

Combretum indicum

Common name: Rangoon Creeper, Burma creeper

Family: Combretaceae

Habit: Woody vine

Location: School side

Distribution: Rangoon creeper is found in thickets or secondary forests of the Philippines, India and Malaysia. It has since been cultivated widely in the gardens as an easy to grow plant. Rangoon creeper is the most common vine in Delhi.

Description:

It is not uncommon to see the creeper rooted only in a small hole in cemented ground, but the vine thriving and climbing high. Clusters of fragrant white pendulous trumpets open white then change to pink, red and finally a deep maroon. A vigorous twining climber blooming profusely throughout summer that can reach as much as 70 feet in tropical climates. This plant needs support for growing and is very useful in covering fences, supports, and walls. The fragrant white flowers grow in pendent racemes, quickly changing to pink then red, making a spectacular show. The growth rate is generally fast, and the plant does not make heavy fertilizer demand.

Uses:

It is widely grown in homes as an ornamental plant. The long and flexible stems are used to make baskets and fish traps. The fruits are edible and taste like almonds. The root, leaves and fruits have medicinal properties and are used for treating various ailments. The dried seeds are beneficial to treat intestinal worms and parasites. Fruits are consumed to treat cough and alleviate nephritis. A decoction made from the leaves is prescribed for abdominal pain and eczema. In Vietnam, root extractions are used to treat rheumatism. The fruit decoction is used for gargling. The leaves are used to relieve pain caused by fever and leaf juice can treat skin problems like boils and ulcers.

