



## *Geijera parviflora* Australian-Willow<sup>1</sup>

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

### INTRODUCTION

Australian-Willow is an attractive evergreen, 30 to 35 feet tall and 20 feet wide, with an upright, oval silhouette (Fig. 1). The main inner branches are composed of strong, wind-resistant wood and are directed upward, while the outer smaller branches are somewhat pendulous. This gives a decided weeping habit to older trees. Younger trees are more oval-shaped. This characteristic, combined with the thin, narrow, three to six-inch-long, olive green leaves which droop from the branches, gives the tree much the same effect as a Weeping Willow. Short panicles of small, creamy white, showy flowers appear in early spring and early fall.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *Geijera parviflora*

**Pronunciation:** gay-JEER-uh par-vih-FLOR-uh

**Common name(s):** Australian-Willow

**Family:** Rutaceae

**USDA hardiness zones:** 9 through 11 (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); near a deck or patio; screen; shade tree; specimen; residential street tree; no proven urban tolerance

**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

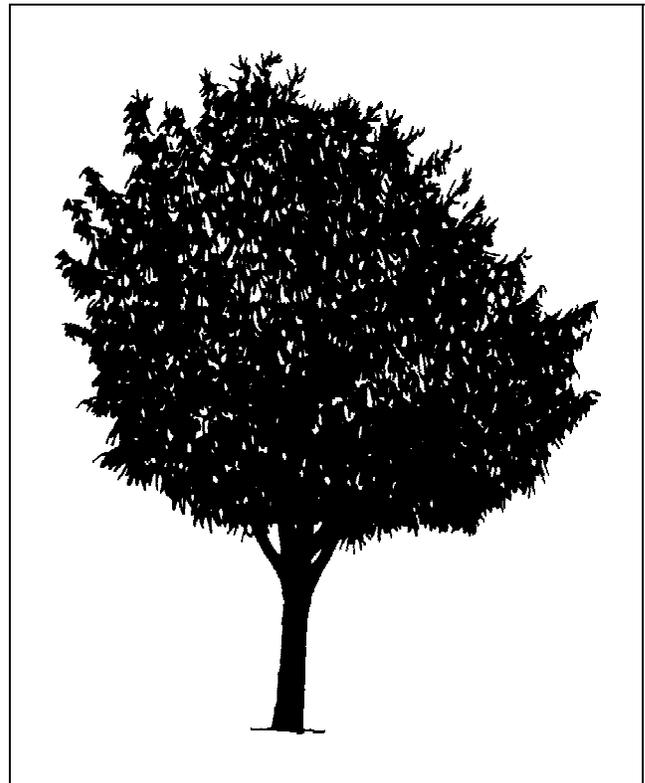


Figure 1. Middle-aged Australian-Willow.

### DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 30 to 35 feet

**Spread:** 20 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; round; weeping

**Crown density:** dense

**Growth rate:** fast

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-272, 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, 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.

**Texture:** fine

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** lanceolate; linear

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

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

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** white

**Flower characteristics:** fall flowering; showy; spring flowering

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** irregular; round

**Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**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:** requires pruning to develop strong structure

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** green

**Current year twig thickness:** thin

### Culture

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

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

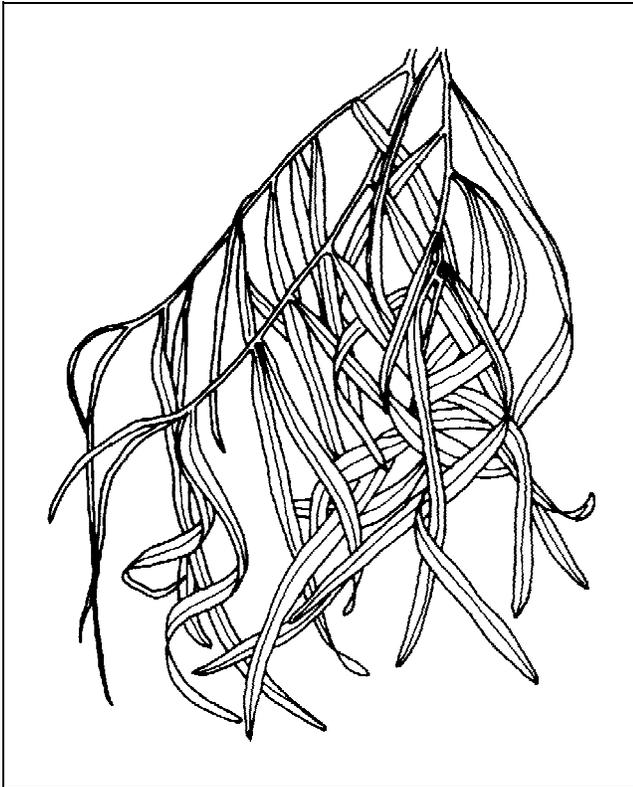


Figure 3. Foliage of Australian-Willow.

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

### 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

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

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

Australian-Willow casts a light shade and is ideal for use around a patio or as a lawn specimen, but may be too weeping for use as a street tree unless it is properly trained when it is young. If the lowest main limbs are located high enough above the ground and are oriented in an upright-spreading fashion, then there will be clearance even for large trunks. Only small branches may have to be removed later as they droop from the main limbs toward the ground. Otherwise the tree has very good cultural adaptability to urban spaces.

Australian-Willow will give best growth in full sun on moist but well-drained soil although plants can tolerate light shade and very dry conditions. Trees grown in the open very rarely require any pruning if located where the drooping branches will not interfere with traffic below. A popular tree for the dry southwest, not really known or planted in the East.

Propagation is by seed.

### Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern. Root rot may be a problem on sites without excellent drainage.