

Queen’s Wreath, Coral Vine, Mexican Creeper, murjan mutasalliq

The Queen’s Wreath or Coral Vine (murjan mutasalliq in Arabic) gives a tropical feeling with its lush green appearance. It is a tendril-climbing vine from Mexico that achieves a height of 12 metres. With its fast, vigorous growth, it easily takes over trellises, pergolas and fences, but also shrubs and small trees which it may kill. Shiny, evergreen leaves are about 10 cm long and arrowhead-shaped. Heat and full sun are accepted, but the soil should not be too dry. Deep watering encourages an extensive root system. Established plants survive with less irrigation. General-purpose fertiliser is tolerated, but highly nutritious soil makes Coral Vine produce vegetative growth at the cost of flowers. The floral display turns branches into festoons with bunches of pink flowers that highlight the mounds of deep green foliage and attract bees. Sometimes, cultivars are available. ‘Album’ has white flowers, while ‘Baja Red’ has magenta flowers. All flower in summer and autumn. Frost may cause the plant to go dormant. It quickly recovers, even if frozen to the ground. Maintenance is minimal if the location has been chosen carefully. Pruning is best in spring, especially if frost has killed twigs that require removal. The tendrils may need some initial support to reach the top of a wall or a pergola. Greater effort is required if the vine takes over its vicinity of pathways and slow-growing shrubs. The species is easily propagated by seeds, whereas the cultivars should be reproduced by cuttings.



GENERAL

Origin	: Mediterranean, sub-tropical
Vigour	: fast growing
Humidity	: semi-arid, semi-humid, extremely humid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out, cuttings
Maintenance	: moderate

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: medium
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (1200 ppm)
Hardiness	: 0°C

SHAPE

Type	: climbers
Height	: 5 m-12 m
Spread	: 10 m-12 m
Foliage	: semi-evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: pink
Size	: 15 cm - 35 cm
Period	: July - August

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: nut
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