



Camphor Tree *Cinnamomum camphora*

02-04



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zone 8, 9, 12-24, H1, H2	Full sun or light shade	Prefers fertile sandy soil	Little to regular water	Fragrant yellow flowers bloom profusely in late spring	Grows slowly to 50 feet high

The camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*), also known as camphor laurel, is an exotic that has been widely cultivated for more than a century as a shade and ornamental tree in Florida and elsewhere. This is the aromatic tree from which camphor was derived (used in medicines and mothballs), until camphor oil began to be made artificially in the 1920s. The camphor quickly grows into a good-looking shade tree which is frequented by berry-eating birds. Camphor laurel is native to China and Japan where it has been commercially used for its timber and essential oils for hundreds of years. Recently, land managers have come to realize that, outside China and Japan, camphor trees grow like weeds, infesting forests and displacing native trees. This is because camphor trees are prolific seed producers that do not have serious predators or diseases outside their native range.