Geijera parviflora: Australian-Willow

Introduction
Australian-Willow is an attractive evergreen, 30 to 35 feet tall and 20 feet wide, with an upright, oval silhouette. The main inner branches are composed of strong, wind-resistant wood and are directed upward, while the outer smaller branches are somewhat pendulous. This gives a decided weeping habit to older trees. Younger trees are more oval-shaped. This characteristic, combined with the thin, narrow, three to six-inch-long, olive green leaves which droop from the branches, gives the tree much the same effect as a Weeping Willow. Short panicles of small, creamy white, showy flowers appear in early spring and early fall.

General Information
Scientific name: Geijera parviflora
Pronunciation: gay-JEER-uh par-vih-FLOR-uh
Common name(s): Australian-Willow
Family: Rutaceae
USDA hardiness zones: 9A through 11 (Fig. 2)
Origin: not native to North America
Uses: deck or patio; shade; specimen; street without sidewalk; screen; parking lot island < 100 sq ft; parking lot island 100-200 sq ft; parking lot island > 200 sq ft; tree lawn 3-4 feet wide; tree lawn 4-6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide
Availability: not native to North America

2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, former associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.
**Description**

Height: 30 to 35 feet  
Spread: 20 to 25 feet  
Crown uniformity: symmetrical  
Crown shape: weeping, round, oval  
Crown density: dense  
Growth rate: fast  
Texture: fine

**Foliage**

Leaf arrangement: alternate  
Leaf type: simple  
Leaf margin: entire  
Leaf shape: lanceolate, linear  
Leaf venation: pinnate  
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen  
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches  
Leaf color: green  
Fall color: no color change  
Fall characteristic: not showy

**Flower**

Flower color: white/cream/gray  
Flower characteristics: showy

**Fruit**

Fruit shape: round, irregular  
Fruit length: .5 to 1 inch  
Fruit covering: dry or hard  
Fruit color: unknown  
Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; not showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

**Trunk and Branches**

Trunk/bark/branches: branches droop; not showy; typically one trunk; thorns  
Pruning requirement: needed for strong structure  
Breakage: resistant  
Current year twig color: green  
Current year twig thickness: thin  
Wood specific gravity: unknown

**Culture**

Light requirement: full sun  
Soil tolerances: sand; loam; acidic; slightly alkaline; well-drained  
Drought tolerance: moderate  
Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate

**Other**

Roots: not a problem  
Winter interest: no  
Outstanding tree: yes  
Invasive potential: little invasive potential  
Ozone sensitivity: unknown  
Verticillium wilt susceptibility: unknown  
Pest resistance: free of serious pests and diseases

**Use and Management**

Australian-Willow casts a light shade and is ideal for use around a patio or as a lawn specimen, but may be too weeping for use as a street tree unless it is properly trained when it is young. If the lowest main limbs are located high enough above the ground and are oriented in an upright-spreading fashion, then there will be clearance even for large trunks. Only small branches may have to be removed later as they droop from the main limbs toward the ground. Otherwise the tree has very good cultural adaptability to urban spaces.

Australian-Willow will give best growth in full sun on moist but well-drained soil although plants can tolerate light shade and very dry conditions. Trees grown in the open very rarely require any pruning if located where the drooping branches will not interfere with traffic below. A popular tree for the dry southwest, not really known or planted in the East.

Propagation is by seed.

**Pests and Diseases**

No pests or diseases are of major concern. Root rot may be a problem on sites without excellent drainage.