

Botanical Name: Lagunaria patersonii

Common Name: Cow itch tree

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a very erect, single-trunked plant, which develops a narrow pyramidal or oval canopy in youth which broadens with age; lateral branches are mostly ascending and fairly close to the central trunk

Height 20-40' (50') Spread 1/2-1/2 Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun: grows poorly in shade

Soil tolerates most: prefers a well-draining habitat

Hardiness hardy (zones 13, 15-24): thrives in warm coastal locations

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, oblong-ovate; 2-4" long, dark green and roughened above, whitish-gray underneath and tomentose; rounded at base

Flowers rose-pink, hibiscus-like, 1-1/2"-2" diameter; solitary in the leaf axils; late spring - summer

Fruit an ovoid capsule: 1" long w/rough, tomentose surface

Propagation: seed

Usage: a vertical accent for its narrow form and attractive foliage; often used as a background or large screen; a large tub plant; suitable for subtropical, informal-style landscapes

Landscape Care:

Watering an occasional deep soak; the plant becomes drought tolerant after established

Fertilizing little is required after established

Pruning as a tree, head high when young; not much required

Pests/Diseases aphids, sooty mold

Special Conditions

Origin: Aust/So.Pac Family: Malvaceae