

Cape Honeysuckle

This evergreen scrambler from South Africa and Mozambique grows long branches that need support on a trellis or a wall. In this way, it may reach up to 7 metres in height and some 6 metres in width. It does not climb by itself, so it requires some maintenance to fix the woody twigs properly. Frequent clipping even allows it to be used as a hedge. However, the effort is worth it, since the Cape Honeysuckle flowers profusely in bright scarlet over a long period from late autumn to early summer. Sometimes, yellow-flowering varieties are offered, such as ‘Aurea’. The foliage is evergreen in Arriyadh, but some leaves may be shed where frosts occur. They are pinnately compound, dark-green and shiny above. The total length varies between 8 and 15 cm, but the foliage somehow seems feathery, owing to the many leaflets with their serrate edges. Frequent irrigation and fertiliser are rewarded with vigorous growth and larger, healthy leaves. Established plants endure drought in deep, fertile and well-drained soil. Cape Honeysuckles do well in partial or full sun, and resist desert heat. They resist fumes, but should be sprinkled occasionally in dusty sites in order to reveal the lush foliage. Pruning is best done in late winter. Old stems should be cut back entirely to encourage new growth. Otherwise, the base will become unsightly, with nothing but leggy branches. Underplanting with *Plumbago auriculata* is also possible. Propagation is very easy by layering, separating suckers or planting hardwood cuttings in late winter.



GENERAL

Origin	: Mediterranean, sub-tropical
Vigour	: fast growing
Humidity	: semi-arid, semi-humid, very humid
Propagation	: layer, cuttings
Maintenance	: moderate

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: medium
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (2000 ppm)
Hardiness	: -3°C

SHAPE

Type	: climbers
Height	: 3 m-7 m
Spread	: 3 m-6 m
Foliage	: semi-evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: deep orange
Size	: 15 cm
Period	: June - November

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: capsule
Fruit size	: 18 cm
Toxicity	: inedible