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Shrubs Recommended for Use as Perimeter Plantings (Informal or Formal Hedge) in South Florida

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Common Name *for native	Scientific name	County Region	Common Hedge Height (ft)	Growth Rate	Sun/ Shade	Drought Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Wind Tolerance	Soil	Flower Color	Flower Season	Notes on Care
Fiddlewood *	<i>Citharexylum fruticosum</i>	Coastal; Central	15-25	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate to high	Moderate; does not tolerate flooding in salt or brackish water	Moderate left as a shrub	Moist, well-drained sandy or limestone soils	White; Fragrant	Year-round	
Sea Grape *	<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	All	15-25	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	N/A	Wide variety, well-drained	White	Summer	Green fruits used to make jellies; Needs a lot of pruning to make into hedge
Podocarpus; Yew Pine	<i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i>	All	15-35	Slow	Full sun or shade	High	High	High	Wide variety, well-drained	N/A	N/A	A number of cultivars are available; decide whether you want to use as a hedge or screen, then consult with a nursery
Coffee colubrina *	<i>Colubrina arborescens</i>	All	15-20	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	High, does not tolerate brackish flooding	Wide variety	White; Insignificant	Year-round	Flowers contrasts with rust-colored stems
Red Stopper*	<i>Eugenia rhombea</i>	All	15-20	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	High	Wide variety	White	Year-round	Black fruits
Silver Buttonwood*	<i>Conocarpus erectus var. sericeus</i>	Coastal; Central	15-20	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	High if managed as a shrub	Wide variety	Purplish green	Spring through Fall	
Pitch Apple*	<i>Clusia rosea</i>	All	10-15 (-20)	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	N/A	Wide variety, well-drained	White with pink centers	Summer	Only pistillate plants known
Golden Dewdrop	<i>Duranta repens</i>	All	12-14	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	Moderate	Moderate	Wide variety	Blue; Purple; White	Spring-Fall	Fruits yellow
Marlberry*	<i>Ardisia escallanoides</i>	All	10-20	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate to high	High	High	Wide variety	White turning pink	Spring -Fall	
Cocoplum (regular)*	<i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i>	Coastal; Central	10-15	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High to moderate	Moderate to high; does not like direct salt spray	High	Wide variety	White	Year-round	Fruits white or black; Excellent for wildlife

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Graceful Bamboo	<i>Bambusa textilis 'Gracilis'</i>	All	10-15	Very Fast	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate	Moderate to high; does not like direct salt spray	High	Wide variety of well-drained soils	N/A	Once every century	Clumping bamboo with rhizome; more suitable for privacy screens; can be topped but not as well as RG Dwarf; plant 5 feet apart
Spanish Stopper*	<i>Eugenia foetida</i>	All	10-15	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	High	Wide variety	White	Summer	Not a dense perimeter plant but forms a filigreed visual barrier
Wax Myrtle*	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	Central, Western	10-15	Medum	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Wide variety	Green	Year-round	
Firebush*	<i>Hamelia patens</i>	All	10-12	Fast	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	Moderate	Moderate	Wide variety	Red	Year-round	Red berries maturing black, attracts hummingbirds and butterflies
Jamaican Caper*	<i>Capparis cynophallophra</i>	Coastal; Central	10-12	Slow	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	Moderate	High	Humus rich top layer with moist or well-drained soils	Pink to white; Showy	Spring and Summer; Spring is peak bloom	
RG Dwarf Bamboo	<i>Bambusa textilis 'RG Dwarf'</i>	All	8-12	Very Fast	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate	Moderate to high; does not like direct salt spray	High	Wide variety of well-drained soils	N/A	Once every century	Clumping bamboo with rhizome, can be topped if desired but rounded is recommended; plant 4 feet apart
Bay Cedar*	<i>Suriana maritima</i>	All	8-10	Slow	Full sun/ Partial shade	Slow	High	High	Wide variety	Yellow	Year-round	
Florida Cover Ash; Tetrazygia*	<i>Tetrazygia bicolor</i>	Central; Western	8-10	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	Moderate	Moderate	Wide variety; likes a more acid soil	White; Showy	Spring and Summer	Can be difficult to establish but once established does well
Natal Plum (Large)	<i>Carissa macrocarpa</i>	All	8-10	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	High	Wide variety	White; Showy	Spring-Fall	
White Indigo Berry*	<i>Randia aculeata</i>	All	8-10	Slow	Full sun	High	High	Moderate to High	Wide variety	White; Fragrant	Year-round	Thorns in pairs; White berries with dark purple flesh, producing a blue dye.
Gallberry*	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	All	7-8	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate	High	High	Acidic, poorly drained	White, Insignificant	Summer, Fall	Black Drupes; Plants unisexual

