
PLEASE PROTECT ME

I am a unique specimen tree in your area. Even though I may look indestructible, I am a very fragile tree. In order to ensure my survival, please protect me by following these suggestions:

1. Do not injure my trunk with any object or graffiti.
2. Keep the lawn away from my trunk.



3. Keep all machines and weed whips away.
 4. Do not pull or hang from my branches “Ouch!! It Hurts”.
 5. Do not over water me.
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The Department of Recreation and Parks maintains and protects hundreds of heritage trees. Heritage trees are individual trees of any size or species that are specifically designated as heritage because of their historical, commemorative, or horticultural significance. Preserving these treasures is important for future generations to admire. For further information, please contact the Department of Recreation and Parks at the address below.



CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

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AFRICAN WILD PLUM

HERITAGE TREE



**Green Meadows
Recreation Center
431 E. 89th St
Los Angeles, CA 90003**

Tel: (323) 750-4820



African Wild Plum *Harpephyllum caffrum* From the Mango Family

Hello!!! Let me introduce myself... Botanists call me *Harpephyllum caffrum* but you can refer to me as the African wild plum.



Leaves

I am here to inform you of how unique, interesting, and fascinating I am. I am native to South Africa where I serve as an important food source for many animals. At the Los Angeles Zoo, my leaves, stems, and fruits are the favorite forage plant for the African elephant, pudu, gorillas, many species of gazelles, and black rhinoceros.



Tree Trunk

The reason you may not know me is because I am the less popular member of my plant family. Some of my most popular cousins include the mango, the cashew nut, the California pepper, and of course the wicked poison oak. I was planted several years ago to provide beauty to your park. Please feel free to come over and visit me anytime. Inform your family and friends of my presence. Tell them to come over to admire my splendor and beauty.

FLOWER



Inflorescence

that I belong to a group of plants that have male and female flowers on separate plants. It is a phenomena that Botanists refer to as a "Dioecious tree". Only the female trees produce fruits. During the course of the day, I receive visits from many bees. If you pay attention you might be able to hear and see as the bees buzz from flower to flower collecting the pollen and the nectar to feed their young. Bees mix the pollen and the nectar and they make a very nutritious product which is sometimes referred to as bee bread. In addition to bees, you will also see other visitors such as flies, wasps, and beetles. All of the insects love the nectar that I gladly share with them.

You may consider each of my flowers as being small and insignificant. Although that might be true, I make my flowers more noticeable by arranging them in groups called an inflorescence. Even though I am the only species in the world, you may find small differences in the flowers of two separate trees. The reason is



Beetle

FRUIT

After flowering, I produce many clusters of fruit.



At maturity the fruit acquires a scarlet red color. The red coloration provides brilliance into any ornamental garden. In addition to the ornamental values, the red color of my fruit is very attractive to birds and other animals. Animals cannot resist eating the juice pulp found in the fruit. Birds and other animals are very important because by eating the fruits, they carry and disperse the seeds that I pro-

Ripe Fruits



Fruit, flower, and leaves

duce. Many people compare my fruit to the common and popular plum and that is the reason why I was give the common name of the KAFFIR PLUM. Unlike the common plum, the fruit that I produce has a much larger seed inside. Although my fruit is irresistible to other animals, humans consider my fruit as being very tart if eaten raw. To avoid the tartness, my fruit is commonly cooked and made into jellies.