

## LM TEAM MEMBER I – Plant Identification



### **Asiatic Jasmine**

Asiatic jasmine is an evergreen, vine-like woody plant that is commonly used in Florida landscapes due to its hardiness and drought tolerance. Native to Japan and Korea, it is low maintenance and great for mass plantings and turfgrass alternatives. In shady areas, it also provides needed texture and variation. Despite the name, this plant is not related to confederate jasmine. Too much water, sun, or fertilizer can make it aggressive and unruly.

**MAINTENANCE:** Weed eat to maintain height, hand pull weeds frequently, maintain defined edges



### Liriope (ler-EYE-oh-pee)

Liriope has solid green or variegated foliage, depending on the variety. Some bloom in spring with small purple flowers. Commonly used as a border plant that is attractive and low maintenance.

**MAINTENANCE:** Hand rake out dead, keep separated by removing excess.

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Agapanthus (ag-uh-PAN-thus)

Sometimes called lily of the Nile, agapanthus is a tough plant, with strap-like leaves and flowers that bloom all summer long. Their pom-pom shaped flower clusters, typically in white, blue, or purple, attract hummingbirds and work well as cut flowers. The plants can reach three feet tall and two feet wide, though dwarf forms are available. Agapanthus can take full sun but in Florida prefers a bit of shade. Likewise, it's relatively drought tolerant but performs better with regular watering.

**MAINTENANCE:** Encourage more flowers by removing wilted flowers after bloom by cutting with hand pruners at base of stem. Hand prune to maintain shape and remove dead leaves.



Juniper (june-eh-per)

Juniper Parsoni is a dense, evergreen shrub that is derived from Chinese Juniper. Parsoni is excellent for use as a ground cover and erosion control on large to small slopes and embankments. It can be planted in small groups, as a border in landscape beds and as a low-growing foundation shrub. It can handle partial shade, but it truly thrives in full sun exposure. Over time, Parsoni will lose its density and become woody; therefore it needs to be replaced after several years in the landscape.

**MAINTENANCE:** Hand pull weeds. Fusillade herbicide if needed. Hand prune by removing longer branches and cutting at the base of the plant. Do not edge.

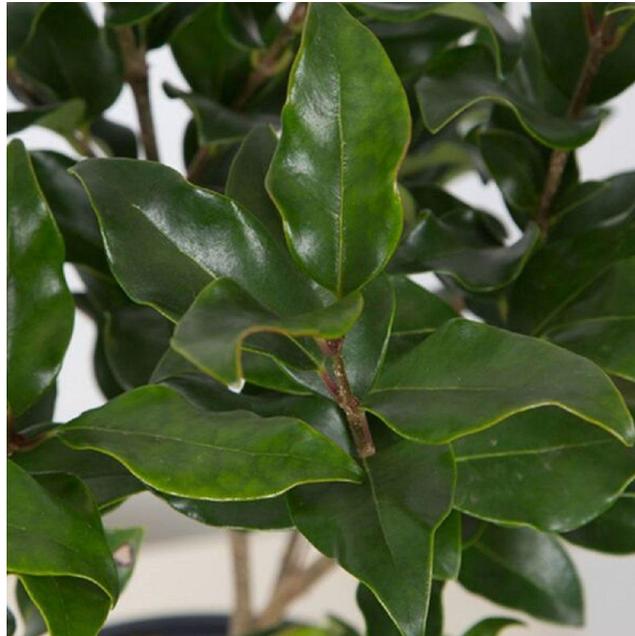
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Azalea (uh-zay-lee-uh) Formosa

A popular landscape plant in Gainesville with one of the longest bloom development times of any plant. Formosa azaleas bloom between late February and early March. We stop trimming Formosa azaleas on July 4<sup>th</sup>, otherwise we could cut off blooms.

**MAINTENANCE:** Shear and selectively prune after bloom, through July 4<sup>th</sup>. Tip trim longer branches as needed year round. Remove dead areas year round to maintain attractive appearance and promote growth.



Ligustrum (li-gus-trum)

Often used as a shrub or hedge, ligustrum also works well in tree form, its curved multiple trunks and dark green canopy creating an interesting architectural focus. The glossy evergreen leaves are abundantly produced on the upright, spreading branches. The easiest way to tell viburnum and ligustrum apart is the leaves. The ligustrum leaf has smooth edges but the viburnum leaf shows serration, or teeth.

