

Some Plants of the Western Darling Downs



Condamine Country Plant Group

by the Condamine Country Plant Group
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Needlewood (*Hakea purpurea*)

Cover: Chinchilla White Gums (*Eucalyptus argophloia*)

Acknowledgement

People of the Barunggam and Bigambul language groups are the traditional custodians of the lands in the area covered by this book. Their historical and ongoing stewardship and custodianship of the land is acknowledged.

About the Western Darling Downs

In spite of much Indigenous resistance, Europeans settled in the district from the mid 1800s in the wake of exploration by Ludwig Leichhardt. Frontier conflict and disease led to the number of First Nations people in the area declining dramatically over about 50 years.

European activities included felling timber for bridges and railway sleepers, grazing sheep and cattle, dairying and some limited cropping. Nowadays gas and coal extraction, and more recently solar farms, are major economic and landscape features of the district.

The Western Downs falls within the Southern Brigalow Belt; present locally are endangered ecosystems 11.9.5 (Brigalow/Belah open forest on fine-grained sedimentary rocks) and 11.4.12 (Poplar Box woodland on Cainozoic clay plains).

About this booklet

Most of the plants featured here can be encountered among remnant vegetation along local roads and in State Forests in the areas around Dalby, Kogan, Tara, Chinchilla, Miles and Condamine. In the midst of what is a developing biodiversity crisis in Australia, it is to be hoped that familiarity with local flora will help people see the value in the natural heritage that remains.

The many species found chiefly in the Barakula forestry areas to the north of Chinchilla and Gurulmundi north-west of Miles are not included here; they would require a book to themselves to do them justice.

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*Note: * indicates an introduced (non-native) species*

MILES MULGA

(*Acacia aprepta*)



Multi-trunked small tree to 8m tall with short rod-like flower spikes. Occurs on gravelly/sandy soil, often in dense stands.



Distinguishing features

- Grey/silver-green phyllodes to 8cm x 8mm
- Veins indistinct but strictly parallel
- Branchlets light grey-brown

BLAKE'S WATTLE

(*Acacia blakei*)



Shrub or small tree to 15m. Like many wattles, the mature leaves are actually flattened stems called phyllodes.



Veins which are strictly parallel and do not cross over are called 'non-anastomosing'.

Distinguishing features

- Phyllodes variable (can be curved or straight)
- Phyllodes have many parallel (non-anastomosing) veins with three veins slightly more prominent
- Branchlets are mostly terete (circular in cross-section) but become angular towards the tips

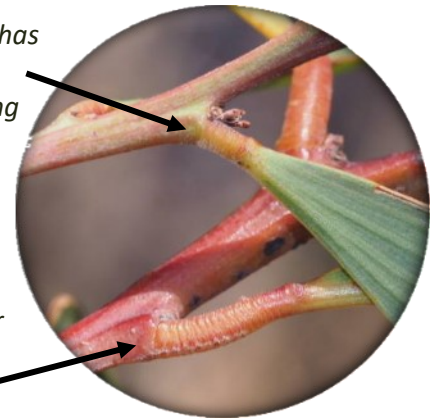
LATE-FLOWERING BLACK WATTLE

(*Acacia crassa* subsp. *crassa*)



A. leiocalyx has a short leaf stem swelling ('pulvinus')

A. crassa has a longer pulvinus, to 10mm



Single-stemmed shrub or small tree to 12m. Yellow flower spikes Aug-Sept.



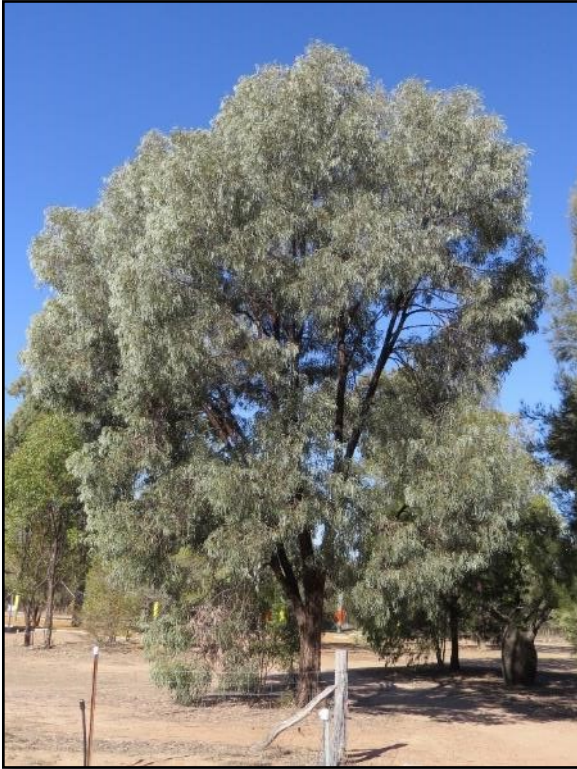
Some minor veins anastomosing ('crossing over')

Distinguishing features

- Phyllodes curved, to 25cm x 25mm
- Phyllode base ('pulvinus') to 10mm long
- Three main veins; some minor veins crossing over
- Branchlets grey or red-brown

BRIGALOW

(*Acacia harpophylla*)



A large tree endemic to Queensland and NSW. It has been cleared from much pastoral land in Queensland.

Distinguishing features

- Silvery-grey phyllodes to 20cm x 20mm
- Phyllodes falcate (curved) and tapering at both ends
- Bark fibrous, furrowed and brown/grey

LIGHTWOOD

(*Acacia implexa*)



*Many minor veins
anastomosing ('crossing over')*



Small tree to 12m with
perfumed pale yellow ball
flowers in summer.

