

Carissa grandiflora

(Natal-Plum, Common Carissa)

Carissa is a subtropical shrub with vigorous spreading growth. The branches armed with double-probed thorns. The leaves are evergreen glossy, leathery. Flower appears all year around but the high peak is from May-September. The flowers are white, fragrant. The drupes (fruits) are dark purple reaching about 2-3 cm and delicious. The plant can be used for massive barrier hedge, in mass planting or as a border. Mainly the dwarf varieties are used in landscape. It prefers full sun but can grow even in shade, any soil type but cannot survive water logging. Can tolerate aerial and soil salt.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Prunier du Natal
Pronunciation: kuh-RISS-uh gran-dif-FLOR-uh
Plant Type: Shrub
Origin: Natal, South Africa
Heat Zones: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
Hardiness Zones: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
Uses: Screen, Hedge, Bonsai, Espalier, Mass Planting, Container, Edible, Wildlife, Pollution Tolerant / Urban, Intensive Green Roof
Size/Shape
Growth Rate: Moderate
Tree Shape: Spreading
Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical
Canopy Density: Dense
Canopy Texture: Medium
Height at Maturity: 1 to 1.5 m
Spread at Maturity: 1 to 1.5 meters
Time to Ultimate Height: 2 to 5 Years

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Opposite

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm

Leaf Shape: Ovate

Leaf Margins: Terminal Spine

Leaf Textures: Waxy

Leaf Scent: Unpleasant

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 3 - 7

Flower Type: Solitary

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: Pleasant

Flower Color: White

Seasons: Spring, Summer

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Trunk Esthetic Values: Spines

Fruit

Fruit Type: Drupe

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: 1.5 - 3

Fruit Colors: Purple

Seasons: Spring, Summer

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Leaf Image

© Photo by Sarah Meouche

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Moderate

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Moderate, Low

Light Requirements: Part

Management

Toxity: No

Invasive Potential: No

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Pruning Requirement: Little needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: Less than 25

Edible Parts: Fruit

Pests: Mites, Thrips, Whitefly

Plant Propagations: Seed, Cutting

MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image