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Seven Year Apple	<i>Casasia clusifolia</i>	All	6-9	Slow	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	High	Wide variety	White; Fragrant; Showy	Summer	Good seaside planting
Hardy Bamboo Palm	<i>Chamaedorea microspadix</i>	Central; Western	6-8	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Wide variety	Cream	N/A	Orange-red fruits cause skin irritation; Separate staminate-pistillate plants
Japanese Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	All	6-8	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate	High	High	Wide variety	White	Summer	Variiegated cultivar available
Necklace Pod	<i>Sophora tomentosa</i>	All	6-8	Moderate	Full sun	High	High	High	Wide variety	Yellow	Year-round	
Varnishleaf*	<i>Dodonea viscosa</i>	All	6-8	Slow	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate	High	High	Wide variety	White	Summer	Young leaves red; horticultural selection available with red leaves
Wild Coffee *	<i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	All	5-10	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate to High	Wide variety	White	Spring and Summer	Red fruits
Thryallis; Shower of gold; Goldenshower	<i>Galphimia gracilis</i>	Central; Western	5-8	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate	Moderate	High	Wide variety	Showy, Yellow	Year-round	<i>Galphimia glauca</i> , misapplied name
Texas Sage	<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>	Central; Western	5-6	Slow	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	Moderate	Moderate	Wide variety	Lavender	Summer	Silver or green leaved varieties available
Dwarf Arboricola	<i>Schefflera arboricola</i>	All	4-10	Fast	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	Moderate	N/A	Wide variety of well-drained soils	White; Insignificant	Summer	Can be trimmed any size; Variiegated and green leafed varieties Cultivars 'Compacta', 'Gold Capella', and Trinette'
Lady Palm	<i>Raphis excelsa</i>	Central; Western	4-8	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate to high	Moderate	Moderate	Wide variety	White	Summer	A number of cultivars are available
Black Torch*	<i>Erithalis fruticosa</i>	All	4-7	Slow	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	High	Wide variety	White; Insignificant	Spring and Summer	
Myrsine*	<i>Myrsine cubana</i>	All	4-7	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	Moderate	Wide variety	White; Insignificant	Year round	Scales and nematodes can be a problem

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Christmas Berry*	<i>Lycium carolinianum</i>	Coastal	4-6	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	High	Wide variety	White then lavender	Summer	Sparse; need to prune frequently to produce branching; fruit red
Locustberry*	<i>Byrsonima lucida</i>	Central; Western	4-6	Moderate	Full sun	High	Moderate	High	Wide variety	Pink and white with yellow	Spring and Summer	
Walter's Viburnum*	<i>Viburnum obovatum</i>	Central; Western	4-6	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	Low	High	Wide variety	White; Showy	Spring	Will tolerate saturated soil: Flowers heavier with regular fertilization
Bush Allamanda	<i>Allamanda cathartica</i> var. <i>schottii</i>	Coastal; Central; West	4-5	Moderate	Full sun	Moderate	Moderate	N/A	Well-drained sandy or limestone soils	Yellow; Showy	Summer and Fall	Formal or informal edge; hazard to humans if eaten
Downy Jasmine	<i>Jasminum multiflorum</i>	Central; Western	4-5	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate	Low	High	Wide variety	White	Spring through Fall	Needs frequent pruning
Saw Palmetto*	<i>Serenoa repens</i>	All	3-6	Slow	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	High	Wide variety	White	Summer	Winter-Spring
Sandankwa Viburnum	<i>Viburnum suspensum</i>	Central; Western	3-5	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate once established	Low	Moderate; once established	Wide variety	Pink; White; Insignificant	Summer	
Dwarf Chinese Holly	<i>Ilex cornuta</i> 'Carisia'	All	3-4	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	N/A	Well-drained slightly acidic soils	White	Spring with possible berry production in fall	Formal or informal hedge; Can be kept small
Dwarf Natal-Plum	<i>Carrissa macrocarpa</i> 'Emerald Beauty' also similar 'Boxwood Beauty'	All	3-4	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	Moderate if trained to tree; High if left as a shrub	Wide variety	White; Fragrant	Spring through Fall	Fruits are red and edible for humans and wildlife; spiny makes a good barrier