Distinguishing features

- Phyllodes curved, to 18cm x 25mm
- 3-7 main veins; many minor veins crossing over
- Branchlets a light green/brown colour
- Pulvinus (leaf base) green

EARLY-FLOWERING BLACK WATTLE

(*Acacia leiocalyx* subsp. *leiocalyx*)



Upright or spreading shrub/small tree to 6m with long, pale yellow flower spikes in early winter.



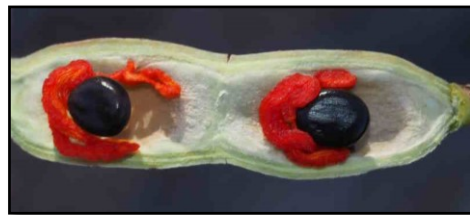
Anastomosing
(‘crossing over’)
leaf veins

Distinguishing features

- Phyllodes to 18cm x 35mm
- Pulvinus red, to 5mm long
- Branchlets reddish and usually very angular in cross-section

SALLY WATTLE

(*Acacia salicina*)



Shrub or small tree to 12m with pendulous branchlets. Often has a suckering habit. Pale yellow flower balls in autumn-winter.

Distinguishing features

- Phyllodes narrow but variable, to 17cm x 25mm
- Phyllodes have one main leaf vein
- Branchlets usually zigzagged towards tip

HAIRY OAK

(*Allocasuarina inophloia*)



Tree to 10m. It is dioecious (male and female plants are separate); female flowers appear bright red in winter.

Distinguishing features

- Distinctive thread-like fibrous bark
- Segmented needle-like foliage
- Leaf segments 4-7mm long; 7-9 leaf-teeth

BULL OAK

(*Allocasuarina luehmannii*)



Male flowers



Small native tree with needle-like foliage, rough corky bark and flattened seed pods. Can improve fertility of soils by fixing nitrogen.



Distinguishing features

- Rough corky bark
- Segmented needle-like foliage
- Leaf segments ('articles') 8-22mm long with 9-12 leaf-teeth (between articles)

RED ASH

(*Alphitonia excelsa*)



Medium-sized tree of northern and eastern Australia. The crushed leaves can be used to produce a soap-like lather.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate, to 14cm x 5cm
- Trunk pale grey and often blotchy
- Leaves discolourous (green above, whitish below)

BITTER BARK

(*Alstonia constricta*)



Shrub or small tree to 12m tall. Known to have some medicinal properties. The bark has been used in dye-making.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves opposite, to 13cm x 2.5cm
- Juvenile leaves have a soft texture
- Milky sap when leaves are pulled off stem

ROUGH-BARKED APPLE

(Angophora floribunda)



Angophora flower buds lack the 'cap' of eucalypt species.

Large, spreading tree to 30m tall; white flowers in summer.



Distinguishing features

- Bark rough, grey/brown, persistent to small branches
- Leaves opposite and mostly lance-shaped
- Mature leaves to 15cm x 5cm

RUSTY GUM

(Angophora leiocarpa)



Large tree to 30m tall; white flowers in summer. Also known as Smooth-barked Apple.



Distinguishing features

- Bark smooth and pink, rusty-coloured or grey
- Leaves opposite and mostly lance-shaped
- Mature leaves to 17cm x 3.5cm

KURRAJONG

(*Brachychiton populneus*)



Tree to
20m; native
to eastern
Australia.



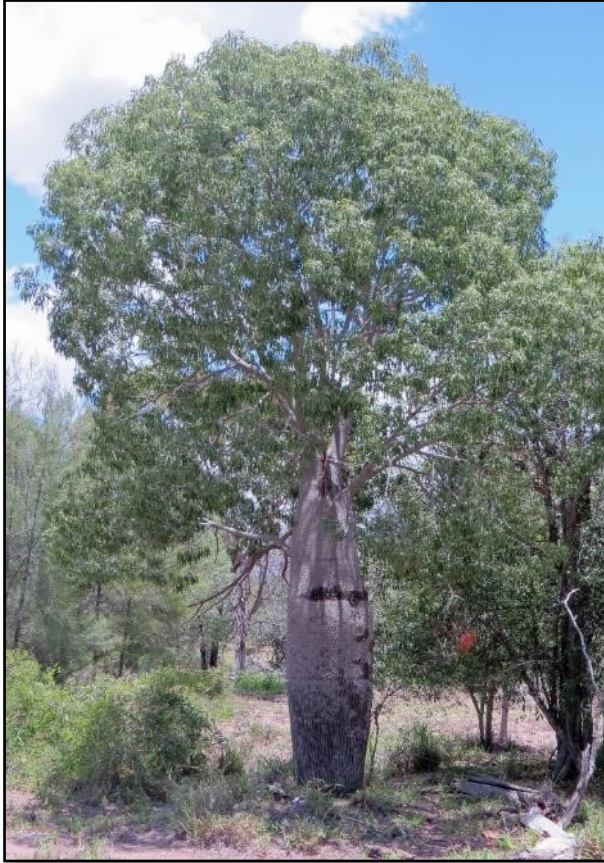
Deeply dissected immature leaf

Distinguishing features

- Shiny green leaf, often with 3-5 pointed lobes (lobes much reduced or absent in mature trees)
- Leaves alternate, on stems up to 10cm long
- Mature specimens tend to have a dense crown

NARROW-LEAVED BOTTLE TREE

(*Brachychiton rupestris*)



The Bottle Tree is endemic to Queensland. Indigenous people made use of many parts of this tree for food, water and fibre.



