



Calophyllum inophyllum Beauty Leaf¹

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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

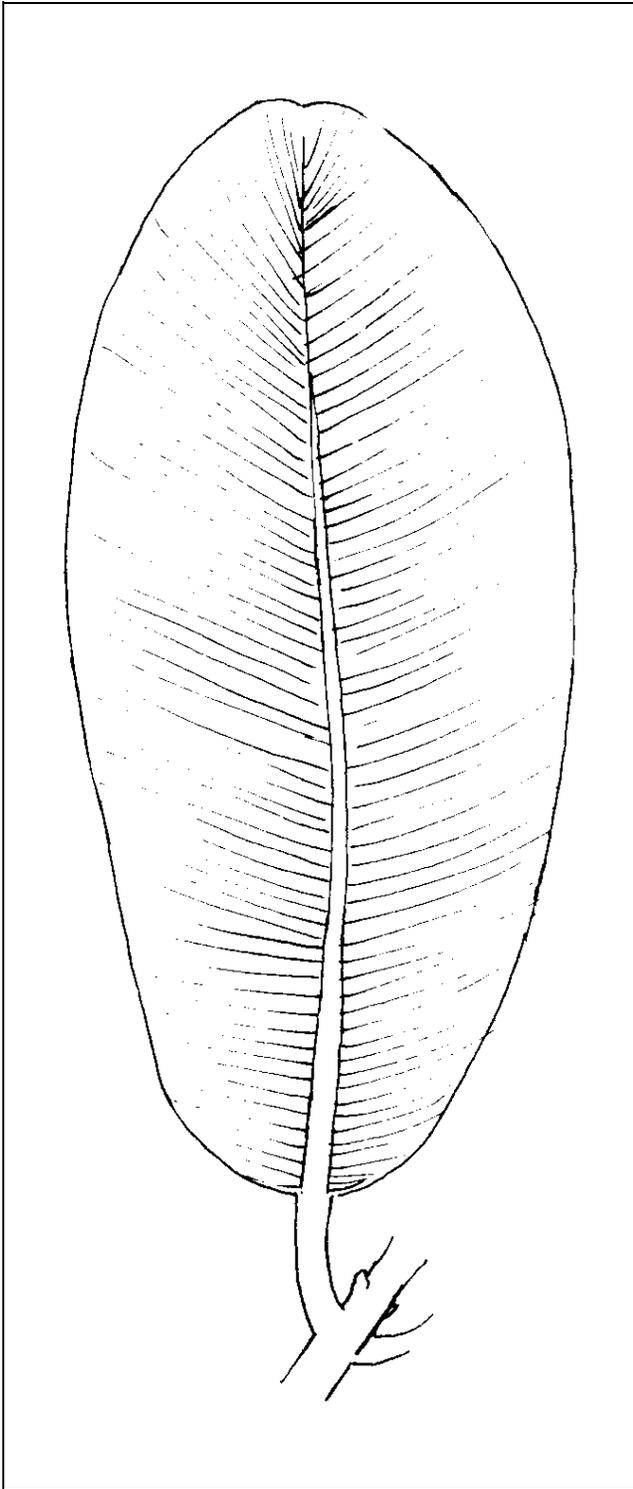


Figure 3. Foliage of Beauty Leaf.

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.