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Carissa macrocarpa

[Synonyms : *Arduina grandiflora*, *Carissa grandiflora*]

NATAL PLUM is a spiny evergreen shrub. Native to South Africa it has fragrant white flowers.

It is also known as Big num-num, and Carissa.

Macrocarpa is made up of Greek *macro-* (large, long) and *carpo-* (fruit) components meaning 'large-fruited'.

The spiny shrub is often grown as hedging although some authorities appear to frown upon this, particularly when it has been introduced outside its native lands, for fear that it might spread.

The yellow to scarlet berries, which are sold in the markets in Natal Province, can be eaten raw (including the skin and papery pips) and are also made into preserves when half-ripe, and cooked in pies and tarts when fully ripe.