Deeply dissected
immature leaf



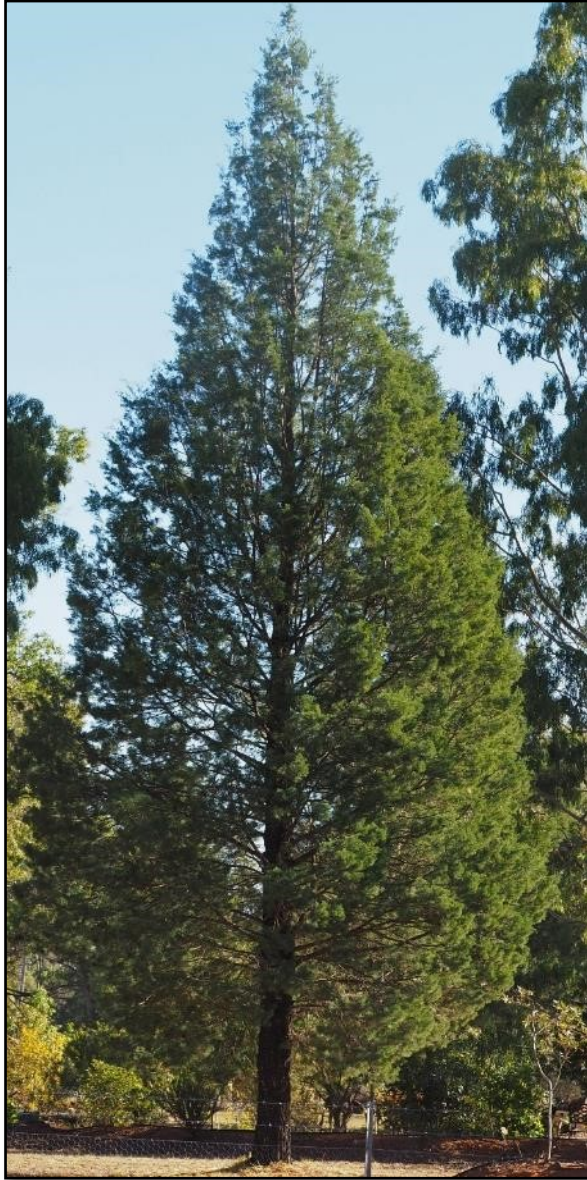
Greenish immature
trunk

Distinguishing features

- Distinctive swollen trunk on mature specimens
- Leaves alternate and shiny green
- Leaves variable in shape but mostly elongated

BLACK CYPRESS

(Callitris endlicheri)



Tree to 15m, typically with a pyramid shape. The timber is not as termite-resistant and durable as that of White Cypress. Food source for black cockatoos.

Black Cypress is similar to White Cypress, but tends to have greener and coarser foliage with branches more erect.

Distinguishing features

- Foliage usually green rather than grey-green
- Scale-like leaves; leaf segments to 4mm long
- Cones split to the base in 6 sections: 3 wide, 3 narrow

WHITE CYPRESS

(Callitris glaucophylla)



A member of the conifer family, White Cypress grows to 20m tall and is a valuable food source for cockatoos. White Cypress is known for its insect-resistant wood and is used extensively in the building industry.

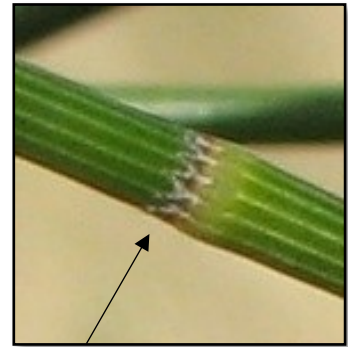


Distinguishing features

- Foliage often bluish-grey, many-branched
- Scale-like leaves; leaf segments to 3mm long
- Cones split to the base in 6 sections: 3 wide, 3 narrow

BELAH

(*Casuarina cristata*)



'Leaf teeth' (= true leaves)



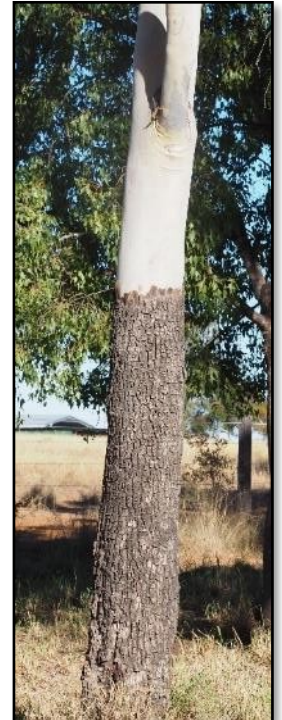
Like all Casuarinas and Allocasuarinas, the Belah's foliage consists of segmented branchlets. Each segment is called an 'article'; the leaves are actually the tiny scales or 'leaf-teeth' between articles.

Distinguishing features

- Segmented needle-like foliage
- Leaf segments ('articles') have 8-16 leaf-teeth
- Tessellated bark

MORETON BAY ASH

(Corymbia tessellaris)



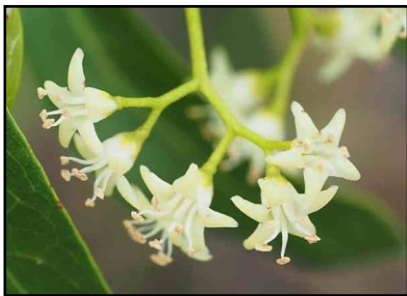
A graceful tree to 30m tall with a distinctive 'sock' of rough bark.

Distinguishing features

- Tessellated bark on lower trunk
- Upper trunk and branches pale and smooth
- Leaves to 18cm x 15mm
- Caps on flower buds short, rounded

PEACH BUSH

(*Ehretia membranifolia*)



Shrub or small tree.
Leaves resemble those
of a true peach tree.



Distinguishing features

- Smooth, pale grey bark
- Leaves alternate and light green in colour
- Leaf stem (petiole) 5 – 20cm long

NARROW-LEAVED RED OLIVE PLUM

(*Elaeodendron australe*)



Small bushy tree or shrub. 4-petaled green flowers in spring are followed by orange-red fruit in autumn/winter.

