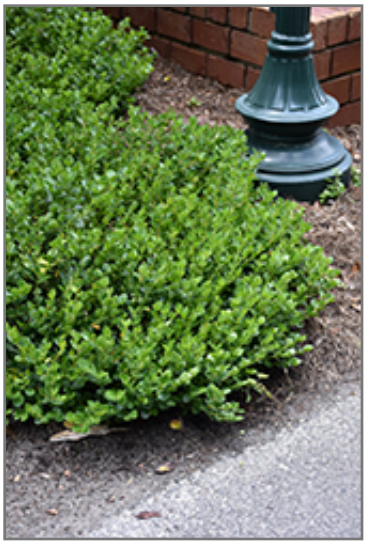
Emerald Blanket Carissa

Carissa macrocarpa 'Emerald Blanket'



Emerald Blanket Carissa
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Natal Plum

Description:

A dwarf, low growing, bushy evergreen shrub that forms a great low hedge or groundcover; rounded glossy leaves add a tropical element; blooms primarily in spring and summer, and produces edible fruits; very drought tolerant once established

Edible Qualities

Emerald Blanket Carissa is a small shrub that is commonly grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. It produces red oval berries which are typically harvested when mature. The berries have a tart taste.

The berries are most often used in the following ways:

- Cooking
- Preserves

Features & Attributes

Emerald Blanket Carissa has attractive dark green evergreen foliage on a plant with a spreading habit of growth. The glossy round leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. It features dainty fragrant white star-shaped flowers along the branches from early to late summer. It produces red berries from early fall to early winter.

This is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a spreading, ground-hugging habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition. This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spiny

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Emerald Blanket Carissa is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Emerald Blanket Carissa will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It has a low canopy. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years. This is a self-pollinating variety, so it doesn't require a second plant nearby to set fruit.

This shrub is quite ornamental as well as edible, and is as much at home in a landscape or flower garden as it is in a designated edibles garden. It does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Emerald Blanket Carissa is a good choice for the edible garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.