**MAINTENANCE:** Shear and selectively prune to maintain desired appearance.

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Viburnum (v-eye-ber-num) Odoratissimum

Also known as Sweet Viburnum, it has large, leathery, dark green, glossy leaves and clusters of extremely fragrant, small, white flowers, in springtime. The easiest way to tell viburnum and ligustrum apart is the leaves. The ligustrum leaf has smooth edges but the viburnum leaf shows serration, or teeth.

**MAINTENANCE:** Shear and selectively prune to maintain desired appearance.



Loropetalum (lor-oh-pet-uh-lum)

While some loropetalum plants do have green foliage, it is most commonly found with burgundy foliage that contrasts nicely with other plants. Loropetalum is generally free of pests and diseases and will grow best in full sun, but can also be grown in partial shade. You can add loropetalum to your landscape at any time of the year. Also known as Chinese fringe flower, loropetalum flowers in the spring with small, frilly pink flowers.

**MAINTENANCE:** Shear and selectively prune to maintain desired appearance.

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Sago (say-go) Palm

Not a true palm at all and actually in the same family as pineapples, the sago is a cycad that has seen some trouble in recent time from the Asian Cycad Scale. This evergreen cycad is native to the tropical islands of southern Japan, but it grows very well in Gainesville. Sago palm grows well in full sun or partial shade but exhibits larger leaves in more shaded situations. This plant is also highly toxic to dogs.

**MAINTENANCE:** Remove lower fronds to keep plant at 9 and 3 or 10 and 2 position depending on client preferences (10 and 2 shown)



Variegated Ginger

Variegated ginger (or shell ginger) is a perennial that is used in the landscape for its attractive foliage. Place this perennial in full sun or partial shade. It will perform well in moist, fertile soils that are well drained. Variegated ginger is not very drought tolerant, wilting badly in full summer sun without irrigation. A partial shaded location or regular irrigation prevents this. The matted clumps of this plant can be divided for propagation.

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MAINTENANCE: Hand prune for desired height. Remove dead and thin when needed. If ginger dies back in winter prune back to 18 inches off of ground, will flush out new growth in spring.



Crape Myrtle (cr-ape mur-till)

A hugely popular landscape plant in Gainesville, the crape myrtle is valued as a landscape plant for its prolific summer flowers, heat and drought tolerance, and year-round landscape interest. Crape myrtle is one of our most versatile landscape plants for sunny locations. They are available for use as medium trees, small trees, shrubs, groundcovers, container plants, and even hanging baskets. However, the most commonly available cultivars are best used as small trees in Florida.

MAINTENANCE Remove suckers that grow from base of tree in growing season. Crape myrtle pruning is done in February in Gainesville, due to our fluctuating warm and cold winter weather patterns.



Flax lily or Dianella (die-uh-nella)

Drought tolerant Flax lily is a spreading perennial with flat, glossy green leaves. This grass-like foliage plant is often used as a groundcover, border plant, or even as an accent plant, to bring color and texture into the landscape. Despite its common name, flax lily is used primarily as a foliage plant, and doesn't have showy blossoms.

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**MAINTENANCE** Very low maintenance landscape plant. Remove any dead, keep separated and thin if needed to maintain plant size. Stalks with small flowers arrive in late summer and should be removed.



Split leaf Philodendron (fill-oh-dend-run)

The beautiful, huge, dark green, deeply-lobed, leathery leaves of Split-Leaf Philodendron are popular for the lush, exotic look they give to a yard.

**MAINTENANCE** Remove lower stalks to maintain neat appearance, ideally at 10 and 2 position. Can be pruned heavily if overgrown and will fill back in nicely.



Rose

The most common varieties in Gainesville are the drift rose (shown on left) and the knockout rose (on right)

**MAINTENANCE:** Selectively prune at varying height levels to promote plant filling in.

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Dwarf Burford (ber-ford) Holly

A popular plant in Gainesville yards with glossy, deep green leaves that develop a sharp tip. We often see it tightly sheared for a more formal look.

**MAINTENANCE:** Shear with hedge trimmers to maintain shape.