Distinguishing features

- Dark green leaves (paler below) to 7cm x 1cm
- Leaves opposite and sometimes bluntly toothed
- Leaves have a blunt tip and taper to the base

FALSE SANDALWOOD

(*Eremophila mitchellii*)



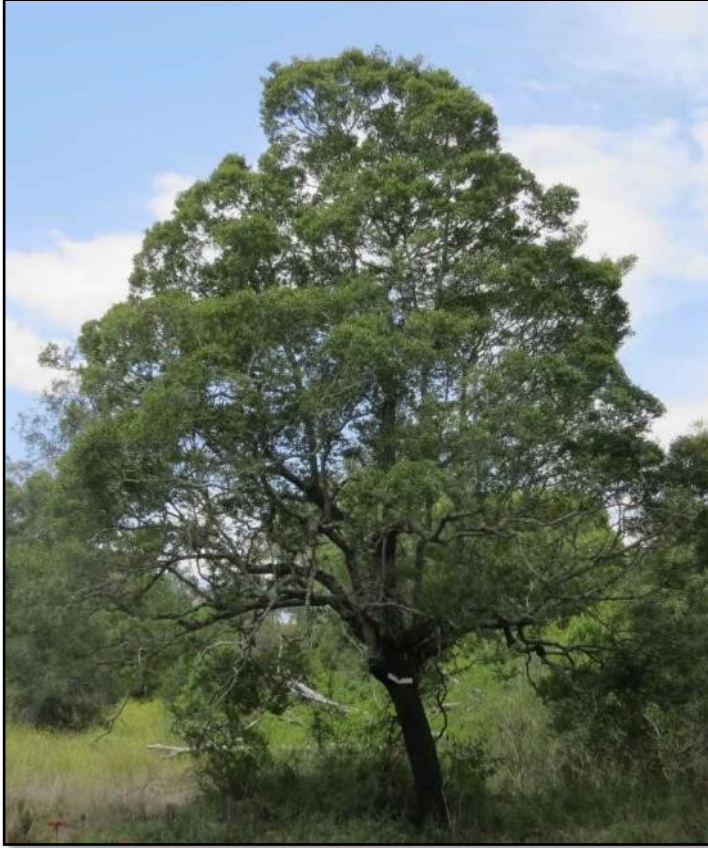
Shrub or small tree to 10m with scented white tubular flowers.

Distinguishing features

- Rough, corky grey bark
- Crowded, narrow leaves to 5cm long
- Leaves alternate; aromatic when crushed

REDWOOD BUSH

(*Erythroxylum* sp. 'Splityard Creek')



A small tree from the northern half of Australia. Host plant for various ant-butterfly species.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves small (to 4cm long), stiff, with a blunt tip
- Leaves alternate and discolourous (paler below)
- Veins obvious on underside of leaf

CHINCHILLA WHITE GUM

(Eucalyptus argophloia)



Tall tree to 35m on fertile black soils. Classed as vulnerable under Queensland legislation.

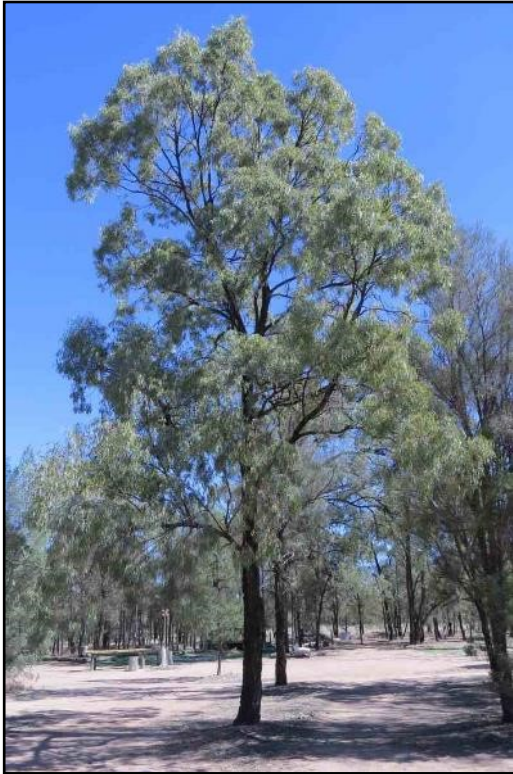


Distinguishing features

- Trunk straight and white
- Leaves narrow, to 13cm x 13mm
- Seed capsule has valves below the rim

NARROW-LEAVED IRONBARK

(Eucalyptus crebra)



Tall tree to 35m. It is important in honey production and has durable timber, notably used for railway sleepers and fence posts. Food tree for koalas.

Distinguishing features

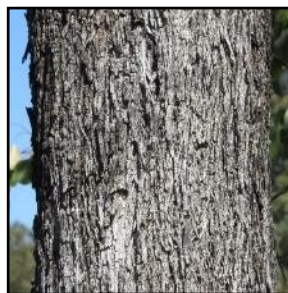
- Tough, grey/black bark covers trunk to branches
- Long trunk with crown of dull grey-green leaves
- Seed capsule has valves below the rim
- Leaves lance-shaped, to 14cm x 15mm

POPLAR BOX

(Eucalyptus populnea)



A beautiful tall tree of grassy woodlands in western areas of NSW and Qld. Food tree for koalas.

