

Pittosporum ligustrifolium COASTAL MOCK ORANGE

Putt.

Flowering period: June–August.

Description: Single trunked erect shrub to small tree to 3 m high often with a distinctive weeping habit in some forms; however, usually not displaying this habit along the Perth coastline. Leaves 20–85 mm long, 6–16 mm wide occasionally hairy on the undersurface. Flowers solitary or in clusters of 2–3, up to 1 cm across. Seeds many in a 2–3 sectioned orange fruit that splits to release a central cavity with distinctive dark red, irregularly shaped seeds.

Pollination: Open pollinated by a variety of insects.

Distribution: Coastal species in the Perth region, on off-shore islands including Garden and Rottnest islands and with occasional stands on mainland dune areas. Grows on limestone to deep sand situations.

Propagation: From cutting or seeds.

Uses in restoration: A number of forms of mock orange are recognised. Some mainland populations are clonal such as the form at Point Peron whereas the Rottnest Island type is not clonal and forms small, multi-branched spreading trees usually over limestone. To retain local genetic identity only propagate from the local form.

Notes: An attractive and water-wise species for sunny locations in the home garden. Mock orange produces abundant, orange-blossom like blooms followed by attractive berries.

Watchpoint: The fruits are harmful if consumed so not recommended where small children may have access to the plant.



Habit



Fruit



Leaves



Distribution