

## **Shelterbelts for Citrus, Lake Alfred, Fla.**

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# Ornamental Crops for Shelterbelts



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## Some potential benefits of shelterbelts

- Reduce soil erosion
- Improved crop quality
- Reduce wind speeds during advective freezes
- Wildlife habitat
- Source of income
- Aesthetics



## Some potential disadvantages of shelterbelts

- Take up valuable crop production space
- Complicate management of property, especially if being used for producing income
- Possible harbor for diseases and pests
- Decreased air mixing during radiational freezes



## Some shelterbelt rules of thumb

- Contain a diversity of shrubs and trees (<20% per species)
- Include evergreens and deciduous plants
- Species selection should reflect climatic and soil conditions

# What is “cut foliage”?

a.k.a., cut cultivated “greens”, florists’ greens

**Anything in a floral arrangement  
that is not a flower!**

leaves

seed pods

seed  
heads



cones

fruit



flowering  
branches

leafless  
branches



# Florida's cut foliage industry

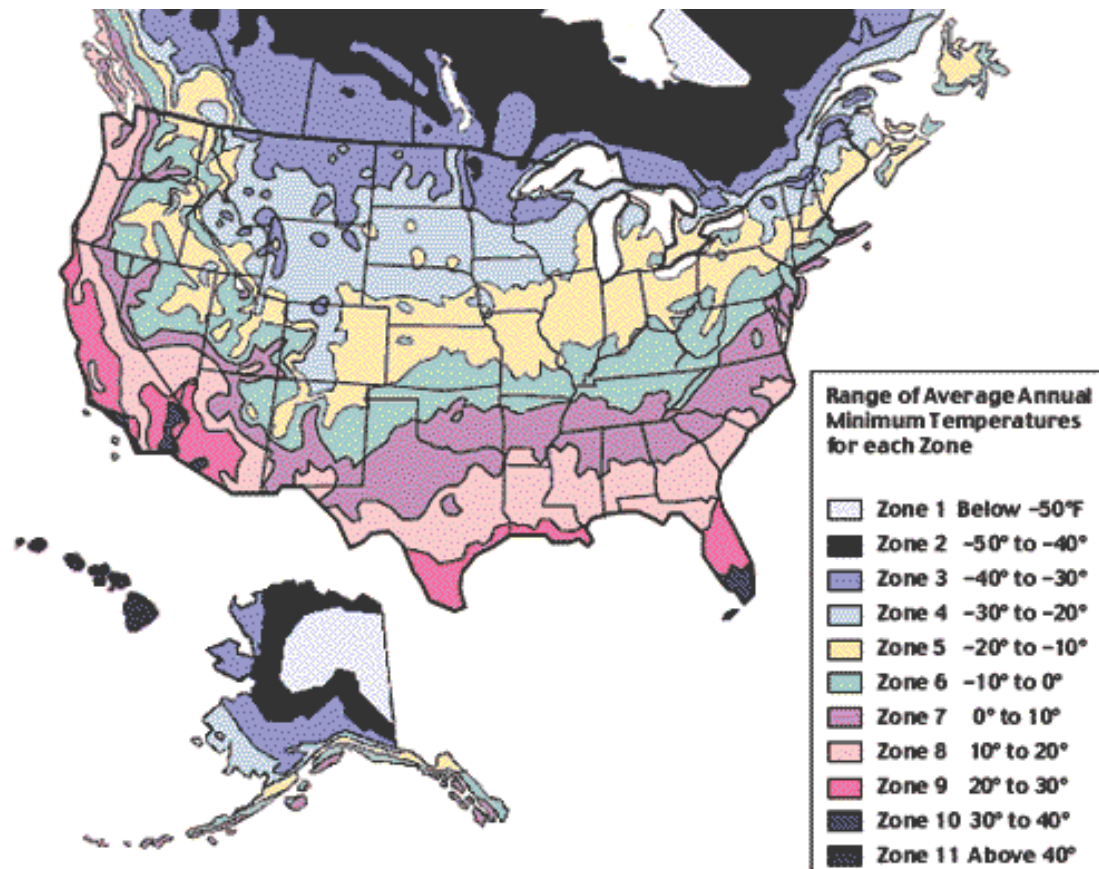
- Over 100 years old
- Started in the 1890s when a freeze devastated the central Florida citrus industry
- About \$100 million a year at wholesale
- Accounts for 83% of U.S. production
- The vast majority of the production is sold to wholesale florists



