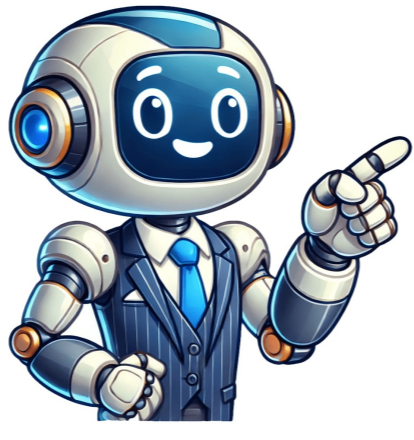


I'm not a bot



Gumbo limbo tree

Gumbo-Limbo tree, scientifically known as *Bursera simaruba*, is a tropical tree that brings a unique aesthetic to any garden. Characterized by its distinctive copper-red bark that resembles sunburned skin, this tree has earned the nickname "Tourist Tree." Reaching heights of 30 feet and spreading up to 25 feet wide, it can make a dominant feature in the landscape. Gardeners appreciate the Gumbo-Limbo for its resilience and adaptability. The species thrives in various soil types and is resistant to wind, drought, and pests, making it suitable for coastal and urban gardens. Its rapid growth rate and hardiness also make it appealing, as it tolerates poor soil and saline conditions. This tree is native to Central and South America, the Caribbean, but has become an established ornamental plant in Florida. However, its potential to be invasive outside its natural range requires careful management when planning to grow one in your garden. To choose a suitable location, select a spot that receives full sun or partial shade, considering the tree's mature height and spread. The Gumbo-Limbo can thrive in various soils, including sandy, loamy, and clay, as long as they are well-draining. The tree can be propagated by seed or cuttings. Sowing seeds during warm, rainy months typically between late spring and early summer increases germination likelihood. Alternatively, using cuttings involves cutting a branch, letting it dry for a few days, then planting it directly in the soil. Gumbo-Limbo trees are fast-growing, so they quickly take shape. They require low-maintenance care, with regular watering during the first year to establish roots and fair drought-resistance once mature. *Bursera simaruba*, also known as the Gumbo-limbo tree, is a tropical evergreen that thrives in well-drained soil with full sun to partial shade. Its attractive bright green compound leaves emit an aromatic scent when crushed and produce clusters of small drupes that attract birds. Suitable for coastal gardens due to its tolerance of salt and wind. This remarkable tree can be grown in pots and containers, but needs regular transplanting as it grows. It is not suitable as a house plant due to its size and light requirements. The Gumbo-limbo tree is a lifelong companion, with an average lifespan of 50-100 years. Regular pruning helps maintain its shape, while the tree's vibrant evergreen leaves retain their lush green color throughout the year. Propagation can be achieved through seeds, cuttings, or air-layering. It is generally pest-free but may be susceptible to scales and mealybugs in some cases. Some notable cultivars include **Bursera simaruba* 'Variegata'* with its variegated foliage and **Bursera simaruba* 'Simpson's Stopper'* with its attractive red fruit. The Gumbo-limbo tree belongs to the Frankincense family, Burseraceae, native to Southern Florida, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. Gumbo Limbo: A Native Florida Tree with Unique Features The gumbo limbo (*Bursera simaruba*) is a native South Florida tree known for its distinctive trunk and branches. The bark, which ranges in color from reddish orange to gray, has an attractive shiny appearance and peels off in thin layers or curly strips to reveal olive green beneath. The tree typically develops two to four large-diameter limbs originating close to the ground. Native to Florida, the West Indies, Central America, and northern South America, gumbo limbo was once used for making carousel horses due to its soft, light wood. This evergreen tree can grow up to 50 feet tall with a spread of 25-50 feet. It has an irregular crown shape and moderate growth rate. The foliage consists of odd-pinnately compound leaves that are shiny and green on top, paler green underneath. Gumbo limbo produces pale green or white flowers in clusters on panicles and red fruits that do not attract wildlife. The tree can thrive in various conditions, including full sun to partial shade and well-drained soils. Gumbo limbo trees are surprisingly resilient despite their rapid growth and soft wood. They can withstand strong winds, drought, and neglect with minimal care. The tree's ability to drop leaves during dry periods helps it conserve water, making it suitable for