

Botanical Name: Acmena smithii

Common Name: Lilly pilly tree

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an upright, mostly single-trunked plant with a slender oval canopy in youth - becomes more rounded with age; is very similar in overall appearance to Syzygium paniculatum

Height 20' - 40' Spread 1/3 - 2/3 Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun

Soil well-draining loam preferred; tolerates poorer

Hardiness some frost (zones 18-24): requires a warm climate near the coast

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, opposite, on squarish stems; elliptic-ovate or obovate; has a somewhat aristate apex; 2"-4" long, glossy dark green above, paler green beneath

Flowers white, with numerous stamens, 3/4" across; in axillary or terminal rounded panicles; summer-fall

Fruit a berry: deep violet-maroon, oval, 3/4"-1 1/4" long, edible

Propagation: seed or semi-hardwood cuttings

Usage: a small vertical accent tree used for its slender form, flower and fruit display; suitable for background screens or topiary; not as fast-growing, large, or drought-tolerant as Syzygium paniculatum

Landscape Care:

Watering regular irrigation is preferred; can tolerate some drought after established

Fertilizing balanced, in spring; check for iron chlorosis in wet poorly drained soils

Pruning to shape desired, any time

Pests/Diseases relatively free; sometimes gets aphids and sooty mold

Special Conditions

Origin: Australia Family: Myrtaceae