

FGCU Food Forest

Plant Database

Jamaican Caper (*Capparis cyanophallophora*)

Origin: Neotropics; native to coastal regions in south and central Florida.

Description: Jamaican Caper, a Florida native, is a small tree or large shrub that can reach 15 ft. tall and 12 ft. wide at maturity. Jamaican Caper has beautiful showy flowers

Uses: Hedges; privacy fence, pollinator attractant, native landscaping, understory specimen. Not edible.

Harvest: Spring to Summer in Florida.

Flower: Showy white to pink inflorescence emerging in early Spring in Florida.

Tolerance: Moderately salt tolerant; cold hardy down to 28°F; extremely drought tolerant; extremely wind resistant. Prefers well-drained soils and partial shade/sun.



General Description: Jamaican Caper (*Capparis cyanophallophora*) is a large shrub or small tree native to coastal regions in south and central Florida and throughout the neotropics. Reaching 15 ft. tall and 12 ft. wide at full maturity, Jamaican Caper is a very hardy, long-lived perennial, and features beautiful showy inflorescences.

- **Native Origin:** Neotropics; native to coastal regions in south and central Florida.
- **General History:** Jamaican Caper is native to coastal regions in south and central Florida and can be found throughout the neotropics. Although it is closely related to the popular and well-known *Capparis spinosa* (which features edible capers), Jamaican Caper does not feature edible capers and has only been cultivated for native landscaping purposes, pollinator attractants, and as hedges in highway medians and on private property. Jamaica Caper is a larval host for the Florida White butterfly (*Appias drusilla*).

- **Distribution:** Neotropics; native to coastal regions in south and central Florida. Jamaican Caper's native range also includes the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.
- **Season of Harvest:** Spring to summer.
- **Culinary Uses:** N/A; Jamaican Caper (*C. cyanophallophora*) is not edible like its close relative, the Caper Bush (*Capparis spinosa*), which is native to most circum-Mediterranean areas.

Jamaican Caper Scientific Classification	
Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Rosids
Order:	Brassicales
Family:	Capparaceae
Genus:	<i>Capparis</i>
Species:	<i>C. cyanophallophora</i>

Sources

<http://www.fnps.org/plants/plant/capparis-cynophallophora>

Wunderlin, Richard P. (1998). *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida. p. 318.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fp104>

<http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxon.pl?8889>

<http://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=CACY>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capparis_cynophallophora

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caper>

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