# **Erythrina caffra**

# (Coral tree)

Erythrina caffra is a medium-sized to large deciduous tree. It forms a round-headed, spreading canopy and has a beautifully light green appearance when in leaf are new. After it drops the leaves the dark red flowers appear. Bark showing thorns. Erythrina caffra should be planted in sunny places in well-drained soil. It can tolerate quite moist soils as it often grows on the banks of rivers and streams. The trees will also put up with dry conditions and poor soils; however, they do not respond well to excessively cold conditions.

## Landscape Information

Pronounciation: air-rith-RYE-nuh KAFF-ree	)
Plant Type: Tree	
Origin: Africa	
Heat Zones:	
Hardiness Zones: 10, 11	
Uses: Specimen, Shade	
Size/Shape	

Growth Rate: Fast Tree Shape: Round, Spreading Canopy Symmetry: Irregular Canopy Density: Dense Canopy Texture: Medium Height at Maturity: 8 to 15 m Spread at Maturity: 8 to 10 meters Time to Ultimate Height: 10 to 20 Years



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Flower Image

#### **Botanical Description**

#### Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate Leaf Venation: Pinnate Leaf Persistance: Deciduous Leaf Type: Trifoliate Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm Leaf Shape: Ovate Leaf Margins: Entire Leaf Textures: Medium Leaf Scent: No Fragance Color(growing season): Green Color(changing season): Brown

### Flower

Flower Showiness: True Flower Size Range: 7 - 10 Flower Type: Solitary Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual) Flower Scent: No Fragance Flower Color: Red Seasons: Winter

## Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked Trunk Esthetic Values: Showy, Rough Texture Fruit Fruit Type: Legume Fruit Showiness: False Fruit Size Range: 3 - 7

Fruit Colors: Brown

Seasons: Winter

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Leaf Image

#### 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: Low Light Requirements: Full

#### Management

Pruning Requirement: Needed, to develop a strong structure Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No Surface Rooting: Yes Life Span: 25-50 years Edible Parts: None Plant Propagations: Seed, Cutting

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Bark Image