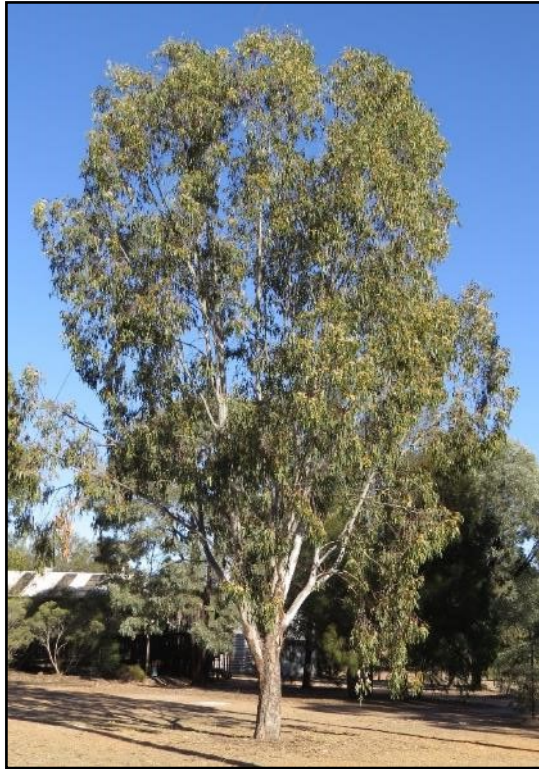


Distinguishing features

- Adult leaves broad, sometimes almost circular, to 11cm x 7cm and more or less alternate
- Adult leaves glossy green on reddish branchlets
- Juvenile leaves dull grey-green

FOREST RED GUM

(*Eucalyptus tereticornis*)



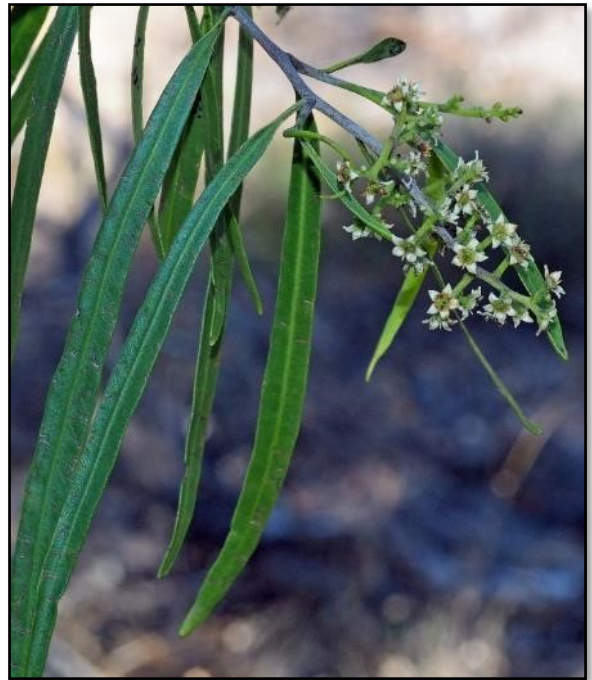
Tall tree to 50m. Food tree for koalas.

Distinguishing features

- Bark rough at the base, shedding in strips or plates and smooth grey/white above
- Leaves to 20cm x 3cm, straight or curved
- Flower buds have a long, cone-shaped cap
- Valves of seed capsule protrude beyond the rim

WILGA

(*Geijera parviflora*)



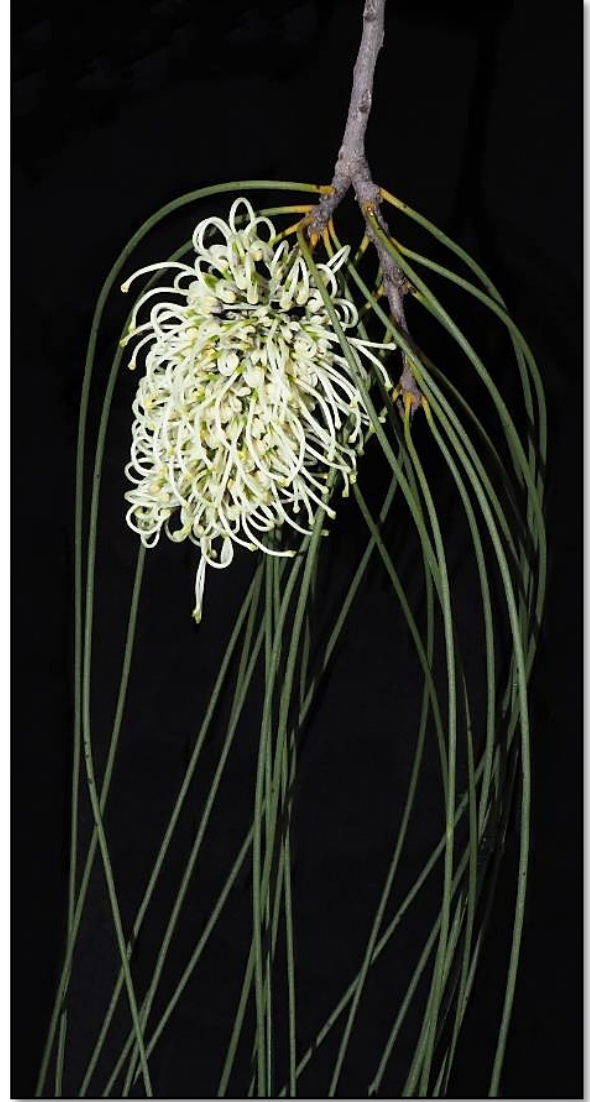
Native shrub or
small tree to 10m.

Distinguishing features

- Drooping foliage often reaching the ground
- Leaves long and narrow, to 18cm x 7mm
- Leaves alternate, and aromatic when crushed

BOOTLACE OAK

(*Hakea lorea*)



Shrub or small tree to 10m.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves tough and string-like
- Drooping foliage with alternate leaves to 68cm long
- Furrowed, grey/brown corky bark

BUDGEROO

(*Lysicarpus angustifolius*)



Tree to 10m.
The timber is
hard, heavy
and termite-
resistant.



