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tall. It grows well in USDA zones 9 to 11 in full sunlight. Scholar Tree (Sophora japonica) The scholar tree, also known as the Japanese pagoda tree, is valued as a shade tree due to its large, rounded canopy. The tree is known for its attractive clusters of greenish-white or yellow flowers. The tree blooms in midsummer, with the flowers persisting for several weeks. During autumn, the tree produces decorative seed pods, and the leaves turn a lovely shade of golden yellow. Scholar trees are versatile, capable of being grown in various soil types, including clay, loam, and sandy soils, as long as they are well-drained. The tree is renowned for offering both shade and visual allure to landscapes. It is also recognized for its resilience against drought and resistance to salt spray, making it a fitting choice for planting in coastal settings. Specific scholar tree cultivars, such as the weeping 'Pendula' scholar tree, are more suitable for those with compact or smaller yards due to their narrow, upright habit. The scholar tree can reach 40 to 60 ft. (12 - 18 m) tall and 30 to 50 ft. (9 - 15 m) wide. It is suitable for planting in USDA zones 5 to 8 in full sun to partial shade. Golden Rain Tree (Koelreuteria paniculata) The golden rain tree is a small, ornamental tree known for its attractive, four-petaled golden-yellow flowers that appear in long clusters. The tree's broad, rounded canopy makes it great for providing shade. The tree has alternate, feather-like leaves that emerge pinkish-purple in color. During the fall, the tree produces hanging, orange-brown, papery seed capsules, which emerge green and ripen to an attractive orange-pink hue. For optimal growth, the golden rain tree needs moist, well-drained soil. It can also tolerate both drought and salt spray once established. Its stunning blooms make it a popular choice for being a focal point in any outdoor setting and a great source of shade with its wide-spreading branches. The golden rain tree can grow 30 to 40 ft. (9 to 12 m) tall. It grows in USDA zones 5 to 9 in full sun. Ylang Ylang Tree (Cananga odorata) The ylang-ylang tree is a rapidly-growing tropical tree with drooping branches covered with glossy, dark-green leaves. It is known for its pendulous clusters of ornamental yellow flowers. The tree is often used for its essential oil, extracted from its aromatic flowers, which is commonly used in various perfumes. Additionally, the tree produces clusters of oval-shaped black fruits, which serve as an important food source for birds. Ylang-ylang trees grow best in neutral, well-draining soil and thrive in humid, tropical climates. These trees are often used for shade due to their lush canopy and spreading branches. They also make great focal points or specimen trees in medium to large-sized gardens and landscapes due to their striking, fragrant flowers. The ylang-ylang tree can grow 30 to 70 ft. (9 to 21 m) tall in USDA zones 10 to 12. Plant this tree in full sun. Yellow Poinciana (Peltophorum pterocarpum) The yellow poinciana is a deciduous, yellow-flowering tree commonly found in Florida. Also known as the yellow-flame tree, this beautiful, tropical tree can be identified by its showy yellow flowers that grow in clusters on upright stalks. The tree's brilliant yellow blossoms cover its canopy with a golden blanket from spring through fall. Yellow poinciana flowers The yellow poinciana's feathery, bipinnate leaves, attractive yellow flowers, and red-black seed pods make it a visually appealing ornamental tree all year round. In addition, the tree's fragrant flowers attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies. Make sure not to mistake this tree for the jacaranda tree, which has similar foliage but purple flowers. The yellow poinciana can be grown in USDA zones 10 and 11 in full sun. In Florida, it can be grown south of West Palm Beach and Fort Myers. This tree can grow 30 to 50 ft. (10 - 15 m) tall and has a wide, spreading canopy. Weeping Bottlebrush Tree (Melaleuca viminalis) The weeping bottlebrush tree is a small flowering tree commonly grown in south Florida. The tree is known for its weeping branches and bright red flowers that resemble bottlebrushes. The beautiful red flowers contrast nicely against the long, narrow, lanceolate green leaves. Weeping bottlebrush trees are moderately fast-growing, reaching mature heights of around 15 ft. (4.5 m) tall. They are cold hardy down to 20oF (-6°C). Grow in full sun, well-draining soil in USDA zones 9 to 11. Make sure to keep this tree away from salt spray and frost. Pongam Tree (Pongamia pinnata) The pongam tree is a fast-growing, tropical tree with pinnately compound, glossy green leaves that are 3 inches (7.5 cm) long. It is known for its creamy white or lavender pea-like flowers that bloom in spring. The tree has a wide, spreading canopy, making it suitable as a shade tree in warm climates. It is important to note that the pongam tree produces poisonous seed pods that grow in drooping clusters, so avoid planting the tree in places where children or pets may be