



# *Calophyllum inophyllum* Beauty Leaf<sup>1</sup>

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## INTRODUCTION

This upright, pyramidal, densely foliated evergreen tree can reach 60 feet in height in the forest with a 30 to 40-foot spread, but is generally much smaller because it grows slowly (Fig. 1). This is an asset in tropical landscapes, where many other plants grow so fast. Greenish, showy, 3/4-inch, very fragrant flowers are produced on eight-inch racemes in the summer. The round, yellow, 1.5-inch-wide fruit contains a single seed with a nutlike kernel that may be poisonous. The seven-inch-long, glossy, dark green, stiff, leathery leaves have numerous, distinct parallel veins at right angles to the midrib. The trunk has light grey, shallowly-ridged bark, and the wood is valued for boat building and cabinet work.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *Calophyllum inophyllum*

**Pronunciation:** kal-oh-FILL-um EYE-no-fill-um

**Common name(s):** Beauty Leaf

**Family:** *Clusiaceae*

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

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** container or above-ground planter; espalier; hedge; large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; near a deck or patio; reclamation plant; screen; shade tree; specimen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); residential street tree; tree has been successfully grown in urban areas



Figure 1. Middle-aged Beauty Leaf.

where air pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil, and/or drought are common

**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

## DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 35 to 50 feet

**Spread:** 30 to 50 feet

**Crown uniformity:** irregular outline or silhouette

**Crown shape:** round; pyramidal

**Crown density:** dense

**Growth rate:** medium

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Texture:** coarse

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** elliptic (oval); oblong

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** broadleaf evergreen; 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 characteristics:** pleasant fragrance; showy; summer flowering

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** round

**Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** green

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; fruit, twigs, or foliage cause significant litter; showy

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; showy trunk; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

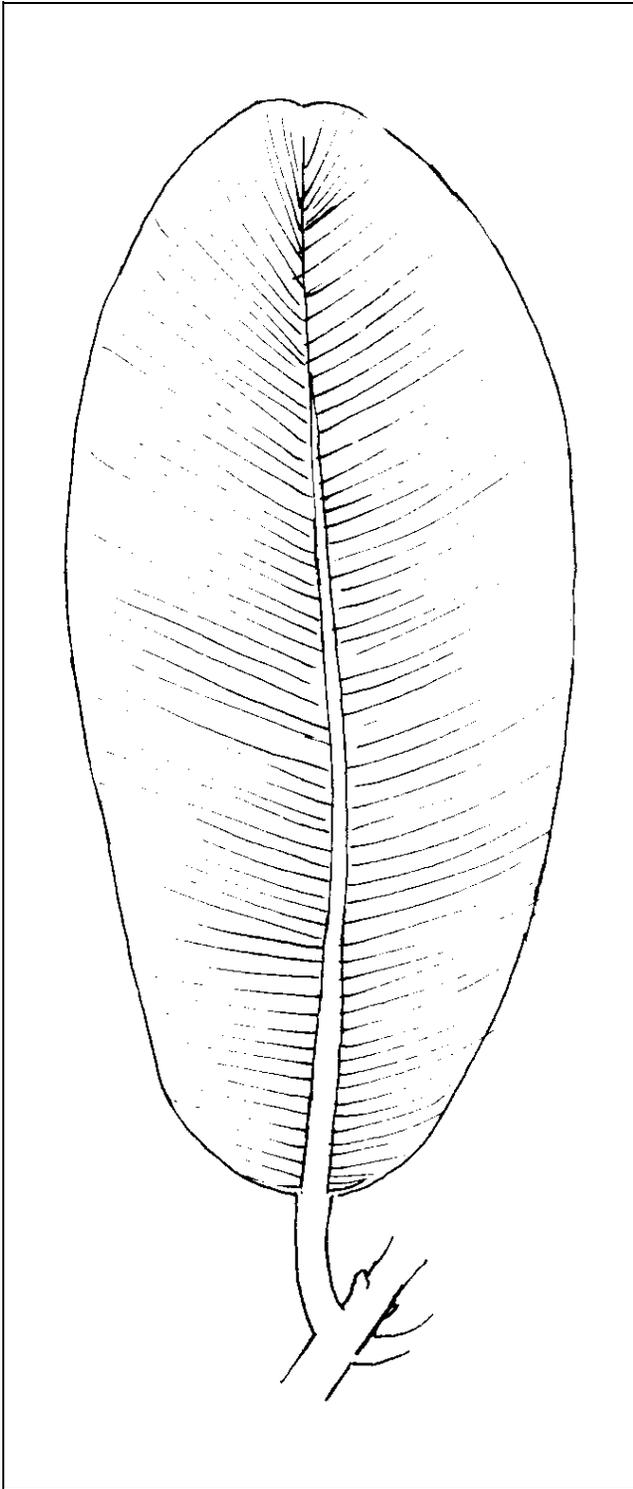
**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** green

**Current year twig thickness:** thick

### Culture

**Light requirement:** tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun



**Figure 3.** Foliage of Beauty Leaf.

**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** high

### **Other**

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

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

**Invasive potential:** No entries found.

**Pest resistance:** no pests are normally seen on the tree

### **USE AND MANAGEMENT**

Beauty Leaf makes a good specimen, street, parking lot or shade tree and is both wind and salt tolerant, making it especially useful for coastal locations. It becomes twisted and contorted when exposed to constant wind, creating an interesting specimen. Beauty Leaf is sometimes used as a tall hedge or wind break around tennis courts and similar places. It could be used more often as an urban street tree. Remember that the golfball-sized fruit is poisonous and hard and this could be undesirable in the landscape under some circumstances. The trunk grows to about two feet in diameter.

Beauty Leaf thrives in full sun or partial shade on any well-drained soil. It is not tolerant of freezing temperatures.

Propagation is by seeds or cuttings.

### **Pests and Diseases**

No pests or diseases are of major concern.