Distinguishing features

- Loose, soft, fibrous bark (similar to Hairy Oak)
- Leaves stiff and narrow, to 9cm long
- Leaves opposite or in whorls of 3

EMU APPLE

(*Owenia acidula*)



Tree to 10m with greenish flowers and red plum-like fruit which is reportedly edible, though sour and acidic.

Distinguishing features

- Foliage bright green; weeping habit
- Up to 25 leaflets on each compound leaf
- Leaves stiff; leaflets to 4cm x 8mm

CROW'S APPLE

(*Owenia venosa*)



Small to medium-sized tree with a dense, dark green crown and pinkish-red plum-like fruit. The crown has a fern-like appearance at a distance.



Juvenile leaves have a winged rachis (leaflet stem).



Distinguishing features

- Bark scaly, grey
- Leaves have up to 8 pairs of leathery leaflets
- Leaflets to 8cm x 3cm, prominently veined below

WESTERN TEA-TREE

(*Melaleuca lanceolata*)



Tree to 7m tall with dense spikes of white flowers in summer. It often features a bent and twisted trunk.

Distinguishing features

- Bark dark and hard
- Leaves alternate, narrow, to 12mm x 1mm
- Leaves aromatic when crushed

MELALEUCA SQUAMOPHLOIA



Shrub or small tree to 7m.

Distinguishing features

- Bark hard and scaly or fibrous
- Leaves bright green, twisted, with a prickly tip
- Leaves alternate, to 12mm x 3.5mm
- Leaves have 3 – 15 (somewhat obscure) veins

QUININE BERRY TREE

(Petalostigma pubescens)



A spreading small tree to 6m tall. It is reported to have had medicinal uses in traditional Indigenous culture, including treatment of toothache, sore eyes and fever.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves shiny green, to 5cm long
- Leaves densely hairy underneath
- Leaf stems finely hairy

GUMBI GUMBI

(Pittosporum angustifolium)



A small native tree that is long-lived and widespread across Australia. It was used in traditional Indigenous medicine.



Distinguishing features

- Weeping habit
- Leaves narrow, pendulous, to 10cm x 10mm
- Leaves alternate

MYRTLE TREE

(*Psydrax oleifolia*)



Shrub or small tree to 7m tall. Juvenile plants may have spines. Scented white flowers appear in summer.

Distinguishing features

- Branches stiff; many are more or less horizontal
- Leaves pale or yellowish-green, to 70mm x 25mm
- Leaves thick, leathery, opposite and often wavy

PEPPER TREE

(*Schinus molle**)



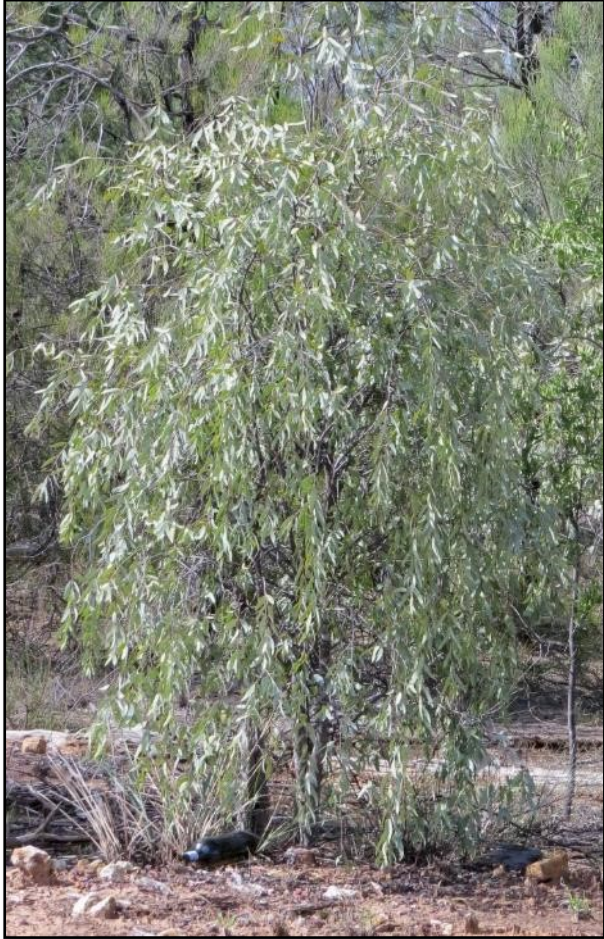
An upright tree to 10m tall with white flowers followed by red berries which have been used as a pepper substitute. Native to the Peruvian Andes. Favoured by early European settlers as a shade tree.

Distinguishing features

- Weeping habit; leaves aromatic when crushed
- Compound leaves; leaflets to 50mm x 10mm
- Leaflets mostly alternate; juveniles toothed

NORTHERN SANDALWOOD

(Santalum lanceolatum)



Small tree with drooping branches, grey-green leaves and white star-shaped flowers. A root parasite: roots attach to other plants, though not harming their host. Indigenous Australians are known to have burnt the leaves and branches as an insect repellent.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves grey-green or mid-green
- Leaves opposite, to 9cm x 25mm
- Weeping habit



SWEET SUSIE

(*Psychdrax odorata*)



Shrub or small tree to 8m with tiny white fragrant flowers in summer followed by fleshy black fruits. The branches are typically held more or less horizontally.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves broad, shiny green (paler below)
- Leaves opposite, to 6cm x 25mm
- Leaf veins visible above, obscure below
- Branches and branchlets stiff, twiggy

CAROL'S WATTLE

(*Acacia caroleae*)



Shrub to 4m on sandy soils.
Usually flowers winter-spring.

