

Botanical Name: Dombeya cacuminum

Common Name: Strawberry snowball tree

Type of Plant: Dicot: tree Family Byttneriaceae
(recently split from Sterculiaceae)

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape Narrow, pyrimidal to columnar tree with large, coarse
textured maple-like leaves

Height to 50 ft. Spread to 20 ft. Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun preferred

Soil any soil with good drainage

Hardiness some frost (Zones 13, 21, 23, 24)

Morphology:

Leaves Large, palmate leaves to 8" across, coarsely dentate or
serrate on margins; often 3-5 lobed with pointed tips

Flowers dense clusters of scarlet-red flowers at branch tips;
clusters to 12" across, individual flowers to 1" across - late spring

Fruit 3-5 celled dehiscent capsule

Propagation: stem cuttings

Usage: accent or specimen tree used for intensely red flower display;
used in tropical or sub-tropical landscapes - appropriate for large gardens

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers deep, infrequent waterings; do not waterlog in heavy
soils

Fertilizing slow release at planting time

Pruning remove remaining flower clusters after bloom

Pests/Diseases none significant

Other loses most of its blooms when ripe - makes tree neater

Origin: Madagascar