Loquat  
*Eriobotrya japonica*

Its neat habit and compact growth make Loquat an ideal specimen or patio shade tree. It is a subtropical evergreen fruit tree that blooms in the fall and early winter and is harvested during the spring. Its fruit is attractive to wildlife. Loquat may live only 20 to 30-years so it should not be considered a permanent fixture in the landscape. Providing best fruit and form when grown in full sun, loquat can tolerate partial shade and a variety of well-drained soils. Root rot occurs on wet soils so locate the tree in a well-drained soil. It grows well on soils with a high pH and maintains the characteristic dark green foliage. It performs well along the coast with some protection from salty air. Loquat trees are very cold tolerant, however the flowers and fruit are killed by temperatures below 27°F. Loquat trees may be propagated by seed, but they do not come true from seed and they have a 6 to 8 year juvenile period before flowering and fruiting.

**Type:** small evergreen fruit tree  

**USDA hardiness zones:** 8b through 11  

**Uses:** specimen; screen; container or above-ground planter; accent; fruit; shade  

**Origin:** not native to Florida  

**Height:** 20 to 35 feet  
**Spread:** 20 to 35 feet  

**Plant spacing:** 25 to 30 feet  

**Light requirement:** full sun to part shade  

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

**Drought tolerance:** moderate  

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate  

**Soil salt tolerance:** moderate  

**Invasive potential:** low  

**Pest resistance:** very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect tree health or aesthetics