

Botanical Name: Castanospermum australe

Common Name: Moreton Bay chestnut, Blackbean

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Family Fabaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a mostly erect, single or multi-trunked plant; branches are rather gnarled, spiny, with an irregular zig-zag pattern, sometimes drooping; mature trees develop a loose rounded canopy

Height 50' to 60' Spread 50' to 60' Growth Rate slow-moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun to partial shade

Soil tolerates most, including saline and alkaline desert soils

Hardiness some frost (zones 18-22)

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate (with 2 prominent lateral veins near margins) with 11-15 leaflets, alternate oblong-ovate to ovate-lanceolate; serrate, 1-2" long

Flowers racemes of 1" wide yellow to reddish flowers, to 8" long May through June

Fruit a pod, 6-9" long, becoming woody and inflated, each containing 3-5 rounded, chestnut-like seeds; poisonous if eaten raw, edible if roasted

Propagation: seed, often followed by grafting

Usage: lawn tree, shade tree, specimen tree for subtropical gardens; creates dense shade and can be used successfully in hardscape areas; flowering attracts birds

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular watering but is adaptable to most watering regimes

Fertilizing slow-release at planting time

Pruning little needed after establishing basic canopy branches

Pests/Diseases Texas root rot in desert areas

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Origin: Queensland and New South Wales, Australia