



## *Evodia danielii* Korean Evodia<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson<sup>2</sup>

### 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 (Fig. 1). 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.

### 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:** 4 through 8A (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; near a deck or patio; shade tree; specimen; residential street tree; no proven urban tolerance

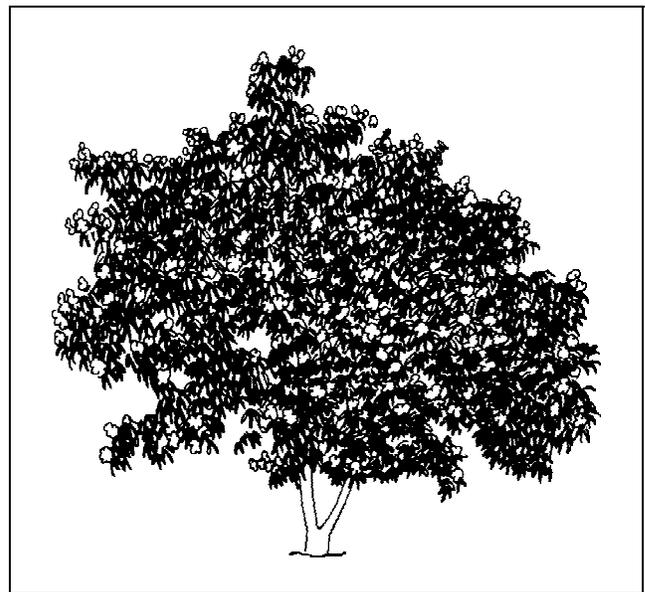


Figure 1. Middle-aged Korean Evodia.

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

### DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 15 to 25 feet

**Spread:** 25 to 30 feet

**Crown uniformity:** irregular outline or silhouette

**Crown shape:** round; spreading

**Crown density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** medium

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2. Edward F. Gilman, associate professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611.



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** odd pinnately compound

**Leaflet margin:** crenate

**Leaflet shape:** oblong; ovate

**Leaflet venation:** pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaflet blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** yellow

**Fall characteristic:** showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** white

**Flower characteristics:** pleasant fragrance; summer flowering; very showy

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** round

**Fruit length:** < .5 inch

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** black; red

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; no significant litter problem; persistent on the tree; showy

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; showy trunk; tree wants to grow with several trunks but can be trained to grow with a single trunk; no thorns  
**Pruning requirement:** requires pruning to develop strong structure

**Breakage:** susceptible to breakage either at the crotch due to poor collar formation, or the wood itself is weak and tends to break

**Current year twig color:** brown; gray

**Current year twig thickness:** medium; thick

### Culture

**Light requirement:** tree grows in full sun

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

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

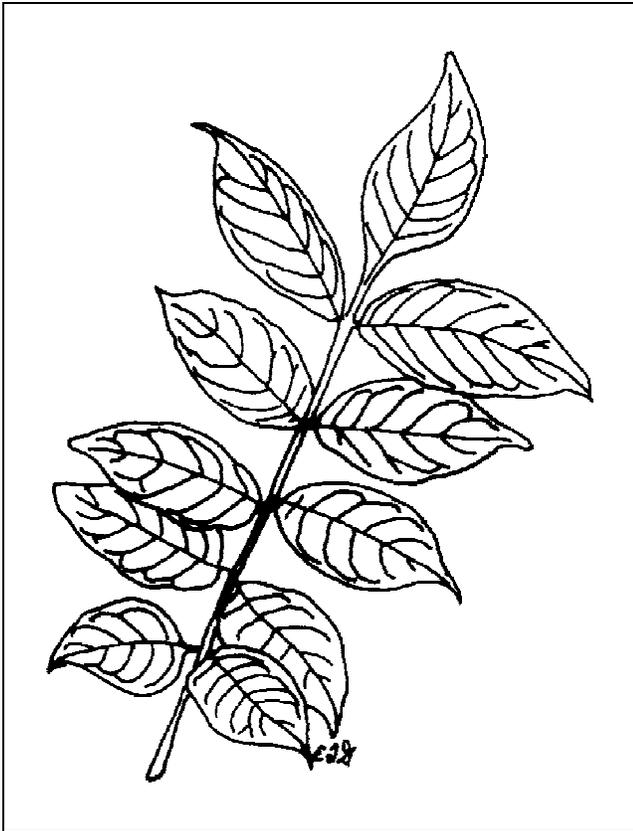


Figure 3. Foliage of Korean Evodia.

**Soil salt tolerance:** poor

#### Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time

**Pest resistance:** no pests are normally seen on the tree

### 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.