

Florida Anise

Illicium floridanum

Do not use Florida anise as a spice – it is toxic. This is **NOT** the species that gives us the edible anise. This evergreen shrub appreciates rich soil and ample moisture but will easily survive harsher conditions. It is easy-to-grow and pest-free. It grows well in sun or shade, but thins out in the shade. Once established it will need watering only during long periods of drought and pruning once a year to maintain its shrub form. It can be pruned and trained into a small, multi-trunked or single-trunked tree. The many slender branches of Florida anise droop to the ground, giving a rounded, open canopy in the shade, ideal for natural settings, or in sunny locations it can be pruned into dense hedges or windbreaks. The small, somewhat showy maroon flowers appear in spring and are followed in late summer to fall by star-shaped, many-seeded pods which cling to the stems. The leaves give off a distinctive licorice-like aroma when bruised or crushed.

Type: perennial shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 8 through 10

Uses: container or above-ground planter; hedge; espalier; screen; foundation; border

Origin: native to the Florida Panhandle

Height: 10 to 15 feet **Spread:** 6 to 10 feet

Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Light requirement: part shade to part sun

Soil tolerances: acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: poor

Invasive potential: native not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

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Photo: UF/IFAS