

# Guaiacum Sanctum

## *Lignum Vitae*

lig-nuh m vahy-tee, vee-tahy



This native Florida tree is tropical and grows in South Florida as well as Central America and the Caribbean. Woodworkers like the tree's wood because it is dense and very hard. These characteristics also make it decay and pest resistant--qualities that are always good for outdoor assemblies.

Finding them in nurseries is not very easy because many nurseries do not like carrying them--they grow slow.

The species is evergreen and flowers with colors of purple and periwinkle in the spring and early summer. At maturity the trees can grow to about 30 feet (we have only typically seen 8 - 15 feet) tall with 8-12 feet canopy spread. The specimens we have seen in hammocks and gardens have a primary trunk with low-lying large branches.

We like the tree because it is native, drought resistant and listed as endangered; so we want to do our part to help reestablish the plant in our South Florida Landscapes.



### Family

Zygophyllaceae



### Conditions

Zone: 10B to 11  
Growth: Slow  
Drought tolerance: High  
Salt tolerance: High  
Soil: Well-drained soil



### Size/Shape

Height: 8ft. to 12ft.  
Spread: 8ft. to 12ft.



### Wildlife

birds and butterflies



### Care

Full sun or partial shade