

Arid Zone Trees



Schotia afra v. angustifolia *Karoo Boer-bean*



Horticultural Qualities *Schotia afra v. angustifolia* *Karoo Boer-bean*

Foliage: Semi-Evergreen
Mature Height: 9' - 15'
Mature Width: 6' - 10'
Growth Rate: Slow
Hardiness: 18 degrees F
Exposure: Full Sun
Leaf Color: Green
Shade: Filtered
Flower Color: Red to Pink
Flower Shape: Petals
Flower Season: Spring
Thorns: None
Box Sizes Produced: Not in Production
Propagation Method: Seed

www.aridzonetrees.com

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Schotia afra v. angustifolia

Karoo Boer-bean

Schotia afra v. angustifolia small African tree 9 to 15 feet height and 6 to 10 feet wide with twisted gnarled trunk found in rocky semi-desert areas often along dry washes. The young bark has a charcoal-grey color and is smooth . As it matures the stems are reddish-brown becoming cracked and fissured horizontally. The leaf is feathery dark green. Its showy red flower is a very attractive asset. The seed is edible green or mature, roasted by fire or ground for meal.

Cultural Practices

Foster the development of a more dispersed root system and reduce the risk of wind throw by arranging irrigation emitters at varying distances from the trunk to encourage roots to "seek out" water and nutrients. Irrigation emitter arrangement along with other information on irrigations practices for desert trees can be found at www.aridzonetrees.com and click on the FAQ link.

Prune as needed to reinforce the structure and form of the tree. Periodic thinning is the most desirable method of pruning. Avoid hedging or heading back desert species, as this will only stimulate excessive branching. Do not remove more than 30% of the canopy during the summer as this can lead to sunburn injuries that can later be invaded by wood boring insects. Always use clean, sharp tools that are cleaned regularly in a 10% solution of bleach. For detail pruning guide see www.aridzonetrees.com and click on the FAQ interactive button.

Periodically insect pests can be a problem on some desert trees. On young trees, insect infestation can slow typical seasonal growth. Inspect trees during the growing season for common garden sucking insects such as aphids, thrip, whiteflies or psyllids. During dry months, (May and June) in dusty conditions, spider mites can appear. Monitor for infestation and apply controls as needed. Spray applications of water or water and Safer Soap give short-term control (3 to 7 days) for small insect population. For heavy infestation or longer control use federally registered insecticides. A contact insecticide application will kill existing adults. An application with a systemic soil drench will provide 8 to 12 weeks control for any post application insect hatchings or migration of insects. Before using pesticide for the first time or on new plants or cultivar, treat a few plants and check for phytotoxicity. **Always read label and follow label instruction before using pesticides. For pesticide control recommendations contact a licensed pest control advisor.**

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