

Carissa macrocarpa



GARDENS
a green gift for everyone



Genus: Carissa
Family: Apocynaceae
Order: Gentianales
Class: Magnoliopsida
Phylum: Angiosperms

Key Facts:

Toxicity: Mildly toxic. Its leaves, stems, and unripe fruit can cause nausea or vomiting if ingested.

Invasiveness: Not typically invasive.

Plant Type: Evergreen shrub or small tree.

Lifespan: Perennial.

Characteristics:

Plant Height: Typically grows up to 6 to 10 feet tall, but can vary depending on growing conditions.

Spread: Can spread up to 6 to 10 feet.

Leaf Color: Glossy dark green.

Bloom Time: Spring to summer.

Flower Size: Small to medium-sized.

Flower Color: White, star-shaped flowers that are often fragrant.

Distribution:

Origin: Native to southern Africa, particularly South Africa.

Habitat: Found in a variety of habitats, including coastal areas, scrublands, and sandy soils.

Care:

Difficulty: Generally easy.

Toughness: Resilient and drought-tolerant once established.

Maintenance: Low to moderate.

Watering: Water regularly when young to establish roots, then reduce watering once established. Drought-tolerant but benefits from occasional deep watering during dry spells.

Pruning: Prune to shape and control growth as needed after flowering.

Propagation: Can be propagated from seeds, cuttings, or air layering.

Repotting: Not typically grown in containers, but can be repotted if desired using well-draining soil.

Conditions:

Temperature: Prefers warm temperatures between 18°C to 29°C.

Can tolerate temperatures down to -4°C for short periods.

Hardiness Zone: USDA hardiness zones 9-11.

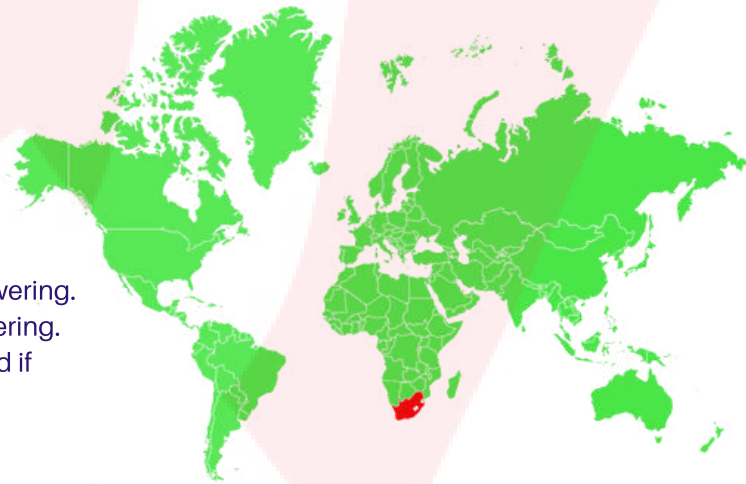
Sun Requirements: Prefers full sun to partial shade.

Soil Type: Well-draining soil with good organic matter. Tolerates a wide range of soil types.

Use: Ornamental plant for hedges, borders, security barriers, ground cover and container planting.

Location: Thrives in full sun to partial shade with well-drained, sandy or loamy soil.

Pests and Diseases: Generally resistant to pests and diseases, but may be occasionally affected by aphids, scale insects, or powdery mildew. Regular inspection and proper care can help prevent problems.



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