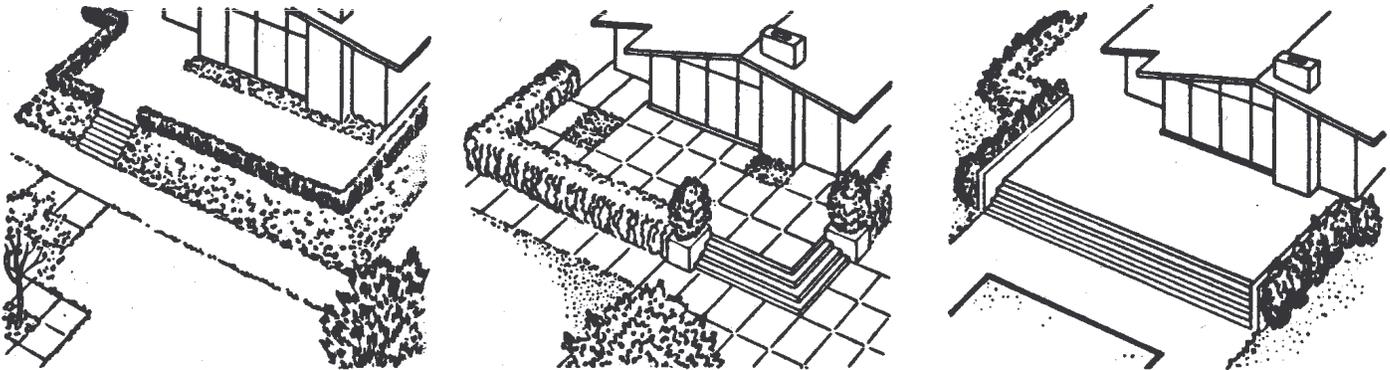


ORNAMENTAL PLANTS COMMONLY USED AS HEDGES IN SOUTH FLORIDA

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South Florida is blessed with climatic conditions that permit a large variety of plants to be grown for use as hedge materials. Hedges are an important part of many Florida landscapes. They are commonly used for such purposes as screening out an undesirable view, acting as a noise or wind barrier, defining an activity area or property line, or to add an expanse of uniform mass and line to the landscape design.

Hedges may be maintained in an open informal manner or in a dense formal style. A formal or clipped hedge requires frequent pruning during the growing season. This creates the thick mass of foliage that is the beauty of a well maintained hedge. Remember the hedge should be clipped while the new growth is green and succulent. It should be formed so that the base is slightly wider than the top. This allows good sunlight to all parts of the hedge. Failure to prune in this manner keeps the sunlight from reaching the bottom branches, and the bottom branches will eventually die out from -lack of light. The frequent pruning that creates a thick hedge often prohibits the formation of flowers and fruit.

Most of the plants recommended for use as hedges can be adequately maintained with three applications of fertilizer each year - in February, June and October. A good quality 6-6-6 or 8-8-8 may be used at the rate of approximately 2-4 pounds for each application per 100 square feet. The exact amount varies with the age of the plants, native fertility of the soil, quantity of organic matter supplied and local rainfall. If minor element deficiencies develop, a minor element nutritional spray can be applied to the leaves or a 6-6-6 with minor elements in it can be used. In general, the most important minor elements needed by plants that have deficiencies in Dade County alkaline soils are magnesium, manganese and chelated iron.

The following listing contains many plants we can recommend as hedge material. It is in convenient chart form with important information on each plant. Remember when selecting a plant to learn something of its characteristics to see if it adapted to your particular situation. If the nature of the plant doesn't fit your landscape, don't use it. Select something else. Planting the right plant in the right place makes grounds maintenance a less timeconsuming task.

