

**Plant**

ID 560  
 Botanic Name *Carissa macrocarpa*  
 Common Name Natal Plum  
 Family Apocynaceae  
 Cultivars 'Fancy', 'Tuttie', 'Horizontalis', 'Emerald Green'  
 Origin South Africa, Zone 9-11  
 Growth Type Shrub  
 Foliage Type Evergreen  
 Bark Type Woody  
 No. of Species 20  
 Growth Habit Bun-shape Growth Rate Fast  
 Height 2 - 3 m ( 7 - 10 ft ) \_ Spread 3 m ( 10 ft )



**Plant Overview**

This shrub forms a dense rounded habit with many branches. The rounded rich green leaves have sharp spines among them and the white fragrant flowers bloom during late spring. It may be used in fragrant gardens or as a hedge.

**Leaf**

Type Simple  
 Shape Ovate  
 Arrangement Opposite  
 Margin Entire  
 Colour Dark green  
 Size 60 - 70 mm ( 2.4 - 2.8 in )

**Additional Information**

The leaves have an acute apex and a short petiole.

**Flower**

Seasons Valid for Southern Hemisphere

Perfume Fragrant  
 Shape Rotate  
 Inflorescence Cyme  
 Colour White  
 Size 40 - 50 mm ( 1.6 - 2 in )

Flowering In

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**Additional Information**

The flower shape is rotate to stellate and is waxy-white colour.

**Fruit**

Seasons Valid for Southern Hemisphere

Type Pome  
 Colour Red  
 Edible Yes  
 Bird attractive  
 Size 40 - 50 mm ( 1.6 - 2 in )

Fructing In

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**Additional Information**

The flesh of the ovoid fruit is edible but the seed is poisonous.

**Environment & Cultivation**

Natural Soil Well drained moderately fertile loams, tolerates poorer soil types  
 Container Pots, tubs, planter boxes, roof gardens  
 Climate Warm to sub-tropical  
 Aspect Full sun, tolerates part shade, frost tender, drought tolerant  
 Pests & Diseases No major pest or disease problem  
 Fertiliser Mulch and keep moist during summer  
 Pruning Tolerates a light prune after flowering as a hedge

**Cultural Uses**

This attractive hardy plant is used in shrub borders or fragrant gardens, pruned as a hedge and grown in a container. It is fast growing and will establish in 2 to 3 years from a pot.

**Propagation**

Sow fresh seeds during spring.  
 Cuttings taken during summer.

## Hydrangea macrophylla

PlantFile Report

Copyright © 2000 - 2008 Peter Kirkland - www.plantfile.com

Plant Profile

### Plant

ID 90  
Botanic Name *Hydrangea macrophylla*  
Common Name Hydrangea  
Family Hydrangeaceae  
Cultivars Lacecap and Hortensia Cultivars  
Origin Korea, Japan, China, 1740-1843, Zone 6-10  
Growth Type Shrub  
Foliage Type Deciduous  
Bark Type Woody  
No. of Species 6  
Growth Habit Low Bun Shape                      Growth Rate Fast  
Height 1 - 2 m ( 3 - 7 ft )                      Spread 2.5 m ( 8 ft )



#### Plant Overview

This shrub forms a bun shape with many stems. The flowers are domed or with flattish heads in red to blue colour and the moccasin types are the normally seen plants. The leaves are dark green and it is an excellent border plant in a shady spot.

### Leaf

Type Simple  
Shape Ovate  
Arrangement Opposite  
Margin Serrate  
Colour Dark green  
Size 100 - 200 mm ( 3.9 - 7.9 in )

#### Additional Information

The leaves are broad ovate to oval with a coarsely serrated margin and are arranged oppositely to decussate. The underside is dull green and slightly pubescent. The apex is acuminate and the petiole is up to 35mm (1 3/4 in) long.

### Flower

Seasons Valid for Southern Hemisphere

Perfume None  
Shape Rotate  
Inflorescence Corymb  
Colour Blue - red - pink - white  
Size 15 - 55 mm ( 0.6 - 2.2 in )

Flowering In 

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

#### Additional Information

Two types:  
Hortensia; large rounded flower heads, 4 petal like sepals.  
Lacecap; large flat flower heads, pink flowers in alkaline soil, blue flowers in acid soil.

