

Botanical Name: Erythrina humeana

Common Name: Natal coral tree

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a multi-trunked, shrubby plant, with vigorous growth of sturdy, thorny branches forming a dense rounded canopy; younger stems are green, older branches grayish

Height 15'-25' (30') Spread equal or more Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun

Soil prefers moist, well-draining soils

Hardiness some frost (zones 12, 13, 20-24): flowers are easily damaged by frost

Morphology:

Leaves trifoliate, alternate, 6"-14" long; leaflets are dark green, deltoid-ovate, 2"-5" long, on thorny 4"-8" long petioles

Flowers bright orange red, flattened-tubular, each 1"-1 1/2" long; in mostly 6"-12" spikes on branch tips; fall-winter

Fruit a pod; mostly 2-valved, 3"-5" long

Propagation: seed

Usage: an accent tree, used for its branch structure and flowers; not as prolific a flower producer or having as well-defined shape as some of the other Erythrina species; suitable for tropical-subtropical landscapes

Landscape Care:

Watering regular is preferred; can tolerate short periods of drought after established

Fertilizing balanced, in spring; check for iron chlorosis in heavily watered soils

Pruning severely head back and thin out canopy (late winter), develop main scaffold structure branch structure; head back to 3-6 buds

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions

Origin: S. Africa Family: Fabaceae