areas with low irrigation. Its inconspicuous flowers give way to red berries that split into three sections, revealing a small triangular seed. The fruit takes a year to ripen and matures in early summer. Gumbo limbo trees thrive in full sun or partial shade on well-drained soils, tolerating moderate amounts of salt spray. They can adapt to alkaline or poor soil conditions but grow best on more fertile ground. With proper pruning, gumbo limbo trees require little maintenance once established. They are ideal for freestanding specimens or as street trees, but need room to grow and regular training to prevent lower branches from touching the ground. Propagation is often done through cuttings or seed, with some nurseries using large truncheons that sprout and grow into a tree. Despite its hardiness, gumbo limbo trees are not immune to pests and diseases. However, occasional caterpillar infestations are rare and usually do not require control measures. The tree's attractive coppery bark, which peels like burnt skin, makes it a popular choice for its resilience and low maintenance requirements. USDA Hardiness Zones 10-11, Soil PH Range 7 and above, Moist to dry, well-draining soil, Low Water Needs. Native to South Florida. The Gumbo Limbo Tree boasts glossy green foliage attracting pollinators, with ovate to oblong leaflets at 4 inches long. Its scent is reminiscent of turpentine, making it also known as the Turpentine Tree. Green or white flowers bloom in clusters during late fall and spring, followed by red berries that take a year to ripen. This tree's wood can be used for construction, its resin for glue, turpentine, and varnish. The bark and leaves have medicinal properties treating wounds, skin conditions, and fevers. With minimal care, this tree thrives once established. To grow a thriving Gumbo Limbo Tree: Provide full sun or partial shade; they'll adapt to most soil types and pH levels above 7. They tolerate drought but benefit from regular watering during dry periods. Temperature range: USDA zones 10-11, 18-25°C. Leaves may shed in cold weather, regrowing in spring. Fertilize with granular fertilizer, twice or thrice a year, as seasons change. Common diseases include witch's broom, croton scale infestation, and rugose spiraling whitefly. Witch's broom is characterized by dense growth; while unsightly, it doesn't harm the tree. Croton scale infestation requires immediate removal of affected parts and insecticide use. Rugose spiraling whiteflies suck nutrients, excreting honeydew; monitor for signs of infestation. Sooty mold is a common issue that can cause significant damage to plants, including wilting, dropping, and yellowing of leaves. It's essential to eliminate these pests as soon as possible to prevent further damage. You can use pressurized water or insecticides to ensure complete eradication. The Gumbo Limbo Tree can be propagated using seeds or cuttings. To take cuttings, choose a healthy branch with new growth, and plant it in moist soil with direct sunlight. This tree is native to South Florida and has distinctive red bark that peels back, giving it the nickname "Tourist Tree". Gumbo Limbo trees are large, with thick branches that stay low to the ground, making them suitable for larger yards. The wood is lightweight, soft, and easily carved. Despite its characteristics, this tree is highly wind-tolerant, but may still experience branch damage in hurricane-force winds. The Gumbo Limbo Tree is a popular choice for coastal properties due to its salt tolerance and attractive red bark. Its berries are a favorite among birds during the summer months. The tree prefers full sun to partial shade and grows rapidly, reaching 25-40 feet in height. It generally loses its leaves in winter but may retain some foliage in warmer winters. Gumbo Limbo trees are drought-tolerant once established and can thrive with regular irrigation and time to dry out between waterings. Fertilizing three times a year with a good quality granular fertilizer is recommended. When planting, ensure the tree has enough space, ideally 15-20 feet from the house, to avoid future trimming needs. 1- You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made 2- If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original 3- You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits