**Introduction**

This upright, pyramidal, densely foliated evergreen tree can reach 60 feet in height in the forest with a 30- to 40-foot spread, but is generally much smaller because it grows slowly. This is an asset in tropical landscapes, where many other plants grow so fast. Greenish, showy, .75-inch, very fragrant flowers are produced on eight-inch racemes in the summer. The round, yellow, 1.5-inch-wide fruit contains a single seed with a nutlike kernel that may be poisonous. The seven-inch-long, glossy, dark green, stiff, leathery leaves have numerous, distinct parallel veins at right angles to the midrib. The trunk has light grey, shallowly ridged bark, and the wood is valued for boat building and cabinet work.

**General Information**

- **Scientific name:** *Calophyllum inophyllum*
- **Pronunciation:** kal-oh-FILL-um EYE-no-fill-um
- **Common name(s):** Beauty Leaf
- **Family:** Clusiaceae
- **USDA hardiness zones:** 10B through 11 (Fig. 2)
- **Origin:** not native to North America
- **Invasive potential:** has been evaluated using the UF/IFAS Assessment of the Status of Non-Native Plants in Florida’s Natural Areas (Fox et al. 2005). This species is not documented in any undisturbed natural areas in Florida. Thus, it is not considered a problem species and may be used in Florida.
- **Uses:** sidewalk cutout (tree pit); reclamation; specimen; street without sidewalk; deck or patio; screen; shade; hedge; espalier; parking lot island 100–200 sq. ft.; parking lot island > 200 sq. ft.; tree lawn 4–6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft. wide; urban tolerant; highway median; container or planter
- **Availability:** not native to North America

**Description**

- **Height:** 35 to 50 feet
- **Spread:** 30 to 50 feet
- **Crown uniformity:** irregular
- **Crown shape:** pyramidal, round
- **Crown density:** dense
- **Growth rate:** moderate
- **Texture:** coarse

---


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

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. For more information on obtaining other UF/IFAS Extension publications, contact your county’s UF/IFAS Extension office.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, UF/IFAS Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A & M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating. Nick T. Place, dean for UF/IFAS Extension.
Calophyllum inophyllum: Beauty Leaf

**Breakage:** resistant  
**Current year twig color:** green  
**Current year twig thickness:** thick  
**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

### Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun, partial sun or partial shade  
**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; well-drained  
**Drought tolerance:** high  
**Aerosol salt tolerance:** high

### Other

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

### Use and Management

Beauty leaf makes a good specimen, street, parking lot, or shade tree and is both wind and salt tolerant, making it especially useful for coastal locations. It becomes twisted and contorted when exposed to constant wind, creating an interesting specimen. Beauty leaf is sometimes used as a tall hedge or windbreak around tennis courts and similar places. It could be used more often as an urban street tree. Remember that the golfball-sized fruit is poisonous and hard, and this could be undesirable in the landscape under some circumstances. The trunk grows to about two feet in diameter.

Beauty leaf thrives in full sun or partial shade on any well-drained soil. It is not tolerant of freezing temperatures.

Propagation is by seeds or cuttings.

### Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.

---

**Foliage**

- **Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)  
- **Leaf type:** simple  
- **Leaf margin:** entire  
- **Leaf shape:** oblong, elliptic (oval)  
- **Leaf venation:** pinnate  
- **Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen, broadleaf evergreen  
- **Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 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  
- **Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches  
- **Fruit covering:** dry or hard  
- **Fruit color:** green  
- **Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; showy; fruit/leaves a litter problem

**Trunk and Branches**

- **Trunk/bark/branches:** branches droop; showy; typically one trunk; thorns  
- **Pruning requirement:** little required

---

Figure 2. Range  
Figure 3. Foliage
Literature Cited