Distinguishing features

- Narrow phyllodes to 21cm long
- Phyllodes straight
- Branchlets often reddish

CHINCHILLA WATTLE

(Acacia chinchillensis)



Delicate, spreading shrub to 1.5m tall with yellow flower balls in mid-late winter.

Distinguishing features

- Bark smooth; leaves silvery
- Leaves fern-like, with 5-11 pairs of leaflets
- Branchlets circular in cross-section

CROWDED-LEAF WATTLE

(*Acacia conferta*)



Shrub to 3m tall
with fluffy yellow
flower balls in
autumn and winter.



Distinguishing features

- Small phyllodes crowded on thin branchlets
- Phyllodes to 12mm x 1.5mm; green with a sharp tip
- Phyllode stem less than 1mm long

DEANE'S WATTLE

(Acacia deanei)



Shrub or small tree to 6m.



New growth



Round glands prominent, usually at the base of each pair of leaflets



Distinguishing features

- Bright green foliage with ferny appearance
- Tiny, crowded leaflets to 4mm long
- Bark smooth, green or grey-brown

SPINDLY WATTLE

(*Acacia debilis*)



Spreading small tree to 5m with ferny foliage and bright yellow flowerballs in winter-spring.



Spindly Wattle is similar to *Acacia spectabilis* (Pretty Wattle) which has whitish rather than reddish branchlets and leaflets in 4-6 pairs.



Oval-shaped gland on the stem of each leaf.

Distinguishing features

- Grey-green leaflets to 2cm in 5-17 pairs
- Branchlets reddish
- Stem of each set of leaflets has an oval-shaped gland

PRETTY WATTLE

(*Acacia decora*)



Acacias usually have one or more glands on the top edge of their phyllodes. The placement of these can help in species identification.



Shrub to 3m tall with showy yellow flower balls Aug-Sept.

Distinguishing features

- Phyllodes blue-green and up to 6cm long
- Phyllodes have one prominent mid-vein
- Branchlets yellow-green

BENT-LEAF WATTLE

(*Acacia flexifolia*)



A dense, spreading shrub to 1.5m tall at Columboola and Miles. Yellow flower balls sometime during May-Oct.

Distinguishing features

- Phyllodes narrow, linear and often slightly curved; to 2cm x 2mm; kinked at basal gland
- The main vein is off-centre (nearer to one edge)
- Phyllodes have a small mucro (stiff pointy tip)

UMBRELLA WATTLE

(*Acacia ixiophylla*)



Dense,
usually flat-
topped shrub
to 2m tall.



*Veins anastomosing
(crossing over: not strictly parallel)*

Distinguishing features

- Phyllodes bright green and somewhat sticky
- Older leaves dark green, often with black mould
- Phyllodes have 1 small gland at their base

MUELLER'S WATTLE

(*Acacia muelleriana*)



Rounded, bushy green shrub to 5m tall with pale yellow flower balls in late spring.



Leaf stems 'winged'

Distinguishing features

- Fern-like leaves; leaflets to 1cm x 1.5mm
- Main vein on leaflets is more or less centred
- Branchlets mostly circular in cross-section

HALF-MOON WATTLE

(*Acacia semilunata*)



Shrub or small tree to 5m tall with yellow flower balls in winter.

'*Semilunata*' is an obvious reference to the phyllodes, many of which are half-moon shaped.

Distinguishing features

- Silvery-grey phyllodes to 3cm x 9mm, mostly curved more on one edge than the other
- Phyllodes somewhat crowded on branchlets and mucronate (with a stiff pointy tip)
- Branchlets yellowish and circular in cross-section

GLORY WATTLE

(*Acacia spectabilis*)



Shrub to 4m tall with showy yellow flower balls winter to spring.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves fern-like, opposite, to 10mm x 3mm
- Leaves more or less oblong
- Leaves have a broadly rounded tip
- White, powdery stems

SPURWING WATTLE

(*Acacia triptera*)



Dense shrub to 3m tall with yellow flowers Aug-Sept.

Distinguishing features

- Phyllodes curved and rigid with a very prickly tip
- Part of phyllode blade attached to stem
- Phyllodes to 5cm long

SCRUB BOONAREE

(Alectryon diversifolius)



'Alectryon' is the Ancient Greek word for 'rooster': in the seed you can see the cock's comb.

Prickly shrub to 3m tall.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves dark green, alternate, to 5cm long
- Leaves leathery, stiff, often with sharp points
- Leaf shape varies from rounded (usually obovate: widest towards the tip) to holly-like (sharply toothed)

ANNUAL SALTBUUSH

(*Atriplex muelleri*)



Annual herb to 40cm tall with fan-shaped fruit.

Distinguishing features

- Grey-green foliage
- Leaves alternate and succulent
- Leaf margins sinuate (wave-like indentations)

CUT LEAF DAISY

(*Brachyscome multifida*)



Annual herb to 30cm tall with white or mauve flowers. Common on well-drained soils.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate; no basal leaves
- Leaves shiny green
- Leaves finely divided into long soft points

BREYNIA

(*Breynia oblongifolia*)



Shrub to 3m tall.
Small green flowers
are followed by pink
berries which turn
black as they ripen.
Food plant for a
number of moths
and butterflies.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves mid- to dark green; to 4cm x 2cm
- Leaf apex rounded
- Leaves alternate and oval in shape

SWEET BURSARIA

(*Bursaria spinosa*)



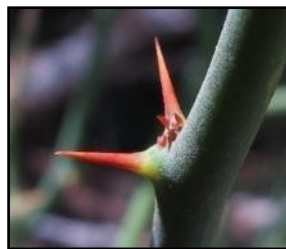
Rigid, prickly shrub to 3m tall with small, sweetly scented white flowers in summer.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves small, to 40mm x 12mm
- Leaves obovate (widest towards tip)
- Leaves often clustered at the base of spines

BROOM BUSH

(Capparis anomala)



A mostly leafless shrub to 6m tall. Fruits turn black when ripe. Host plant for the Caper White Butterfly.