Common and Scientific Name	Common Pruned Height	Growth Rate	Cold Tol.	Drought Tol.	Salt Tol.	Light Requirements	Fruit	Comments – includes additional plant characteristics and possible problems
Aralia <i>Polyscias spp.</i>	4 - 6' over 7'	mod. - fast	tender	mod. - good, depends on specie	mod.	full sun, light shade	rare,	Nematodes; contact skin dermatitis in sensitive people; ingestion of leaves may cause systemic disturbances; several varieties and cultivars several different varieties and cultivars are suitable. Many forms of colorful foliage available. Inconspicuous flowers.
Bay Cedar <i>Suriana maritima</i>	2-7'	slow	tender	good	good	full sun	1/4" olive green; nut like	ENDANGERED NATIVE; rough fissured bark; hard dense wood
Black Torch <i>Erithalis friticosa</i>	4-7'	slow	tender	good	good	full sun	1/4" shiny black berries	NATIVE; insignificant white flowers; densely leaved
Bougainvillea <i>Bougainvillea spp.</i>	4 - 6' over 7'	mod. - fast	tender	good	good	full sun	rare	Flowers on new growth; thorns; caterpillars; frequent pruning required on most to maintain at 4-6' level; dwarf form available. Flowers are of various colors. Variegated foliage available
Boxthorn <i>Severinia buxifolia</i>	1 - 3' 4-6'	slow - mod.	hardy	good	mod.	full sun	3/8" round black	Nematodes; thomless forms available; scale. Inconspicuous flowers
Brush cherry <i>Syzygium</i>	4- 6' over 7'	fast - mod.	tender	mod.	poor- mod.	full sun	1"purple fleshy oval	edible fruit; flowers on new growth; nutritional deficiencies in limestone soils; variegated cultivar available. White cluster flowers

Cape honeysuckle <i>Tecomaria capensis</i>	1 - 3' 4-6'	fast	tender	mod.	mod.	full sun, light shade	dry capsules	Nematodes. Orange flowers; frequent pruning required to maintain at 1-3' level
Chenille Plant <i>Acalypha hispida</i>	3-6	fast	tender	poor	mod.	full sun	capsule	showy red or white flowers most of year
Chinese Hat Plant <i>Holmskioldia sanguinea</i>	4 - 6' over 7'	fast	tender	Poor	mod.	light shade	a small drupe	Hummingbirds attracted to flowers; flowers well in partial shade; nematodes; frequent pruning required to maintain at 4-6' level
Cocoplum <i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i>	4 - 6'	Mod.	tender	mod.	good	full sun	2" white or pink; fleshy	NATIVE; fruit food source for wildlife; edible. Red or green tip foliage forms; inconspicuous flowers
Copper Leaf <i>Acalypha wilkesiana</i>	4 - 6' over 7'	fast	tender	poor	mod.	full sun	incon.	Prune often; scale and mites; various cultivars available. Inconspicuous flowers with reddish or variegated foliage

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Crape Jasmine <i>Tabemaemontana divaricata</i>	4-6'	mod.	tender	poor	mod.	full sun, light shade	orange, fleshy pod	nematodes; scale; single and double flowered cultivars available. Flowers are white, fragrant at night
Croton <i>Codiaeum variegatum</i>	4 - 6'	slow - mod.	tender	good	Mod.	full sun, light shade	small capsule	sap can irritate mouth and skin; sap stains clothing; many cultivars available. Inconspicuous flowers. Many colors and shapes of foliage.
Dwarf Carissa <i>Canissa macrocoma. or C. arandiflora "boxwood"</i>	1 - 3'	mod.	tender	good	good	full sun, light shade	seldom seen	several cultivars including thornless variety available. White flowers

Downy Jasmine <i>Jasminum multiflorum</i>	4 - 6' over 7'	mod.	tender	mod.	poor	full sun, light shade	incon.	semi-vine, prune often. White flowers
Firebush <i>Hamelia patens</i>	4 - 6' over 7'	fast	tender	good	mod.	full sun, light shade	soft, black 1/2" fruit	NATIVE; birds eat fruit; flowers on new growth; hummingbirds attracted to flowers; frequent pruning required to maintain at 4-6' level. Red flowers
Florida Privet <i>Forestena seareaata</i>	4 - 6'	mod.	hardy	good	good	full sun, light shade	1/4" ovals, rather dry	NATIVE; fruit is a food source for wildlife. Inconspicuous flowers.
Golden Dewdrop <i>Duranta repens</i>	4 - 6' over 7'	mod. - fast	hardy	good	mod.	full sun, light shade	1/4" fleshy, golden ball	NATIVE; fruit attractive to birds; ingested leaves and fruit can cause serious gastro-intestinal problems, possible death; thorns. White or lavender flowers.
Green Buttonwood <i>Conocarnus eractus</i>	4 - 7'	mod.	tender	good	good	full sun	small dry balls	NATIVE; hard dense wood useful in smoking meats; wind tolerant
Grumichama <i>Eugenia brasiliensis</i>	4 - 6'	mod.	tender	poor	mod.	full sun	red, purple, fleshy	flowers on new growth; edible fruit; nutritional deficiencies in limestone soil; inconspicuous flowers
Hibiscus <i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	4 - 6' over 7'	fast	tender	mod.	mod.	full sun, light shade	dry pod	some large flowered types bloom sparsely; scale; nutritional deficiencies on limestone soils. Many colors of flowers; variegated foliage form available.
Holly malpighia <i>Malpighia coccigera</i>	1 - 3'	slow	tender	mod.	mod	full sun, light shade	1/3" ball, red	holly-shaped leaves with sharp points; nematodes. Pink flowers.
Ixora <i>Ixora spp.</i>	1 - 3' 4 - 6'	mod.	tender	mod.	mod.	full sun	1/2" black	nutritional deficiencies in limestone soils; nematodes; scale; flowers most of the year; several

