

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

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Photo: UF/ IFAS