

WILD CINNAMON

Canella winterana (L.) Gaertn.

Synonyms: *Canella winteriana* (L.) Gaertn.

Family: Canellaceae (canella)

FNAI Ranks: G5?/S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



No Image
Available

Field Description: This is an attractive, slow-growing hardwood that reaches 30 feet if allowed to fully mature. Trees have a straight trunk and gray bark. The smooth, leathery, rich green, aromatic (when crushed), obovate to oblanceolate, persistent leaves are 2 to 5 inches long and 1/3 as wide. These have entire margins, rounded or notched tips, and short grooved petioles. Flowers are bright red, 5-petaled, 1/8 inch long, and occur in tight clusters at the branch tips, often with many flowers, but with only a few blossoms opening at any one time, and with the buds having a green/white to purple appearance. The red, 1/2 inch fruit is round and fleshy, with 2 to 4 black, shiny 1/4 inch seeds.

Similar Species: None in FL.

Related Rare Species: None in FL.

Habitat: Tropical hammocks of extreme South Florida and Keys.

wild cinnamon

Canella winterana

Best Survey Season: All year; can be distinguished by its leaves year round

Range-wide Distribution: Native to South Florida, the West Indies, and parts of Central America.

Conservation Status: Listed state-endangered, this species is restricted to the coral cay archipelago located off the southern coast of Florida, many of which are on conservation lands.

Protection and Management: Protect all remaining tropical hammocks from disturbance, clearing and development. Enforce plant protection laws and prosecute plant poachers. Eradicate exotic plant species from preserves.

References: Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Weiner 1979, Little 1979, Long and Lakela 1971.