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## Welcome to the Upper Keys of Florida

... We're glad to know you are interested in this glorious part of the "Flower and Sunshine State."

We don't have too many problems in this area of quiet comfort ... however there is one, and we think you can help us toward a solution.

We are concerned because some of the beauty of this area is being demolished ... when land is cleared (as it must be for the new homes and business places) many of the fine and distinctive trees are destroyed ... sometimes because there is a desire to have a completely cleared area ... and sometimes because the owners are not familiar with the actual value they are sacrificing.

That's where we offer our assistance.

You know we have approximately 300 trees indigenous to Florida ... about 100 of them are right here on our Upper Keys. Some are becoming very rare. We hope you agree with us that every effort should be made to save them. Some have grown for many years and cannot be replaced without large expenditures of money and time ... if at all.

We ask that you give thought to **selective clearing**.

First, know the names of some of our trees. We will be happy to consult with you and, if you wish, place a marker on the trees that should be retained. Second, instruct the men who clear your property to respect those signs ... insist upon protecting this valuable native beauty.

Then, you won't say, as many have said in the past, "Now what shall I plant here?" The answer is, "the same lovely trees you have just paid money to have removed."

Here are some trees you may expect to find: GUMBO-LIMBO (*Bursera Simaruba*) Very common; reddish brown, ragged bark that peels; flowers in winter & spring; red fruit in summer that splits in 3 parts. (May be mistaken for Poisonwood which should be removed—but carefully.)

BUTTONWOOD; BUTTON-MANGROVE (*Conocarpus Erectus*) Shore tree & shore builder; numerous roots; dark brown bark with furrows; marked with thin flakes; leaves covered with silky down; flowers all year; cone-like fruit.

MAHOGANY; WEST INDIES MAHOGANY (*Swietenia Mahogoni*) reddish-brown bark; conspicuous fruit splits from base; valuable for shade; rapid growth; copious evergreen foliage; many of large trees have been cut for lumber, but small trees are numerous.

IRONWOOD; LEADWOOD (*Krugiodendron Ferreum*) usually crowded with other vegetation; red-brown wood that resembles the myrtaceous trees; unique as heaviest wood in U. S.

WILD TAMARIND (*Lysiloma bahamensis*) — Limited to Florida Keys, especially Upper Keys; bunches of large, brown pods; small flowers; delicate pinnate leaves.

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CRABWOOD; OYSTERWOOD (*Gymnanthes lucida*) veined, leathery leaves; flowers; milky sap; close-grained wood variegated in shades of yellow and brown will take high polish.

PALMS (*Palmae*) numerous types such as *Sabal*, *Thrinax*, etc. truly characteristic of this area.

SAPODILLAS (*Sapotaceae*) beautiful shape; evergreen, wind resistant; spicy fruit. One type is prized for dark green foliage on top and rich satiny brown on back.

TAMARIND (*Tamarindus indica*) enormous domed top, feathery foliage; yellow & red flowers. On Upper Keys are used for jellies and drinks.

KEY LIME (*Citrus aurantifolia*) bright green leaves, fragrant white flowers; delicious small round fruit. Source of famous Key Lime pies.

SPANISH LIME (*Melicocca bijuga*) rare on mainland; white flowers; fruit in grape-like clusters.

CHINABERRY; PRIDE OF INDIA; PERSIAN LILAC (*Melia azedarach*) lavender flowers with lilac fragrance; dense symmetrical umbrella top.

WILD DILLY (*Mimusops emarginata*) thick, leathery leaves clustered at ends of twigs; fleshy rusty-brown fruit with milky juice and one seed.

MARLBERRY (*Icacorea paniculata*) flowers in large clusters, white & purple with yellow stamens; fragrant, shiny black fruit.

GEIGER (*Cordia sebestena*) lovely umbrella-like tree with bright orange flowers and dark green foliage. Valuable ornamental.

GOLDEN FIG; FLORIDA STRANGLER FIG (*Ficus aurea*) seedlings develop on other trees and when roots reach earth host is dead and fig self-supporting; green oblong leaves; red fruit.

AUSTRALIAN PINE (*Casuarina*) introduced from Asia. Not a true pine, but very hard wood; wind and salt resistant; excellent wind-break. Makes a large tree, or may be trimmed to hedges or bushes.

PARADISE TREE (*Simarouba glauca*) found wild in hammocks; beautiful tree, clusters of yellow bloom in winter, followed by purple and yellow sprays of seeds. Should be saved from extinction.

WILD CINNAMON (*Canella Winterana*) limited to subtropical part of state; striking contrast of pale bark & dark green foliage; dark crimson fruit in spring.

PIGEON PLUM; DOVE PLUM (*Coccolobis Laurifolia*) related to the seagrape; dark red fruit; papery collars around twigs above each joint; rounded crowns; dark green leaves; an important element of natural vegetation.

STOPPERS (*Myrtaceae*) Several varieties; trunk has mottled appearance; persistent glossy leaves & fragrant flowers; fruit attractive to birds.

SEVEN YEAR APPLE (*Casasia clusiaefolia*) small tree to 12 ft. Salt resistant; white star-shaped flowers; fruit green to dark purple when ripe; edible, but tasteless, size 1" like small apple; plant decorative.

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