

## *Myoporum laetum*

### Scientific classification

Kingdom : Plantae

Clade : Angiosperms

Order : Lamiales

Family : Scrophulariaceae

Genus : *Myoporum*

Species : *M. laetum*



*Myoporum laetum*

### Description

A fast-growing evergreen shrub or small tree which sometimes grows to a height of 10 metres (30 ft) with a trunk up to 0.3 metres (1 ft) in diameter, or spreads to as much as 4 metres (10 ft). It often appears dome-shaped at first but as it gets older, distorts as branches break off. The bark on older specimens is thick, corky and furrowed. The leaves are lance-shaped, usually 52–125 millimetres (2–5 in) long, 15–30 millimetres (0.6–1 in) wide, have many translucent dots in the leaves and edges which have small serrations in approximately the outer half.

The flowers are white with purple spots and are borne in groups of 2 to 6 on stalks 7–15 millimetres (0.3–0.6 in) long. There are 5 egg-shaped, pointed **sepals** and 5 **petals** joined at their bases to form a bell-shaped tube 3.5–4.5 millimetres (0.1–0.2 in) long. The petal lobes are 4.5–5.5 millimetres (0.18–0.22 in) long making the flower diameter 15–20 millimetres (0.6–0.8 in). There are four **stamens** which extend slightly beyond the petal tube and the **ovary** is superior with 2 **locules**. Flowering occurs from mid-spring to mid-summer and is followed by the fruit which is a bright red drupe 6–9 millimetres (0.2–0.4 in) long.

### MEDICINAL USES

- A decoction of the leaves is used as an insect repellent. It is effective against mosquitoes.
- Piece of bark or very strong decoction held in mouth for toothache.. Bark used to heal ulcers and eruptions.