

Botanical Name: Erythrina caffra

Common Name: Kaffirboom Coral Tree

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character deciduous (partially)

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a very large, broad-spreading tree, usually multiple-trunked, with massive branching; forms a broadly rounded to flat-topped tree

Height 30-60' Spread equal or more Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun; requires full light for best flowering

Soil well-draining loam soils preferred; tolerates most

Hardiness some frost (zones 21-24); thrives in mild-coastal locale

Morphology:

Leaves trifoliate, alternate, on green stems having a few thorns; tend to be clustered at branch tips, 10-16" long; petioles are unarmed

Flowers orange-red, tubular, compressed, in 8-10" spikes, mostly terminal on branchlets; December-March

Fruit a pod: 3-4" long, flattened, not constricted

Propagation: seed or semihardwood cuttings

Usage: popular large-scale tree, valued for showy flowers and dramatic overall form; excellent for large-area tropical landscapes; plant has massive root system; brittle wood

Landscape Care:

Watering regular is preferred; can thrive if heavily irrigated

Fertilizing as needed; develops iron chlorosis in wet adobe soils

Pruning develop a wide-spreading framework of scaffold branches; thin

Pests/Diseases red spider, white fly, mealy bug

Special Conditions

Origin: So.Africa Family: Fabaceae