Ocala Anise
illicium parviflorum

3g Ocala Anise

The Ocala Anise is a low maintenance, evergreen native to Central Florida. With mature heights up to 15 feet, Ocala Anise are generally considered large shrubs or small trees. They are well suited for creating borders or as single specimens in smaller landscapes.

Ocala Anise's long, ellipse shaped leaves vary from a dark, lush green if grown in the shade, to a sunny yellow tone if grown in full sunlight. It's important to note that the plant will need to be watered more often if grown in full sun, but is moderately drought resistant.

As the name suggests, the Ocala Anise is a member of the same family of plants that produces the spice, "star anise", and its leaves produce a sweet, licorice-y scent when crushed. The seed pods of the Ocala Anise look very similar to the aforementioned spice, but are not edible. Ocala Anise flowers are inconspicuous, bell shaped, and a light buttery yelow.

If allowed to grow on its own, the Ocala Anise will take on a pyramidal shape, but can easily be pruned into formal hedges or limbed up as a small multi-trunked tree.

Ocala Anise foliage

Ocala Anise flowers

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Ocala Anise in the landscape

Common Names:
Yellow Anise, Yellow Anisetree, Star Anise, Florida Sunshine Anise

Native Origin :
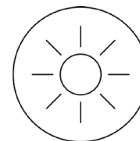Florida, North America

Environment:
Soil: slightly alkaline, acidic, clay, loam, or sand
Sand: low
Exposure: full sun, partial shade, or full shade

Description:
Hardy Range: 7 - 10
Mature Height: 10 - 15'
Mature Spread: 6 - 10'
Growth Rate: moderate
Texture: medium
Density: dense

Ornamental Characteristics:
Light, yellow-green, elongated oval leaves which produce a licorice-like aroma when crushed. Flowers from May to June, but blooms are insignificant. Fruit is showy, multi-pointed, and star shaped. Multi-trunk structure with a moderate growth rate.
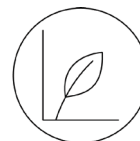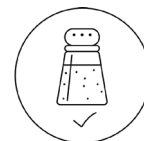
Full Sun   *Florida Native*   *High drought tolerance*

Medium growth   *Salt tolerant*   *Wetlands*

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