

Pittosporum - *Pittosporum*

General Information: Pittosporum are evergreen shrubs or small trees. They have thick, glossy, dark green, leathery leaves. Flowers are rather small and creamy white in color. At maturity they produce a leathery fruit called a capsule. They are quite tolerant of salt sprays and strong winds common along coastal regions.

Family: Pittosporaceae

Lighting: They will tolerate full sun and will thrive in shaded areas.

Temperature: Will tolerate temperatures of twenty degrees F or less without noticeable injury.

Watering: Adequate water to keep from drying out.

Feeding: General purpose fertilizer.

Pruning and wiring: The tree has no particular natural form making it a candidate for informal upright.

Propagation: May be propagated by tip cuttings. Seeds are difficult to obtain and viability is usually poor. Grafting is useful.

Repotting: The tree needs annual repotting and may be severely root pruned. The soil should be well draining.

Pests and diseases: Cottony-cushion scale. Spray with agricultural oil.

Species suitable for bonsai:

Pittosporum tobira.

Pittosporum tobira variegatum - resembles *P. tobira* in all respects except for its thinner leaves variegated with white.

Pittosporum viridiflorum.

Bibliography:

Brevard County Extension Office, Cocoa FL.

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