



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

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

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### 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 the 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, many-seeded 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

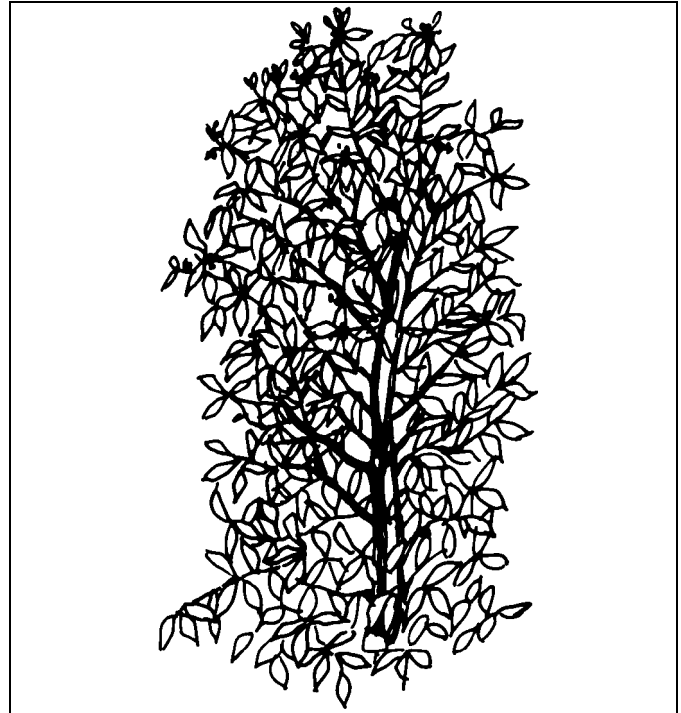


Figure 1. Florida Anise-Tree.

### Description

**Height:** 10 to 15 feet

**Spread:** 6 to 10 feet

**Plant habit:** oval

**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** medium

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-277, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October, 1999 Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Foliage**

- Leaf arrangement:** alternate
- Leaf type:** simple
- 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.