

Bursera simaruba

(Turpentine tree, Gumbo-limbo)

Native to South Florida, the Gumbo-limbo tree is a large semi evergreen tree that can reach up to 20m in height but in landscape plantings it often reaches 8-12m. The bark is of a coppery color which gives an attractive and shiny appearance. The wood of the trees was once used for making carousel horses before they moved on to the plastic kind. The fruit needs a year to ripen and matures in the summer.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Bois d'encens

Pronunciation: ber-SER-uh sim-uh-ROO-buh

Plant Type: Tree

Origin: North America

Heat Zones: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

Hardiness Zones: 10, 11, 12, 13

Uses: Specimen, Shade, Medicinal, Wildlife, Street, Pollution Tolerant / Urban

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Moderate

Tree Shape: Round

Canopy Symmetry: Irregular

Canopy Density: Open

Canopy Texture: Medium

Height at Maturity: 8 to 15 m, 15 to 23 m, Over 23

Spread at Maturity: 8 to 10 meters, 10 to 15 meters

Time to Ultimate Height: More than 50 Years

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Semi Evergreen

Leaf Type: Odd Pinnately compound

Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm

Leaf Shape: Ovate

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Textures: Medium

Leaf Scent: Pleasant

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 3 - 7

Flower Type: Panicle

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: Green, Yellow

Seasons: Spring

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Suspected to breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked, Can be trained to one trunk

Trunk Esthetic Values: Showy, Fissured, Colored

Fruit

Fruit Type: Fleshy

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: 0 - 1.5, 1.5 - 3

Fruit Colors: Red

Seasons: Spring

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Good

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Moderate, Low

Light Requirements: Full, Part, Shade

Management

Invasive Potential: No

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Pruning Requirement: Little needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: Yes

Life Span: More than 50

Edible Parts: None

Pests: Scales, Whitefly

Plant Propagations: Seed, Cutting

MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image



Other Image