

# CORAL TREE

- a. Deciduous tree up to 12m tall. Bark is greenish to pale grey-brown on younger trees and grey-brown on older trees.
- b. Has 3 heart shaped leaves with leaf stalk up to 160mm long.
- c. Flowers appear before leafing and are up to 90mm long. Colours are red or white. Flowering from June to October.
- d. Hooked spines on stems.
1. Reproduction
  - a. Pods are black and narrow curved pods and up to 210mm long. Seeds germinate easily. Soak overnight in warm water until swollen, then plant. Germination is after 7-20 days.
  - b. Cuttings and truncheons take without root hormones. Good drainage is required to avoid rotting.
2. Pruning
  - a. Growth rate is fast and will produce a complete branch in one season. Branches are very straight and wiring is required to produce movement. Constant pruning is required for leaf reduction. Remove the outer 3<sup>rd</sup> leaf for compact growth.
3. Wiring
  - a. Wires can be removed in 3 months. Due to its rapid growth watch for wire damage.
4. Repotting
  - a. Root system is aggressive and requires repotting every two years. Repot in spring if the tree has not flowered.
5. Feeding
  - a. Throughout the year. To induce flowering stop feeding in Autumn.
6. Pests
  - a. Bark is soft allowing for burrowing insects and fibrous.
7. Soil
  - a. Well drained soil.
8. Watering
  - a. Very drought resistant.
  - b. To induce flowering very little water in winter.
9. Collected trees.
10. Climate/placement
  - a. Frost sensitive. Where the branch dies new leaders are produced in spring.
11. Styles
  - a. Only informal upright.

