



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Rhizophora mangle*¹

Edward F. Gilman²

Introduction

Red Mangrove is one of the most valuable trees for creating and preserving shorelines in south Florida and the Caribbean Basin. Sediments depositing among their adventitious prop roots can eventually build up to create land. Seeds often germinate while there are still on the tree. After they drop, they float to a new location where they can begin growing in the sediment below the water surface.

General Information

Scientific name: *Rhizophora mangle*

Pronunciation: rye-ZOFF-for-ruh MAN-glee

Common name(s): Red Mangrove

Family: *Rhizophoraceae*

Plant type: tree

USDA hardiness zones: 10 through 11 (Fig. 1)

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: native to Florida

Uses: reclamation plant

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

Description

Height: 20 to 40 feet

Spread: 20 to 30 feet

Plant habit: round

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: elliptic (oval)

Leaf venation: none, or difficult to see

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: yellow

Flower characteristic: year-round flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval

Fruit length: .5 to 1 inch

Fruit cover: dry or hard

Fruit color: brown

Fruit characteristic: persists on the plant

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: showy

Current year stem/twig color: brown

Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-502, 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>.
2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. For information on obtaining other extension publications, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office. Florida Cooperative Extension Service / Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences / University of Florida / Christine Taylor Waddill, Dean



Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

undisturbed, natural settings. Plants respond poorly to pruning.

Culture

- Light requirement:** plant grows in full sun
- Soil tolerances:** acidic; alkaline; sand; loam; clay
- Drought tolerance:**
- Soil salt tolerances:** good
- Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

Other

- Roots:** can form large surface roots
- 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

Red Mangroves will often be seen growing in shallow lagoons away from the land. Plants typically reach 20-foot-tall although old specimens 35-foot-tall are not uncommon in