around. The pongam tree can grow 35 to 40 ft. (10 - 12 m) tall and wide. It is suitable for growing in USDA zones 10 to 11 in full sun or part shade. The tree is tolerant of many different soil types but grows best in well-drained soil. Gumbo-Limbo (Bursera simaruba) The gumbo-limbo is a beautiful, tropical tree native to south Florida. Its wide, spreading crown makes it an excellent shade tree. In late winter or mid-spring, the tree produces tiny greenish-white flowers that grow in spiky clusters. In addition, it is also recognized for its smooth peeling red bark, alternate, pinnately compound leaves, and attractive diamond-shaped red berries. The gumbo-limbo is sometimes referred to as the turpentine tree because of the fragrance the crushed leaves emit. Its ability to withstand strong winds is particularly remarkable, making it a fitting choice for areas prone to hurricanes, such as southern Florida. The tree is fast-growing and low-maintenance once established. The gumbo-limbo grows up to 25 to 40 ft. (7.5 - 12 m) tall. It is suitable for USDA zones 10 and 11 in full or partial sun. Anacua (Ehretia anacua) The anacua is a medium-sized, semi-evergreen, or evergreen tree native to south Texas. This spring-blooming evergreen tree grows abundant clusters of small, fragrant white flowers. Other identifying features include yellowish-orange, spherical fruits, and dark green, leathery leaves. This multi-stemmed tree also showcases flaking, thick brownish bark that becomes furrowed as the tree grows older. The anacua tree blooms in spring, making the big tree look like it's covered in a blanket of snow. Due to its medium size and wide-spreading canopy, it serves as an excellent choice for providing shade in parks or expansive gardens. The anacua tree is also known as the sandpaper tree or knockaway tree. The tree thrives in full sun and heat, growing up to 20 to 40 ft. (6 - 14 m) tall and up to 45 ft. (13.7 m) wide. White Fringe Tree (Chionanthus virginicus) The white fringe tree is a small-sized, deciduous tree native to the eastern United States. This spring-blooming tree is characterized by its mildly-fragrant, creamy-white flowers. The flowers have delicate, spider-like petals, giving the tree a distinctive appearance. It also has lance or oval-shaped leaves that turn striking shades of yellow in autumn. Clusters of dark blue, egg-shaped fruits will appear on the tree during the summer, as well as a blanket of white petals at the tree's base. The white fringe tree grows in full sun or partial shade. Although it is recommended that the tree receives at least six hours of sunlight per day for the most abundant flowering and growth. In addition, it is adaptable to many soil types, but it is best to plant in well-drained, moist soil. You can cultivate the white fringe tree in mixed borders, as striking individual plants, or in clusters to create a captivating display of flowers. White fringe trees enhance the appeal of any landscape with their beautiful white blossoms and appealing foliage. White fringe trees can reach 12 to 20 ft. (3.6 - 6 m) tall and wide. The tree grows in USDA zones 3 to 9. Two-Wing Silver Bell (Halesia diptera) The two-wing silver bell is a stunning deciduous tree native to the southeastern United States. This small decorative tree is known for its clusters of bell-shaped white flowers that bloom in spring. The fragrant flowers are especially attractive to bees and hummingbirds, making this tree perfect for wildlife gardens. It has oval-shaped, deep-green leaves that turn a beautiful shade of yellow in autumn before dropping. For optimal growth, plant the two-wing silver bell in full sun and acidic, organically-rich well-drained soil. This compact ornamental tree is well-suited for cultivation as an individual focal point, a specimen tree, or as part of a shrub border. The two-wing silver bell can reach a mature height of 20 to 30 ft. (6 - 9 m). It is suitable for growing in USDA zones 5 to 8 in full sun. Desert Willow (Chilopsis linearis) The desert willow is a small, pink-flowering tree with willow-like, narrow leaves that are pale-green in color. The tree is known for its exquisite pink-violet trumpet-shaped flowers. Other identifying features of this tree are its distinctive, twisted branches, and rough, exfoliating bark. This deciduous tree also features an attractive silhouette, which adds to its visual appeal in the winter months. The desert willow produces narrow, bean-like seed pods that contain flat, winged seeds. The seeds are eaten by birds and the flowers are pollinated by hummingbirds and bees, making the tree a perfect choice for wildlife gardens. In addition, the tree is also fast-growing, low-maintenance, and drought-tolerant. Native to the southwestern United States, the desert willow grows in full sun and well-draining soil. It is well adapted to arid, desert-like conditions. Make sure to properly fertilize the soil when the tree is being established. It grows 15 to 30 ft. (4 - 6 m) tall and 10 to 20 ft. (3 - 6 m) wide. Grow in USDA zones 8 to 11. 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