

## Button Mangrove

### GENERAL

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

### CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: resistant
Irrigation	: medium
Salinity/ppm	: very high (30000 ppm)
Hardiness	: -6°C

### SHAPE

Type	: tree, shrub
Height	: 15 m
Spread	: 6 m
Foliage	: evergreen

### FLOWER

Colour	: pale yellow
Size	: 0.6 cm
Period	: April - May

### FRUIT

Type of fruit	: cones
Fruit size	: 1.5 cm

There is some confusion about the botanical name of this less common relative of *C. erectus*, and it has also been referred to as *C. lanceolatus*, *C. latifolia* and *Anogeissus latifolius*. *C. lancifolius* has a more open habit than *C. erectus*, and its leaves are longer, narrower and grey, rather than lush green. Native to coastal and riverine areas of eastern Africa and Yemen, it is to be found all over the Arabian peninsula, although it is not often seen in Arriyadh. The smell of the fluffy yellow-green flowers in spring and autumn is unpleasant to some people, especially at nighttime, in winter and when damp after rainfall. The tree's wood is dense and suitable for charcoal: goats browse on the young leaves. It is highly salt- and drought-tolerant, and planted in afforestation projects. The *C. lancifolius* tree also plays a role in remediating heavy metal and oil-contaminated soil. It makes an attractive specimen tree and has all of the properties attributed to *C. erectus*. Silver buttonwood (*C. erectus* var. *sericeus*) is a variety that usually grows as a low-branching shrub; under ideal conditions, it will become an attractive tree up to 15 m tall with a spread of 6 metres. The evergreen leaves are oblong to lance-shaped, up to 10 cm long and covered with silky hairs, which gives a beautiful silver-grey colour which sparkles in the sun. It has great ornamental value, and deserves to be seen more often in Arriyadh.

