



Cape Virgilia

Virgilia capensis

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ☐ ☒

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Other Names: Virgilia oroboides, Cape Lilac, Blossom Tree

Description:

A beautiful, extremely fast growing tree suitable for the domestic garden and as a landscape accent; huge clusters of purple-pink flowers in spring that are rich in nectar; attracts pollinators and birds

Ornamental Features

Cape Virgilia features showy purple pea-like flowers with pink overtones at the ends of the branches from early to late spring. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The glossy ferny pinnately compound leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Cape Virgilia is a deciduous tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This tree will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting birds, bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Cape Virgilia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Shade
- Hedges/Screening
- Windbreaks and Shelterbelts



Cape Virgilia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Cape Virgilia in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Cape Virgilia will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 15 years.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.