

April Bloomer: Dinner Plate Tree



Pine Island, early-April

Dinner Plate Tree (*Pteropermum acerifolium*)

Origin: Indian Subcontinent; Indo-China

Growth Rate: Fast

Zone: 8a—12 (Minimum 20°F)

Light Requirements: High

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Salt Tolerance: Medium

Soil Requirements: Wide

Nutritional Requirements: Medium

Plant Type: Evergreen tree

Flower Color: White

Flowering Season: Heavily in late March and April and perhaps sparingly December—March

Propagation: Cuttings

Common Uses: Shade, flowering tree

Human Hazards: None

Major Problems: None



Fort Myers, early-April



Top Left: Dark colored emerging flower buds.

Top right: Color of fully expanded flower bud fades to a light brown.

Bottom: Newly formed leaves in April

Flowering episodes of *P. acerifolium* come and go in short spates during its blooming months. The flower is short lived, opening in low light and usually fading by mid-afternoon of the next day. The flower is mildly fragrant. It takes the sum of a strong flower display to register a noticeable scent. As it flowers, new brown velvety leaves simultaneously unfold. A rusty tomentose sepal encloses the flower bud. When opened, its five petals are sparkling white. The fallen flowers create a mess. This tree will be extremely difficult to locate. The three trees known to me are in older neighborhoods suggesting this tree was more prominent in years past. It is not known to produce fruits in Florida and thus no seeds are available for propagation.

February Bloomers: *Flame Vine (Pyrostegia venusta)*; *Walter's Viburnum (Viburnum obovatum)*