

Capparis lasiantha – Native Orange

Capparis lasiantha is usually a small to medium shrub (sometimes a climber) up to about 3m high. The leaves are dark green and oblong in shape to about 50mm long. The white flowers usually occur in late Summer and Autumn and are about 25mm in diameter with long, spreading stamens. The flowers have silky hairs and are followed by orange fruits. The fruit is edible and the nectar from the flowers was also used to treat colds by some Aboriginal groups.

As with other Australian *Capparis* species, *C. lasiantha* is not widely cultivated but should be suitable for inland gardens in tropical and sub-tropical climates. It is very floriferous and withstands drought. Plants are reported to become straggly unless pruned. The species is unlikely to be suited to humid, Summer rainfall areas.

Propagation

Plants can be propagated from seed which does not require any pre-treatment and may also be grown from cuttings.

Sow seeds at any time after the danger of frost has passed.

Seeds are best sown in a propagating tray in a good quality seed-raising mix. Sow to the depth of the seeds. Keep medium lightly moist but not damp

Optimum germination is 22 to 25°C.

Prick seedlings out and pot on after the emergence of the first true leaves and as soon as they are large enough to handle.