# Florida Wild Coffee

***Psychotria nervosa***

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 10

Other Names: Seminole Balsamo, Shiny-leaved Wild Coffee



*Florida Wild Coffee foliage*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

**Description:**

An evergreen, shade tolerant shrub featuring ridged, dark green foliage that is very glossy; flower clusters appear year round, except when there is cold or drought; showy berries are edible, but taste bland and have no caffeine; a good landscape specimen



*Florida Wild Coffee*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

**Ornamental Features**

Florida Wild Coffee is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. It features an abundance of magnificent scarlet berries from early winter to late fall. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up. Its attractive glossy narrow leaves remain dark green in color with curious grayish green undersides throughout the year. It features subtle clusters of white flowers at the ends of the branches from early winter to late fall, which emerge from distinctive chartreuse flower buds. The tan stems can be quite attractive.

**Landscape Attributes**

Florida Wild Coffee is a multi-stemmed evergreen perennial with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and can be pruned at anytime. It is a good choice for attracting birds, bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Florida Wild Coffee is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

**Planting & Growing**

Florida Wild Coffee will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. Although it is technically a woody plant, this plant can be expected to behave as a perennial in our climate if planted outdoors over the winter, usually regrowing from its base (crown) the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat. This is a self-pollinating variety, so it doesn't require a second plant nearby to set fruit.



*Florida Wild Coffee flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

This plant does best in partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America.

Florida Wild Coffee is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.