							berry	cultivars available. Red, pink or yellow flowers.
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Lingaro <i>Elaeagnus Philippensis</i>	4-6' over 7'	Mod.	tender	good	good	full sun	1", pink, fleshy	Edible fruit. Foliage has silver undersides; fragrant inconspicuous flowers
Marlberry <i>Ardisia escallonioides</i>	4-7'	Mod.	tender	mod.	good	full sun, mod. shade	1/4" fleshy dark purple drupe	NATIVE; fragrant terminal white flowers
Myrsine <i>Myrsine guianensis</i>	4-7'	Mod.	tender	good	good	full sun, mod. shade	1/4" fleshy dark purple drupe	NATIVE; insignificant white flowers in leaf axils; shiny leaves, smooth bark
Natal Plum <i>Carissa macrocarpa</i>	4-6' ove 7'	Mod.	tender	good	good	full sun light shade	2", red, fleshy oval	edible fruit; thorny. White flowers.

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Night Blooming Jasmine <i>Cestrum nocturnum</i>	4-6'	Mod.	tender	Mod.	poor mod	full sun	1/3" white, juicy	gastroenteritis and neurotoxic symptoms from eating berries; some people respiratory distress from inhalation of fragrance. Off-white flowers with heavy fragrance at night.
Oleander <i>Nerium oleander</i>	4-6'	mod.	hardy	good	good	full sun	brown pods	caterpillars; witches' broom; all parts deadly poisonous; smoke from burning parts of plant poisonous; several cultivars available. Various flower colors.
Plumbago <i>Plumbago auriculata</i>	4-6'	Mod.	tender	Mod.	poor mod.	full sun	capsule	prune often for best flowering; blue and white flowers. Leaves, stem and especially roots cause contact skin dermatitis in some; may cause gastrointestinal distress if ingested.
Powderpuff <i>Calliandra haematocephala</i>	4-6' over 7'	mod .	tender	good	poo	full sun	small dry pod	flowers in fall-winter; thombugs; dwarf variety exists. Flowers are red, pink, or white.
Sandankwa Viburnum <i>Viburnum suspensum</i>	1'. 3' 4 - 6'	Mod.	hardy	poor	poor	full sun, light shade	rare pods	grows best in light shade; nematodes. Inconspicuous flowers.
Seagrape <i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	4-7'	Mod.	tender	good	good	full sun	3/4" fleshy dark purple drupe	NATIVE; large round leaves; edible purple fruit

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Seven Year Apple <i>Casasia clusiifolia</i>	3 - 6'	Slow	tender	Good	good	full sun, light shade	2-3" green then black; ripens in about 1 year	NATIVE; fragrant terminal white flowers; glossy large leaves
Silver Buttonwood <i>Conocarpus erectus</i> <i>var.sericeus</i>	4 - 6' over 7'	slow - mod.	tender	good	good	full sun	small dry button	NATIVE; sooty mold, especially if grown wet. Inconspicuous flowers. Silver foliage
Silverthorn <i>Elaegnus pungens</i>	4 - 7"	mod.	hardy	good	good	full sun	red-brown drupe	prefers acid soils; does best in northern part of the county; many cultivars available
Snail Seed <i>Cocculus launifolius</i>	4 - 6'	mod.	hardy	mod.	poor	full sun, light shade	unknown in FL.	prune often; seeds used as curare-like arrow tip poison in S.E. Asia; other parts of plant contain same alkaloids; no reports of incidents in U.S.A.
Snowbush <i>Breynia disticha</i>	3 - 6'	mod.	tender	mod.	poor	full sun, light shade	berry	colorful foliage; various cultivars available

