Gumbo Limbo

Today on Gardening in a Minute: the gumbo limbo tree.

Gumbo limbo is a native of south Florida and the tropical offshore islands. The soft, light-weight and easily carved wood of gumbo-limbo was used for making carousel horses before the advent of molded plastics.

Gumbo limbo is a large semi-evergreen tree. It can reach sixty feet in height, but it’s usually seen smaller in landscape plantings.

The trunk and branches are thick and are covered with resinous, smooth, peeling coppery-colored bark with an attractive, shiny, freshly-varnished appearance.

The Gumbo-limbo is often referred to as the Tourist Tree because the tree's bark is red and peeling, like the skin of a sun burnt tourist.

Gumbo-limbo is also considered one of the most wind-tolerant trees and is recommended as a rugged, hurricane-resistant choice in south Florida.

For more information about gumbo limbo, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.