

## *Carissa spinarum*

**Botanical name:** *Carissa spinarum*

**Common name:** Kalachedi

### **Morphological characters:**

An erect thorny shrub, with forked branches, 2-3 metres in height; wood, very hard; bark, light brown to green, can be stripped off longitudinally by hand, exposing the white to light-green wood underneath; thorns, 3.2 cm long, brown to greenish at the base and deep brown towards the tip. Leaves, ovate, 4.5 cm long, 2.5 cm broad, leathery; venation, reticulate pinnate; margin, entire; petiole 3 mm long; leaves exuding a white latex, when plucked from the stem. Flowers, short-stalked, sweetly scented, bisexual, complete.



### **Growing season and type:**

1. Generally, the flowering takes place during April and May. In some cases, it might start even by the end of July. The peak flowering season, however, was observed to occur by the middle of May.
2. The small fruits take a lot of time to develop and mature. They start ripening from November and continue to do so till the end of January. Mature fruits were also observed on some bushes as late as April. These fruits were, probably, the outcome of the July blossoming.
3. These bushes are very hardy and drought-resistant and can grow even on very poor and rocky soils.



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1) Flower image of *Carissa spinarum*

2) Leaf image of *Carissa spinarum*

3) Plant image of *Carissa spinarum*

source: <https://hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/parmar/04.html>

<http://tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Carissa+spinarum>