# Disclaimer

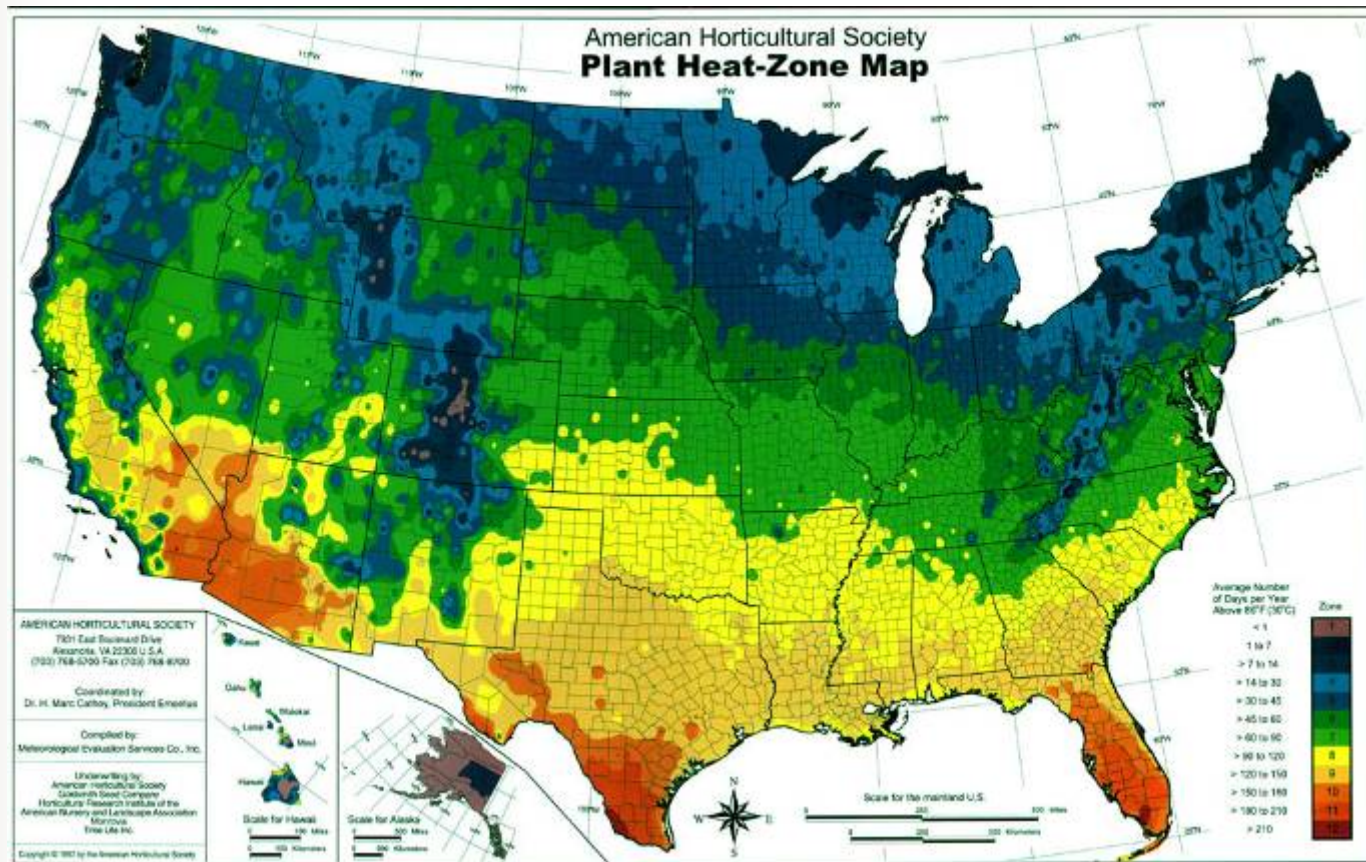
- Mention of a commercial or proprietary plant does not constitute a recommendation or warranty of the plant by the speaker or the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, nor does it imply its approval to the exclusion of other plants that may also be suitable.
- Further, mention of a plant carries no guarantee of marketability or profitability!

