

Botanical Name: Ceratonia siliqua

Common Name: Carob. St. John's Bread

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape variable in shape; if left unpruned, the plant forms a very large multi-trunked shrub, with pruning, the plant becomes a large tree with a full rounded canopy and sturdy branching structure

Height 20-40' (50') Spread 3/4-equal Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun is preferred; plant grows poorly in full shade

Soil tolerates most; thrives in dry soils and alkaline soil

Hardiness hardy (zones 9,13-16, 18-24); thrives in warm sun

Morphology:

Leaves even-pinnately compound, alternate, 6"-12" long; the 6-10 leaflets are rounded to elliptic, 1-3" long, with an emarginate apex; leathery

Flowers unisexual, small (1'8") red, in short 3-6" long axillary racemes; spring-summer

Fruit a pod: 4-10" long, deep brown, edible when ripe in fall

Propagation: seed

Usage: a medium to large-scale accent tree, used for its picturesque form and foliage; commonly used as a large background screen for hillside plantings; has an aggressive root system, is very messy

Landscape Care:

Watering an occasional deep soak; becomes very drought tolerant after established; overwatering encourages heart rot

Fertilizing as needed; little is required unless heavily watered

Pruning to shape desired, as a tree, head high when young

Pests/Diseases root and heart rot in wet poorly drained soils

Special Conditions

Origin: Eastern Medit. Family: Fabaceae