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Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM

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Evodia danielii: Korean Evodia[1]

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson[2]

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Introduction

Korean Evodia is a little-known but highly desirable small, deciduous tree, often seen at 15 to 25 feet high with an equal or greater spread but is capable of reaching 50 feet in height. Specimens reaching 50 feet tall are rare. The pinnately compound, dark green leaves cast a light shade below the tree and remain attractive and disease-free throughout the summer. The leaves often drop in autumn while still green, though some trees have been known to provide a display of clear yellow fall foliage. In early summer, many showy, flat-topped flower clusters appear, the white, fragrant blossoms attracting a multitude of bees. Following this gorgeous display of blooms is the production of ornamental, red to black fruits.



Figure 1. Middle-aged *Evodia danielii*: Korean Evodia
Credit: Ed Gilman

General Information

Scientific name: *Evodia danielii*

Pronunciation: ee-VOE-dee-uh dan-ee-ELL-ee-eye

Common name(s): Korean Evodia, Bebe Tree

Family: *Rutaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 4A through 8A (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Invasive potential: little invasive potential

Uses: highway median; specimen; shade; deck or patio; parking lot island < 100 sq ft; parking lot island 100-200 sq ft; parking lot island > 200 sq ft; tree lawn 3-4 feet wide; tree lawn 4-6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; street without sidewalk

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

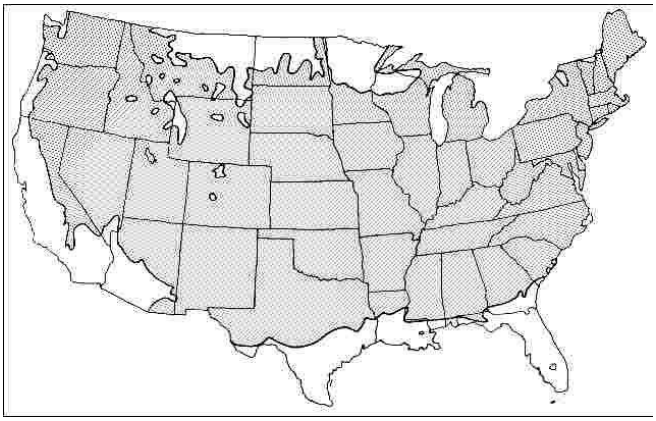


Figure 2. Range

Description

Height: 15 to 25 feet

Spread: 25 to 30 feet

Crown uniformity: irregular

Crown shape: spreading, round

Crown density: moderate

Growth rate: slow

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: odd-pinnately compound

Leaf margin: crenate

Leaf shape: oblong, ovate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: yellow

Fall characteristic: showy

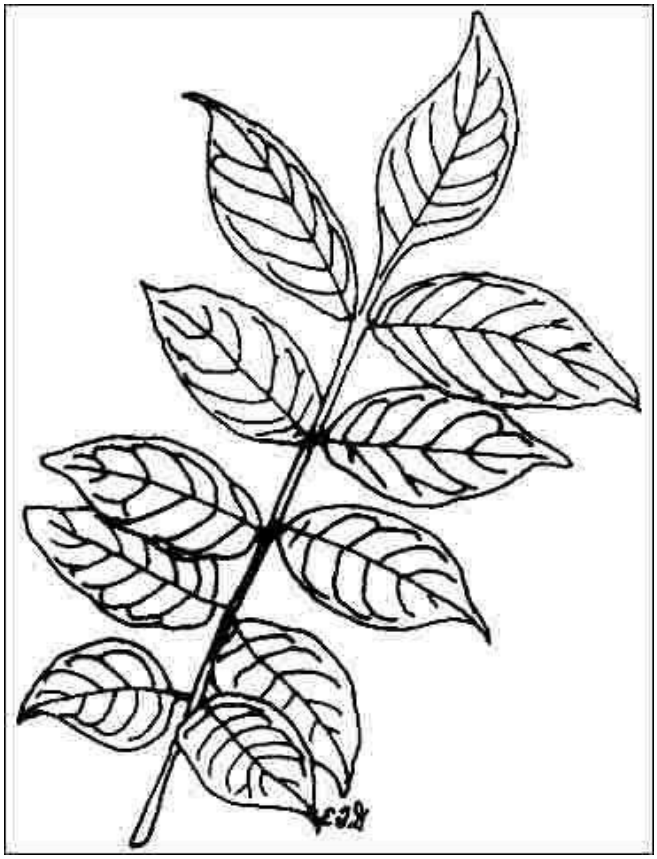


Figure 3. Foliage

Flower

Flower color: white/cream/gray

Flower characteristics: very showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: round

Fruit length: less than .5 inch

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit color: red, black

Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: branches droop; showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns

Pruning requirement: needed for strong structure

Breakage: susceptible to breakage

Current year twig color: brown, gray

Current year twig thickness: medium, thick

Wood specific gravity: unknown

Culture

Light requirement: full sun

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

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate

Other

Roots: not a problem

Winter interest: yes

Outstanding tree: yes

Ozone sensitivity: unknown

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: unknown

Pest resistance: free of serious pests and diseases

Use and Management

Evodia should be grown and used more often as a small tree, its mound-shaped crown providing shade for small areas. Well-suited for patios and other small areas, including residences, Evodia deserves to be tried more as an urban tree. It could be suited for planting close to power and telephone lines since height-increase slows down with age giving way to more horizontal growth. The tree is often seen 25 feet tall spreading 25 to 35 feet with several large-diameter branches dominating the crown. These are covered with smooth grey bark and originate

close to the ground (three to five feet from the ground) on unpruned trees and can form a beautiful multi-trunked effect, if desired. The trees can be pruned to develop a clear trunk which would be suited for planting close to the curb along the street or parking lot.

According to one report, the wood is brittle and subject to storm damage, and the trees may be relatively short-lived, 15 to 40-years. I have found this to be related to embedded bark between major limbs or trunks. Dr. Michael Dirr of the University of Georgia has observed many trees throughout the south which appear to be doing fine. Prune so that main branches remain less than half the diameter of the trunk to perhaps increase longevity by reducing branch breakage.

Korean Evodia should be grown in full sun on moist but well-drained, fertile soil. It tolerates drought once established and will grow nicely in poor soil, including moderately-drained clay. Propagation is by seed or cuttings.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern. Watch where the tree is located since bees are attracted to the flowers in great numbers.

[1] This document is ENH401, one of a series of the UF/IFAS Department of Environmental Horticulture. Original publication date November1993. Revised December 2006. Reviewed February 2014. Visit the Ask IFAS website at https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu for the currently supported version of this publication. © UF/IFAS. This publication is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 *To learn more about creating and maintaining attractive landscapes that protect Florida's water and natural resources, visit ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/.*

[2] Edward F. Gilman, professor emeritus, UF/IFAS Department of Environmental Horticulture; Dennis G. Watson, former associate professor, UF/IFAS Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Gainesville, FL 32611.

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