# USDA cold hardiness zones





# AHS heat zones





# Degree of difficulty

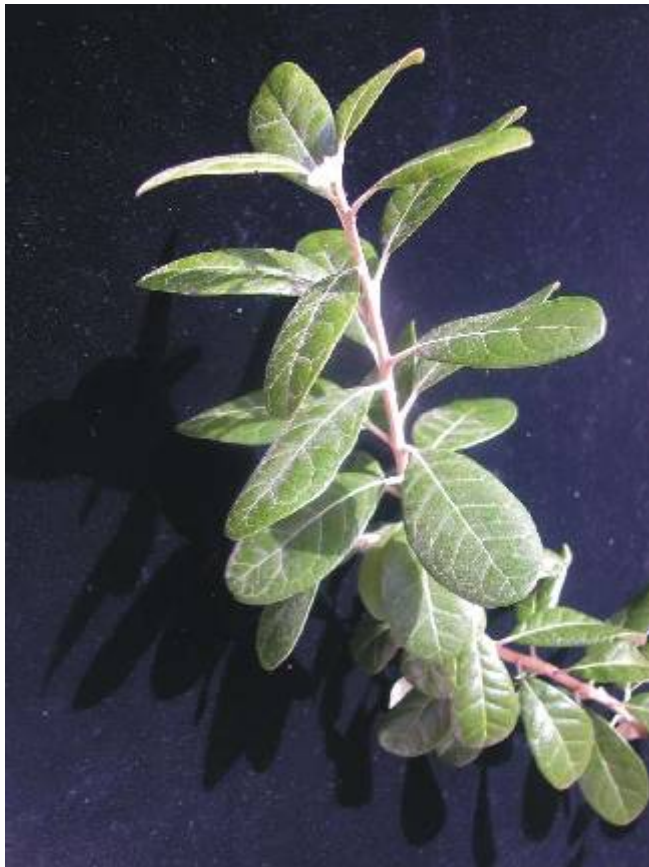
## ■ Easy

- Woody
- Sold for stems, cones, etc.
- Damage to foliage less significant

## ■ Difficult

- Herbaceous
- Sold for leaves, berries, etc.
- Low tolerance for blemishes

# *Acca* – pineapple guava, feijoa



- *A. sellowiana* (*Feijoa sellowiana*)
- 8b–10
- Leaves green above, fuzzy white below
- Filler and line material
- Full sun to partial shade
- Pest free
- 18 feet

# *Alnus* — alder



- *A. cordata* (Italian alder)
- 5(6)–10
- Pine cone-like female fruit, attractive twig with grey buds
- Filler, form materials
- Tolerates dry, wet, infertile (fixes nitrogen) and high pH soils
- 75 feet

# *Bambusa* - bamboo



- *B. vulgaris vittata*, *B. multiplex* ‘Alphonse Karr’, etc.
- 9–10
- Easy to grow clump forming grasses
- Culms sold without foliage
  - Insects feeding not a serious problem
- 20–40+ feet

# *Callicarpa* - beautyberry



- *C. americana*, etc.
- 7–9 (C)
- Native, easy to grow
- Sold without foliage
  - Insects feeding not a problem
- White berries also available
- Good wildlife plant
- Understory **UF** UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA  
IFAS

# *Cocculus* - platter-leaf



- *C. laurifolius*, etc.
- 8–9 (C, S)
- Easy to grow
- Dark green leathery leaves with prominent veins
- Vase life similar to that of pittosporum
- 20 feet

# *Elaeagnus* – silverthorn



- *E. pungens*, *E. × ebbingei*
- 7–9, 7–10 (N, C, S)
- Nice variegated cultivars [e.g., ‘Maculata’ (‘Aureo-maculata)], thornless varieties
- Line, filler & form material
- Full sun for compactness
- Scale insects
- 15+ feet



