

Closeup view of a young *Michelia champaca* growing on a Pietermaritzburg sidewalk.



Photo by the author

by TREVOR W. SCHOFIELD

## **Michelia champaca in Natal**

One of the favorite trees grown in Natal by South Africans of Indian descent is *Michelia champaca*. Trees of this species are to be seen in many of their gardens, and are particularly evident in the grounds of Hindu temples. No doubt, *M. champaca* was originally introduced to this country by Indian settlers, who brought it from their homeland, where it is much revered for its sweet scented, light orange colored blooms. To them it is known as the Champac tree.

In Pietermaritzburg, the Municipal Authorities have been using *M. champaca* with success as a sidewalk tree. Its tall straight growth and beautiful evergreen foliage makes it very suitable for this purpose. The tree in the photograph is about five years old.

From the above, Phil, you will see that your request on the back cover of the July '73 Newsletter for a photograph and notes on *M. champaca* used as a street tree in the Republic of South Africa has not gone unnoticed!

T.W.S.

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