

Botanical Name: Pittosporum crassifolium

Common Name: Karo

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape upright, shrubby tree, with an oval canopy which remains dense--foliage will extend down to base if pruned

Height 10-25' Spread 8-10' Growth Rate slow-moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors half shade to full sun

Soil any well drained soil

Hardiness some frost (zones 9,14-17,19-24) good near coast

Morphology:

Leaves alternate to whorled, pinnate to 3" long obovate, leathery dark green above, fuzzy beneath

Flowers spring--terminal clusters of deep maroon, bell-shaped flowers 3/8" diameter

Fruit capsule 1 to 1-1/2" wide splitting into 5 valves

Propagation: seed, semi-hardwood cuttings

Usage: background plant, screen, windbreak near coast, patio or small accent tree

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular watering -- tolerates some drought when established

Fertilizing balanced in spring

Pruning head back or shear for dense shape; head up when young

Pests/Diseases scale & aphids, root rot in poorly drained soils

Special Conditions

Origin: New Zealand Family: Pittosporaceae