shape:** orbiculate  
**Leaf venation:** pinnate  
**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen  
**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** no fall color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** white  
**Flower characteristic:** pleasant fragrance; year-round flowering

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** oval  
**Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch  
**Fruit cover:** fleshy  
**Fruit color:** white  
**Fruit characteristic:** attracts birds

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** thorns present; not particularly showy  
**Current year stem/twig color:** green  
**Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin

**Culture**

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

**Other**

**Roots:** usually not a problem  
**Winter interest:** no special winter interest  
**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding  
**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive  
**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

## **Use and Management**

The White Indigoberry will flourish on well-drained sandy or rocky soils. It is quite drought tolerant and prefers to be planted in full sun. Its habit is open in the shade. This plant has a very high salt spray tolerance and is a great shrub for coastal landscapes.

### **Pests and Diseases**

No major problems are associated with this plant.