

GUMBO LIMBO

Bursera simaruba

- A native tree to both the east and west coasts of Florida.
- It is very tolerant of saltwater, high winds, and drought.
- The bark is thin, reddish-brown, and peeling. The tree is commonly called “The Tourist Tree” because its bark resembles the peeling skin of some tourists.
- A smooth, dark green or greenish-brown bark is present under the peeling bark. Its bark can continue photosynthesis after all of the leaves are blown off in a hurricane.
- The sap which smells like turpentine was used for glue and varnish.
- The lightweight wood was used to carve carousel horses.
- Medicinal uses: Bark or leaf teas were used to treat colds, arthritis, tumors, and skin rashes.