# *Eriobotrya* – loquat



- *E. japonica*
- 8–10
- Small evergreen tree
- Full sun (some shade)
- Leathery leaves, dark green above, rusty below
- Filler material
- Under utilized
- 25 feet tall

## *Grevillea* – e.g., Robyn Gordon grevillea



- *G.* ‘Robyn Gordon’
- 9–10
- Attractive full-sun landscape shrub
- Well-drained soils
- Interesting and durable filler foliage
- May cause allergic contact dermatitis
- 5 feet tall

# *Ilex* – hollies



- Various species and cultivars
- 6–10
- Dark green leaves, variegated cultivars available, red berries
- Holiday decorations
- Wildlife habitat and food
- 20–50 feet

## *Juniperus* – red cedar(s)



- *J. virginiana*
- 9–10 (N, C, S)
- Full sun or partial shade
- Tolerates calcareous soils and seashore salt
- 50 x 20 feet

# *Magnolia* –



- *M. grandiflora*
- 6–9
- Leaves glossy green above, rusty and tomentose below
- Leafy stems and individual leaves made into wreaths, etc.
- Scale

# *Nageia – nagi*



- *N. nagi* (*Podocarpus nagi*)
- 7–9 (N, C, S)
- Simple, dark green, leathery leaves
- Filler material
- Full sun to partial shade
- Scale, Mg deficiency
- 30–90 feet tall

## *Podocarpus* – weeping podocarpus



- *P. gracilior*
- 9–10
- Evergreen tree
- More delicate foliage and less cold tolerant than *P. macrophyllus*
- Scale and aphids
- 20–40 feet

# *Ulmus* - elm



- *U. alata* (winged elm) & *U. parviflora* (Chinese elm)
- Deciduous native (C) & nonnative (C)
- Leaf damage no problem
- Full sun
- Few problems, long storage life
- 60–80 x 30 feet

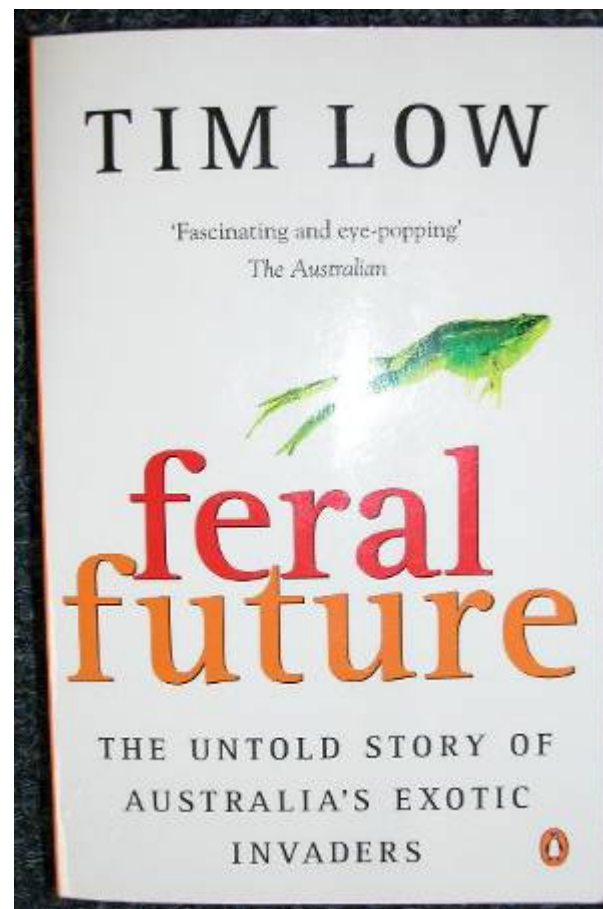




# Things to consider

- These examples should give you an idea of the wide range of materials florists are using
- Look in your own backyard first for possible “new” cuts
- Assume that no matter how bizarre, the florists will find a use for them
- Be responsible and do not grow or allow invasive plants to escape

Let us not repeat the past



# Questions?

[edis.ifas.ufl.edu](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu)

[mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/cutfol/cutpage.htm](http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/cutfol/cutpage.htm)

[www.ascfg.org](http://www.ascfg.org) (Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers)