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Spicewood <i>Calvnanthes pallens</i>	4 - 6'	slow	tender	good	poor mod.	full sun, light shade	1/4" juicy black berry	NATIVE; berries attractive to birds. Inconspicuous fragrant flowers.
Staggerbrush <i>L.yonia fruticosa</i>	3 - 6'	mod.	hardy	good	n/a	full sun	small capsule	NATIVE; prefers acid soils; does best in northern part of the county
Stoppers:								
Red <i>Eugenia rhombia</i>	over 7'	slow	tender	good	good	full sun, light shade	small black fruit	ENDANGERED NATIVE best used as barrier planting to 15', fruit attractive to birds; wood used in cabinetry
Redberry <i>Eugenia confusa</i>	4 - 6'	slow	tender	good	good	full sun, light shade	small red fruit	THREATENED NATIVE; close-grained heartwood used in cabinetwork.
Simpson <i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i>	4 - 6'	mod.	tender	good	good	full sun, light shade	small red fruit	PROTECTED NATIVE; fruit attractive to birds; fragrant inconspicuous flowers

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Spanish <i>Eugenia foetida</i>	4 - 6' over 7'	mod.	tender	good	good	full sun, light shade	small black fruit	NATIVE; edible fruit; fruit attractive to birds. Inconspicuous flowers.
White <i>Eugenia axillaris</i>	4 - 6' over 7'	mod.	tender	good	good	full sun, light shade	small black fruit	NATIVE; fruit attractive to birds; can be used as barrier plant to 20'; musky odor; columnar growth
Sweet Viburnum <i>Viburnum odoratissimum</i>	4 - 6'	mod.	hardy	mod.	poor	full sun, light shade	rare	flowers on new growth; sucking insects leading to sooty mold. Inconspicuous fragrant flowers.
Tallowwood <i>Ximenia americana</i>	4 - 7'	mod.	tender	good	mod,	full sun	1" yellow drupe	NATIVE; fragrant ivory axillary flowers; hard, close- grained wood; fruit edible raw or cooked
Tawnyberry holly <i>Ilex krugiana</i>	5 - 7'	mod.	tender	mod.	poor	partial shade	purple drupe	ENDANGERED NATIVE; tropical evergreen holly
Texas Sage <i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>	4-6'	slow	hardy	good	mod.	full sun	capsule	good for hot, dry locations. Lilac flowers with silver foliage.

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Thryallis <i><u>Galphimia gracilis</u></i>	4 - 6'	mod.	tender	mod.	mod.	full sun, light shade	small capsule	flowers from early spring to late fall; brittle. Yellow flowers.
Turks' Cap <i><u>Malaviscus arboreus</u></i>	over 7'	fast	hardy	good	poor	full sun, light shade	rare	flowers on new growth; flowers attractive to Goldfinch; frequent pruning required to maintain formal appearance. Red flowers.
Victorian Rosemary <i><u>Westringia rosmariniformis</u></i>	2 - 4'	mod.	hardy	good	mod.	full sun	small nutlets	white showy flowers; best in northern part of county
Wax Jasmine <i><u>Jasminum volubile</u></i>	1 - 3'	mod.	tender	mod.	mod.	full sun, light shade	rare	semi-vine; prune often. White fragrant flowers
Wax Myrtle <i><u>Myrica cerifera</u></i>	4 - 6' over 7'	mod.	hardy	good	good	full sun, light shade	1/8" waxy ovals	NATIVE; dioecious; leaves stain masonry; root suckers; fruit attractive to birds. Inconspicuous flowers
White Indigo Berry	3 - 7'	mod.	tender	good	good	full sun, mod. shade	1/2" white fleshy drupe	NATIVE; fragrant insignificant white flowers; heavy hard wood

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Wild Coffee <i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	4 - 6'	mod. - fast	tender	mod.	poor-mod.	light to mod. shade	1/4" oval, scarlet	NATIVE; fruit attractive to birds; good for shaded areas; two others similar species available. Inconspicuous flowers
Yew Podocarpus <i>Podocarpus</i>	4 - 6' over 7'	mod.	hardy	mod.	mod.	full sun, light shade	incon.	dioecious; scale; dark green conifer