

# NEST Joyful Trees Circle

## Silver Buttonwood Trees, IFAS Extension - University of Florida

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/ST180>

This low-branching, multi-trunked, shrubby, evergreen tree has beautiful silvery leaves due to silky hairs which cover the leaf surface. The inconspicuous, small, greenish flowers appear in dense cone like heads in terminal panicles in spring and are followed by 1/2-inch, cone like, red-brown fruits. The dark brown attractive bark is ridged and scaly.

### Description

**Height:** 15 to 20 feet

**Spread:** 15 to 20 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical

**Crown shape:** vase, spreading

**Crown density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** fine

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/branches:** branches droop; showy; typically multi-trunked; no thorns

**Bark:** dark brown, rigid, and scaly

**Pruning requirement:** needed for strong structure

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** green, gray

**Current year twig thickness:** thin

**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

### Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun to partial shade

**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; occasionally wet; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** high

### Use and Management

Capable of reaching a height of 40 feet with a 20-foot spread, silver buttonwood is often seen as a small, somewhat asymmetrical shrub but is ideal for use as a screen, clipped hedge, or specimen planting. Due to the attractive bark and soft foliage, a multi-stemmed specimen can make a nice patio or street tree.

Planted in the open as a tree, silver buttonwood will grow to about 15 to 20 feet tall and will often take on a picturesque, contorted appearance when exposed to constant seashore winds, creating an attractive specimen.

A Florida native, silver buttonwood is ideal for seaside plantings as it is highly tolerant of full sun, sandy soils, and salty conditions. It also tolerates brackish areas and alkaline soils, thriving in the broken shade and wet soils of hammocks.

This is a tough tree! It withstands the rigors of urban conditions very well and makes a durable street or parking lot tree. Due to its small size, plant on 15-foot centers to form a closed canopy along a street. Purchase single-trunked trees for street and parking lot plantings.