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Indian Hawthorn Dwarf	<i>Raphiolepis indica</i> 'Dwarf'	All	3-4	Slow	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate	Moderate	N/A	Wide variety of well-drained soils; will tolerate moist but not wet areas	Pink; Fragrant; Showy	Spring	Likes dappled light best
Inkberry*	<i>Scaevola plumieri</i>	All	3-4	Slow	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	High	Wide variety, well-drained	White	Summer	
Japanese Plum-Yew	<i>Cephalotaxus harringtonia</i> 'Duke Gardens'	All	3-4	Moderate	Partial shade	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate to high	Well-drained acid soils	White; Insignificant	Spring and Summer	Tolerant of morning sun but needs dappled light in the afternoons
Plumbago	<i>Plumbago auricykata</i>	Central; West	3-4	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate	Moderate	N/A	Wide variety of well-drained soils	Blue; Light blue; White; Fragrant; Showy	Spring through Fall	To maintain hedge prune frequently
Dwarf Pitch Apple*	<i>Clusia rosea</i> 'nana'	All	2-4	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	N/A	Wide variety, well-drained	White flowers with pink centers	Summer	Probably not <i>Clusia rosea</i> but another species
Dwarf Yaupon	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i> 'Nana'	All	2-4	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	N/A	Well-drained sandy or limestone soils	White	Spring and Summer	Formal or informal hedge; Can be kept small and clipped into shapes
Ilex Schillings Dwarf'	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i> 'Schillings Dwarf'	All	2-4	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	N/A	Well-drained sandy or limestone soils	White	Spring and Summer	Formal or informal hedge; Can be kept small and clipped into shapes
Dwarf Firebush	<i>Hamelia patens</i> 'compacta'	All	2-3	Fast	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	Moderate	High	Wide variety	Red	Year-round	Red berries maturing black, attracts hummingbirds and butterflies
Dwarf Podocarpus	<i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i> 'Dwarf Pringles' or 'Pringle'	All	2-3	Slow	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate	Moderate	N/A	Well-drained soils	N/A	Summer	Good small formal hedge; Can trim to a narrow, small shrub

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King's Mantle	<i>Thunbergia erecta</i>	Central and West	2-3	Fast	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate	Moderate	N/A	Wide variety of well-drained soils	Purple; White; Showy	Year-round	To maintain prune frequently
Dwarf Crown of Thorns	<i>Euphorbia milii/ dwarf</i>	All	1-2	Slow	Full sun/ Partial shade	High	High	N/A	Wide variety of well-drained soils	Red; Pink; Yellow; Showy	Year-round	Colorful small border hedge; Some varieties available 'Splendens', 'Dwarf Apache series', 'Short and Sweet'
Serissa	<i>Serissa foetida</i>	Central; West	1-2	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate	Low	N/A	Wide variety of well-drained soils	White; Showy	Summer	Light airy short hedge
Dwarf Mussaenda	<i>Mussaenda glabra</i>	Central; West	1/2-2	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	Moderate	Moderate	N/A	Well-drained, some organic	Expanded, bract-like sepals white, flowers yellow	Year-round	Lovely expanded white sepals
Mexican Heather	<i>Cuphea hyssopifolia</i>	Central; West	1/2-1	Moderate	Full sun/ Partial shade	Low	Low	N/A	Wide variety of well-drained soils	Pink; Lavender; White; Showy	Year-round	Short lived perennial possibly lasting 2-3 years

Things to remember when planting perimeter shrubs

- Avoid monocultures (all one Species)
- Plant shrubs with similar water needs rates together
- Plants shrubs with similar growth rates together
- Vary shrub species in alternating segments or other patterns

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