### Fruit

Seasons Valid for Southern Hemisphere

Type Capsule  
Colour Brown  
Edible  
Bird attractive  
Size 6 - 10 mm ( 0.2 - 0.4 in )

Fruiting In 

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

#### Additional Information

Flowers are mostly sterile and the fruit is not commonly seen. The plant is commonly reproduced vegetatively to maintain true to type.

### Environment & Cultivation

Natural Soil Well drained, moist rich loams with ample organic material, pH adaptable  
Container Pots, tubs, planter boxes  
Climate Cool temperate  
Aspect Semi shade (morning sun), wind protection, frost tolerant, drought tender  
Pests & Diseases Capsid bugs, aphids, spider mite, mildew, leaf spot, rust, mold, sunscald  
Fertiliser Complete fertiliser when young, mulch and keep moist during summer  
Pruning Prune during winter after frosts, remove old canes from base, pinch out to bushy up

#### Cultural Uses

This attractive popular shrub is used in border planting or as a container plant, cut flowers, mixed shrub borders, understory planting and for summer colour. It grows well with afternoon shade and establishes in 2 to 3 years from a pot. It is suitable for coastal planting tolerating salt spray.

#### Propagation

Soft tip during late spring.  
Hardwood cuttings during late winter.

## Doryanthes excelsa

PlantFile Report

Copyright © 2000 - 2008 Peter Kirkland - www.plantfile.com

Plant Profile

### Plant

ID	81		
Botanic Name	<i>Doryanthes excelsa</i>		
Common Name	Gynea Lily		
Family	Agavaceae		
Cultivars			
Origin	Australia, East Coast, Zone 9-11		
Growth Type	Perennial		
Foliage Type	Evergreen		
Bark Type	Stemless		
No. of Species	2		
Growth Habit	Clumping-form	Growth Rate	Slow
Height	1 - 1.5 m ( 3 - 5 ft )	Spread	2.5 m ( 8 ft )

This plant forms a rounded clump with many sword-shaped curved leaves reaching to two metres from the centre. The red star-shaped clustered flower occurs on the top of a tall stalk to 6m (20ft) and is excellent in mass planting's.

Plant  
Overview



### Leaf

Type	Simple
Shape	Lanceolate
Arrangement	Spiral
Margin	Entire
Colour	Light green
Size	800 - 2000 mm ( 31.5 - 78.7 in )

#### Additional Information

The long lanceolate leaves stiff leather texture with a prominent mid rib.

### Flower

Seasons Valid for Southern Hemisphere

Perfume	None
Shape	Stellate
Inflorescence	Umbel
Colour	Red
Size	80 - 100 mm ( 3.1 - 3.9 in )

Flowering In	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

#### Additional Information

Bright red flowers are large and long lasting occurring in a terminal umbel.

### Fruit

Seasons Valid for Southern Hemisphere

Type	Capsule
Colour	Black
Edible	Yes
Bird attractive	Yes
Size	7 - 12 mm ( 0.3 - 0.5 in )

Fruiting In	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

#### Additional Information

Woody capsule, 3 celled splits when ripe and releases flat slightly winged seeds

### Environment & Cultivation

Natural Soil	Well drained sandy loams, deep and moist, tolerates poor soils
Container	Pots, tubs, planter boxes, under glass in frost prone or cold climates
Climate	Warm to sub-tropical
Aspect	Full sun to partial shade, drought tolerant and frost tender
Pests & Diseases	Not attacked, re-shoots and seeds germinate after low intensity fire
Fertiliser	Blood and bone, apply native plant slow release fertiliser during spring
Pruning	Not normally, remove dead leaves and old flower stalks

#### Cultural Uses

This handsome perennial is used in-group planting for large gardens or in containers and as a cut flower. It is used along roadways and in large rockeries but is slow to grow and come to flower establishing from a pot in 4 to 6 years but transplants easily when large.

#### Propagation

Fresh seed during autumn, flowers appear 6 to 7 years from seed.  
Division of clumps, young plants need protection from frost and placed in a semi shade position. Removal of suckers.