



Calodendrum capense

COMMON NAME:
CAPE CHESTNUT

Film Credit: YouTube LA County
Arboretum and Botanic Garden

Beautiful tree from the Cape



The generic name comes from the Greek word 'kalos' meaning 'beautiful' and 'detron' meaning tree; the specific name 'capense' means 'from the Cape'.

The origin is the Cape of Africa.

Thrives in Zone 9a.

FAMILY

Family: Rutaceae (roo-TAY-see-ee)

Genus: *Calodendrum* (kal-oh-DEN-drum)

Species: *capense* (ka-PEN-see)

Relative to citrus





Growth Habit

- The Cape chestnut tree is a slow growing semi evergreen or deciduous tree that can reach a maximum height of 25 to 40 feet when it is mature with a crown that is nearly as wide as the tree is high. They can be grown from cuttings or seeds. Young trees grow about three feet a year on locations with full sun and protection from wind. They love loam soil but will tolerate a wide variety of soil—sandy soil is not recommended. Young trees require moderate but regular watering, and they can withstand winter temperatures as low as 25 degrees Fahrenheit. The trees thrive in Zone 9a. They require no special pruning.



- The showy pikes of pink flowers in terminal panicles extend above the foliage in the early summer often covering the entire plant.

Cape Chestnut seed pods

When the Cape chestnut's showy flowers disappear the tree produces bumpy five-lobed fruits that are 1 to 2 inches in diameter with black half-moon shaped seeds inside.



Uses

- Wood from the Cape chestnut tree is used in home construction in Africa. Furniture tool handles and yokes are also crafted from the wood. Cape chestnut wood is used as firewood and to make charcoal. An oil derived from the Cape chestnut seed-yangu oil-is an ingredient in skin care products and lotions. soaps and biofuels.



PESTS

ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID

Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) is an efficient vector of the bacterial citrus disease huanglongbing (HLF) or citrus greening disease. A federal quarantine restricts all movement of citrus and Rutaceae into So. California.



Citrus Greening Disease

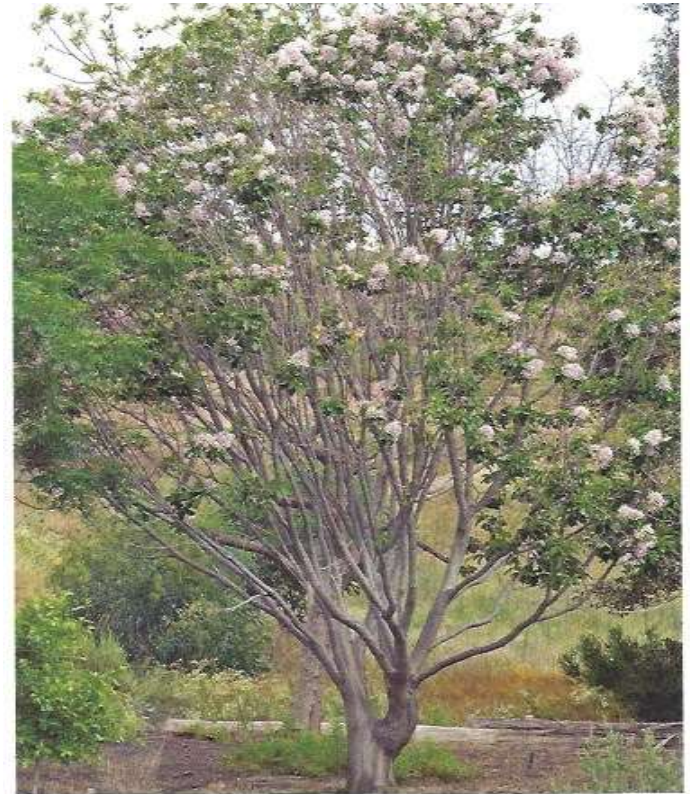
Actual photos taken from *Calodendrum capense*



WHERE ARE THEY?!

Google: *Calodendrum capense*
in San Diego County

- Balboa Park – South side
- San Diego Botanic Garden
- Presidio Park – San Diego
- San Diego Safari Park – Nairobi Village (pictured)
- Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden



A Cape chestnut tree at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.