

# Cocoplum

(*Chrysobalanus icaco*)

**Redtip cocoplum**, one of the most commonly-used native plants, is used to fit into narrow places such as parking lots or along the roadsides. They are typically box-cut at a height of 36 inches, which is the natural height of the “horizontal cocoplum”.

Prune it occasionally, use it as an accent plant or as part of natural screening and you will enjoy it for a long time. And... the fruits are perfect for making home-made jam.

Redtip Cocoplum



Horizontal Cocoplum



**Horizontal cocoplum** is 36 inches high and it makes a great border plant. Naturally trim branches that grow into areas of traffic, and it will lead a healthy long life.

## Simpson's stopper *Myrcianthes fragrans*

Found sparingly along the coast from Dade County to Vero Beach, abundant masses are found from there north to St. Johns County. In the northern part of its range these become up to 20 foot tall shrubs and are found in beautiful masses along A1A and in inland hammocks. South at Fern Forest Park in Broward County, they become 40 foot or more tall trees with beautiful orange peeling bark.

The masses of fragrant white flowers in early summer are followed by bright orange half inch oval fruit from June to September. These are fought over by local birds and raccoons. The raccoons break the branches as they pull them down to feed and leave scratches on the bark where they climb. The fruit is sweet and spicy with one to four green seeds inside.



**Nutritional Requirements:** Moderate; can grow in nutrient poor soils, but needs some organic content to thrive.

**Salt Water Tolerance:** Low; does not tolerate long-term flooding by salt or brackish water.

**Salt Wind Tolerance:** Moderate; grows near salt water, but is protected from direct salt spray by other vegetation.

**Drought Tolerance:** Moderate; generally requires moist soils, but tolerant of short periods of drought once established.

Typically 10-20 feet in height; to 51 feet in South Florida. Usually taller than broad. Use as a hedge, specimen tree, mix with other coastal species or plant in a group in front of a window. The cleaned trunks will frame your view out and with a few, well placed clumps of foliage provide a screen to give you privacy.



**Flower Color:** White.

**Flower Characteristics:** Semi-showy in clusters.

**Fruit:** Orange to red globose berry.

**Light Requirements:** Full sun to light shade.

# Podocarpus

(*Podocarpus henkelii*)

**Podocarpus** is a very neat decorative tree suitable for both home gardens and large landscapes. It makes an excellent specimen tree for lawns and is a good choice for an avenue. *Podocarpus henkelii* is also suited for formal gardens, as it can be pruned to the desired shape. It can also be left to achieve an informal finish.



*Podocarpus henkelii*  
(Henkel's yellowwood)

This is one of the most beautiful and decorative of our indigenous conifers, a tree that any plant enthusiast would be proud to have in their garden. With its dense glossy foliage, it makes a most elegant pyramid of green in the garden.



# Autograph Tree (*Clusia rosea*)

There is confusion concerning the classification and nomenclature of the species usually called *Clusia rosea* Jacq. This is the name under which the species is usually referenced and marketed. Dr. Barry Hammel, Clusiaceae specialist at the Missouri Botanical Garden, communicates (pers. com. 8/05) that *C. rosea* is the correct name to use for the species in Florida .



**Clusia guttifera:** Very tropical and medium textured, with thick deep green leaves, this is easily at home on the beach. *Clusia* can become 20 feet tall, although it is best when kept to 10 feet or so. Don't let that dissuade you; *Clusia* is fairly slow growing, and very handsome.

**Landscape uses:** Slow-growing, these tough salt-tolerant native trees are distinctive for their thick, dark-green foliage, and must be blended carefully with other vegetation. They screen out whatever is behind them and can be planted in rows, clusters, or even pruned hedge



**Recognition:** *Clusia* species are dense-foliage trees with particularly thick, semi-succulent, leathery, obovate, opposite leaves. The sap is resinous, and the trees are prone to dangling adventitious roots that become stilt roots. The round flowers 2" in diameter are thick-textured and white and rose-colored.

*Clusia rosea*  
Leaves and fruit



Flower (above)

Fruit (below)

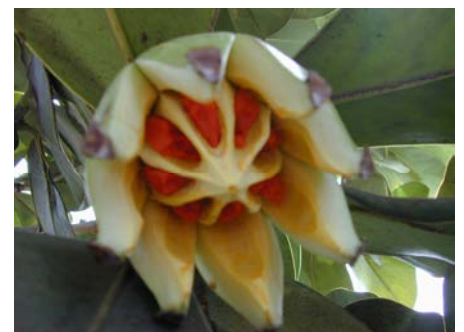


Photo credits:

["Forest & Kim Starr"](#)