Podocarpus nagi
Nagi Podocarpus

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INTRODUCTION

This upright, dense evergreen has pointed, leathery, dark green leaves arranged on stiff, symmetrical branches and works very well as a screen, hedge, strong accent plant, or framing tree (Fig. 1). The crown forms a somewhat pyramidal to oval outline. Able to reach 90 feet in height, Nagi Podocarpus is usually seen at 30 to 40 feet in height due to the moderately-slow growth rate. Compact branching habit and very dark green foliage make this a dense tree in full sun, more open but surprisingly dense in shade.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: Podocarpus nagi
Pronunciation: poe-doe-KAR-pus NAY-jye
Common name(s): Nagi Podocarpus, Broadleaf Podocarpus
Family: Podocarpaceae
USDA hardiness zones: 9 through 11 (Fig. 2)
Origin: not native to North America
Uses: hedge; suitable for growing indoors; 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; screen; shade tree; specimen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); residential street tree; tree has been successfully grown in urban areas where air pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil, and/or drought are common
Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

Figure 1. Middle-aged Nagi Podocarpus.

DESCRIPTION

Height: 30 to 50 feet
Spread: 15 to 25 feet
Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms
Crown shape: oval; pyramidal; upright
Crown density: dense
Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Growth rate:** medium  
**Texture:** medium

**Foliage**
- **Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)  
- **Leaf type:** simple  
- **Leaf margin:** entire  
- **Leaf shape:** elliptic (oval); ovate  
- **Leaf venation:** parallel  
- **Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen  
- **Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches; less than 2 inches  
- **Leaf color:** green  
- **Fall color:** no fall color change  
- **Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**
- **Flower color:** yellow  
- **Flower characteristics:** inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

**Fruit**
- **Fruit shape:** round  
- **Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch  
- **Fruit covering:** fleshy  
- **Fruit color:** purple  
- **Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; inconspicuous and not showy; no significant litter problem

**Trunk and Branches**
- **Trunk/bark/branches:** droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; not particularly showy; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns  
- **Pruning requirement:** needs little pruning to develop a strong structure  
- **Breakage:** resistant  
- **Current year twig color:** green  
- **Current year twig thickness:** medium
Figure 3. Foliage of Nagi Podocarpus.

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in the shade; tree grows in full sun
Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic; alkaline; well-drained
Drought tolerance: high
Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerance: moderate

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding tree: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Growing well in full sun, partial or deep shade, Nagi Podocarpus tolerates a wide range of well-drained soils. In Florida, established trees grow well with no irrigation. Plants will show nutrient deficiencies on alkaline soils. The typical symptom is a wide yellow band or stripe across the leaves, usually attributed to magnesium deficiency. This is a tough tree, adaptable to urban conditions. It should be used more in areas with poor soils and restricted rooting space. With some pruning to create a more open canopy with well spaced ascending branches along the trunk, Nagi Podocarpus could make a good street tree. Eliminate branches with narrow angles of attachment in favor of those with a wider angle.

Propagation is by seeds or cuttings.

Pests

Scale and sooty mold can be found on Nagi podocarpus but this is usually not serious.

Diseases

It is susceptible to root rot on soils with poor drainage.