

## COCOPLUM

*Chrysobalanus icaco*

- The Cocoplum is a native evergreen with leaves that are simple, alternate, shiny, dark green, thick and leathery, elliptic, or nearly round.
- There are two common varieties (ecotypes). *C. icaco* var. *icaco* is the coastal variety that is highly salt tolerant. It has yellow-greenish new growth and creamy white or purple fruits. *C. icaco* var. *pellocarpus* is the inland variety.
- The *Chrysobalanus icaco* has light green new growth and dark purple fruit.
- It is highly salt and drought tolerant and is a slow grower with branches creeping in all directions. It can be used as a groundcover on beaches away from breaking waves.
- It is better suited as a lower growing hedge than the other cultivars.
- It has clusters of small greenish-white flowers in the spring. The plum-shaped white or purple edible fruit is eaten raw or used locally to make jam or jelly.

