Growing your Warszewiczia coccinea
(Wild Poinsettia, Chaconia, Pride of Trinidad)

Warszewiczia coccinea is an extremely rare species of flowering shrub growing to around 3 metres in height. The foliage is light green with reddish new growth and is ornamental in its own right. The vibrant red flowers are what it is famous for, they are stunning and are produced en-masse several times a year. The plants I sell are the double form, the single form is, to say it mildly, boring!

When your plant arrives, it is important to get it potted up as soon as possible. I would use a standard 180 to 200 mm pot and a high quality potting mix such as Searle’s Premium. Add a teaspoon of Osmocote and water in well.

Keep your plant in very bright filtered light for around a month to let the roots re-establish and then slowly move to a little more sun. I find the best location for this plant has exposure to lots of morning sun and protection from the hot afternoon sun.

Water your plant well during dry periods, they do not like to dry out totally. A light trimming following flowering will keep the foliage compact and cause more flower buds to be produced. After a few years a hard prune may be required to reduce the old wood in the shrub, but always leave some foliage on the plant to help it recover quickly.

The only pests of this tree are chewing insects such as Grasshoppers and Caterpillars, these can simply be crushed or sprayed with the insecticide Carbaryl.

Best of success with your plant, do contact me if I can be of any further help.

Regards

Steve
(banchett@westnet.com.au)