

Conocarpus lancifolius - Kuwaiti Tree

Not suitable for anything but a very large garden.

A tall bushy tree, super fast growing, reaching over 4 m in the first year once established. Slender leaves borne in clusters. The tree thickens out naturally at 3-4 m into a very attractive shape. Fluffy yellow-green flowers are borne in clusters in spring and autumn which have a strong unpleasant smell at night. These are followed by small green berry fruits containing small seeds. Introduced into Kuwait on a large scale, hence the common name, but it is a native of Florida Keys and the Everglades.

A great tree to use as a wind break on exposed sites. Very tough high salt tolerance. The roots below are as dense and wide spreading as the branches above and soon completely dominate the surrounding area preventing anything else from growing. It is often used as a pioneer plant to stabilize sand. Sometimes grown in pots but the growth tends to be sparse, unlike the dense leafy green of even small plants in the open ground.

Propagates easily from semi ripe wood cuttings. Germination from seed is poor, less than 15%. New research suggests the seed should be germinated in water with a layer of soil below. Once the roots start to appear the water should be allowed to evaporate letting the roots hook into the soil. The seedlings are then grown on in the normal way.

