

Botanical Name: Myoporum laetum

Common Name: Myoporum

Type of Plant: dicot; tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape Normally a broad spreading billowing shrubby tree with a tendency toward fast, rank growth and brittle branches; can become top-heavy and prone to wind damage

Height to 30' Spread to 20' Growth Rate Very rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoor full sun

Soil tolerates most soils but prefers soils which drain well

Hardiness Some frost -- Zones 8,9,14-17, 19-24

Morphology:

Leaves lanceolate to 4" long with smooth margins and acute tip; stomata are readily visible when leaves are held up to light

Flowers white clusters of bell-shaped flowers with small purple spots, 1/4" across

Fruit globular drupe, reddish purple to 1/4" across

Propagation: stem cuttings; semi-hardwood preferred; seed

Usage: Large background or screening subject, best used near coastal landscapes; can be used as a multi-trunked tree or large shrub, or even as a groundcover if its branches are secured to the ground

Landscape Care:

Watering takes average watering, can tolerate lawn watering if drainage is good

Fertilizing balanced in spring if required

Pruning thin regularly to prevent top-heavy growth

Pests/Diseases none

Special Conditions leaves and fruit are mildly toxic

Origin: New Zealand Family: Myoporaceae