Fraxinus oxycarpa ‘Raywood’
Raywood Ash

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson

INTRODUCTION

This Ash is a fine-textured, deciduous tree which is capable of reaching more than 80 feet in height but will more commonly be 40 to 50 feet tall with a 25 foot spread in a landscape, opening into a full, rounded canopy with age (Fig. 1). Young trees are somewhat upright or oval. The lustrous, dark green leaflets create a light shade beneath the tree, making it well-suited for use as a large lawn specimen or shade tree. The leaves turn various shades of red to purple before falling in autumn.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: Fraxinus oxycarpa ‘Raywood’
Pronunciation: FRACK-sih-nus ock-sih-KAR-puh
Common name(s): Raywood Ash, Claret Ash
Family: Oleaceae
USDA hardiness zones: 5 through 8 (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; shade tree; specimen; residential street tree; no proven urban tolerance
Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

DESCRIPTION

Height: 40 to 50 feet
Spread: 25 to 30 feet
Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms
Crown shape: oval; upright
Crown density: moderate
Growth rate: fast
Texture: medium

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-265, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: November 1993.
2. Edward F. Gilman, 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  
**Leaf type:** odd pinnately compound  
**Leaflet margin:** serrate  
**Leaflet shape:** elliptic (oval); lanceolate  
**Leaflet venation:** pinnate  
**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous  
**Leaflet blade length:** 2 to 4 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** purple; red  
**Fall characteristic:** showy

### Flower

**Flower characteristics:** inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

### Fruit

There is no fruit on this tree.

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** grow mostly upright and will not droop; not particularly showy; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns  
**Pruning requirement:** requires pruning to develop strong structure  
**Breakage:** resistant  
**Current year twig color:** brown; gray  
**Current year twig thickness:** thick

### Culture

**Light requirement:** tree grows in full sun  
**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline; acidic; occasionally wet; well-drained  
**Drought tolerance:** high

### Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem  
**Winter interest:** no special winter interest  
**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more  
**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time  
**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** susceptible
**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

**USE AND MANAGEMENT**

Reportedly maintains a central leader in youth but only after competing upright stems and branches have been removed. Be sure to space main lateral branches along the trunk and keep internal secondary branches intact to develop good branch structure. This allows each main limb to develop more fully and could increase durability by increasing taper along main branches. Do not allow major scaffold limbs to grow opposite each other on the trunk as this leads to poor structure and eventually could form a weak tree.

It should be grown in full sun and is moderately drought-tolerant once established. Although trees can tolerate wet sites, they will perform much better in well-drained conditions. Surface roots can be a problem on wet sites and on clay soil but they otherwise grow in a range of soil from sand to clay.

The cultivar ‘Raywood’ has exceptionally striking red fall foliage and produces no seeds; it is often known as the ‘Claret Ash’. ‘Flame’ turns deep burgundy in the fall similar to burgundy Sweetgum.

**Pests and Diseases**

No pests or diseases are of major concern, although possibly borers. This tree is reportedly resistant to anthracnose foliage disease and Ash lygusbug which attacks other Ashes.