

Botanical Name: Acokanthera oppositifolia

Common Name: Bushman's poison

Type of Plant: dicot; shrub Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape upright, stiffly branched, forms a dense, rounded to oval canopy, with stiff spiny foliage

Height 3-6' Spread 3-6' Growth Rate slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun

Soil tolerates most

Hardiness tender (zones 21, 23, 24)

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, opposite, elliptic-ovate, 3-4" long, nearly 2" wide, dark green, some purplish tinge, leathery

Flowers small, whitish-pink star shaped flowers in axillary clusters -- very fragrant

Fruit oval, blackish berry, 1" long, very poisonous

Propagation: seed, semihardwood cuttings

Usage: excellent filler, hedge, good for dense form, attractive foliage -- can be espaliered -- attractive in tropical or subtropical landscapes, good barrier

Landscape Care:

Watering regular preferred, tolerates occasional

Fertilizing balanced in spring

Pruning occasionally head back slightly to maintain full, dense form

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Condition

Origin: South Africa Family: Apocynaceae