

Carissa macrocarpa

(Carissa, Natal Plum)

Natal plum is an evergreen shrub, that tolerates drought and salt, that's why it can be considered as a good option for coastal areas. It has a green foliage, the leaves are thick and glossy, and the plant has Y-shaped spines on the branches. The plant has also nice white flowers that have a nice fragrance especially at night. other than its flower, natal plum has also a showy fruit, pinkish-red color, which is edible. The plant needs full sun, although it can tolerate partial shade, but this will cause some problems in growing the fruits and flowers. To be planted in well drained, sandy, neutral soil for best results.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Carisse à grands fruits

Arabic Name: كاريسا

Pronunciation: kar-ISS-uh ma-kro-KAR-pa

Plant Type: Shrub

Origin: Southern Africa

Heat Zones: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

Hardiness Zones: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

Uses: Hedge, Topiary, Bonsai, Espalier, Border Plant, Container, Ground cover

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Slow

Tree Shape:

Height at Maturity: 1 to 1.5 m, 1.5 to 3 m

Spread at Maturity: 0.5 to 1 meter, 1 to 1.5 meters, 1.5 to 3 meters

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Opposite

Leaf Venation: Nearly Invisible

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm

Leaf Shape: Ovate

Leaf Margins: Terminal Spine

Leaf Textures: Leathery, Glossy, Medium

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 0 - 1.5

Flower Type: Cyme

Flower Scent: Pleasant

Flower Color: White

Seasons: Summer, Fall

Trunk

Trunk Esthetic Values: Smooth, Spines

Fruit

Fruit Type: Berry

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: 1.5 - 3

Fruit Colors: Red, Purple

Seasons: Summer, Fall

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Good

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral

Water Requirements: Moderate

Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

Toxity: No

Invasive Potential: No

Pruning Requirement: Little needed, to develop a strong structure

Edible Parts: Fruit

Plant Propagations: Cutting

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Fruit Image



Bark Image



Other Image