Distinguishing features

- Upright habit
- Mature branches leafless; occasional thorns in pairs
- Branches smooth, green, circular in cross-section

MITCHELL'S CAPER TREE

(Capparis mitchellii)



A dense shrub or small tree which begins life as a scrambling climber. The ripe fruit is a good source of vitamin C.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate
- Mature leaves tough, to 65mm x 35mm
- Curved thorns in neat pairs (when present)

KUNKERBERRY

(*Carissa ovata*)



A low-growing, prickly and often dense native shrub offering good shelter for wildlife.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves ovate (widest towards base) or broadly elliptic (widest in middle)
- Leaves glossy, tough and mostly opposite
- Spines up to 25mm long on twigs

COUGH BUSH

(*Cassinia laevis*)



An upright native shrub to 2.5m tall which flowers much of the year.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate; stems whitish/woolly
- Leaves crowded, linear, less than 2mm wide
- Leaves have curry-like/unpleasant odour

LIMEBUSH

(*Citrus glauca*)



Rigid, thorny shrub or small tree. Scented white flowers in spring are followed by yellowish-green fruit to 20mm in diameter which have a strong lime-like flavour. The fruit is a popular bush food.

Distinguishing features

- Thorns plentiful; can grow to 40mm long
- Oil dots visible on leaves, veins obscure
- Leaves thick, to 5.5cm x 12mm

PRICKLY CRYPTANDRA

(*Cryptandra armata*)



Rigid, prickly shrub to 70cm tall with white flowers in winter.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves tiny, to 4mm
- Spines along long branchlets
- Branchlets often horizontal

WESTERN BORONIA

(*Cyanothamnus occidentalis*)



Erect shrub to 60cm on sandy soils with white/pink 4-petalled flowers.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves opposite with 3-7 leaflets, each to 14mm
- Terminal leaflet often shortest
- 1-3 flowers in leaf axils

BLUE FLAX LILY

(Dianella brevipedunculata)



*Mid-rib vein raised on underside of leaf.
Dianellas, in contrast to Lomandra
species, all possess this mid-rib vein.*



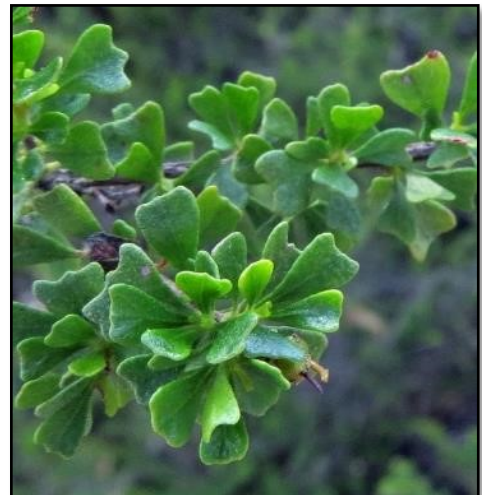
Tufting native plant to 50cm tall with small purplish blue flowers followed by bright purple/blue berries in summer.

Distinguishing features

- Green strap-like leaves to 1m x 2cm
- Leaves have a distinct mid-rib vein
- Leaves conduplicate (folded together lengthwise)
- Tangled flower stems shorter than leaves

DWARF HOP BUSH

(*Dodonaea biloba*)



Spreading, rigid ground-covering shrub to 70cm tall.

Distinguishing features

- Bright green foliage; leaves to 1cm long
- Leaves broadly triangular and mostly 2-lobed
- Leaves crowded on stems

FERN-LEAF HOP BUSH

(*Dodonaea boroniifolia*)



Female flowers



Shrub to 2m tall with bright green foliage and colourful red seed capsules in spring.

Distinguishing features

- Fern-like leaves consisting of 3-6 pairs of leaflets
- Leaflets up to 7mm long with toothed apex
- Leaflets more or less wedge-shaped

TRIANGLE LEAF HOPBUSH

(*Dodonaea triangularis*)



Bushy shrub to 3m tall. Thin papery (hop-like) flowers are followed by solid triangular seed capsules.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate and triangular, to 25mm x 14mm
- Leaves have a broad apex, usually 3-toothed
- Branchlets reddish-brown

STICKY HOP BUSH

(*Dodonaea viscosa*)



Male flowers

Slender, upright shrub to 3m tall. Used in traditional Indigenous medicine to treat toothache and cuts. Early Europeans in Australia used Dodonaeas to make beer (hence 'hop bush').

Distinguishing features

- Leaves and seeds sticky
- Leaves light or dark glossy green, to 5.5cm long
- Leaves taper to the base, with margins slightly toothed

RUBY SALTBUUSH

(*Enchylaena tomentosa*)



A low-growing shrub or groundcover with colourful, edible berries which are red or orange when ripe.

Distinguishing features

- Small leaves to 2cm x 2mm
- Leaves terete (circular in cross-section)
- Leaves semi-succulent

ELLANGOWAN POISON BUSH

(*Eremophila deserti*)



A native shrub to 3m tall. The small yellow fruits are eaten by emus and bustards.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate, narrow, to 50mm x 4mm
- Petiole (leaf stem) very short or absent
- The thin branches may feature small warty lumps

SMALL-LEAVED CANTHIUM

(*Everistia vacciniifolia*)



Photo: Steve Plant

A rigid, much-branched shrub or small tree to 10m tall with tiny perfumed flowers. Berries turn black when ripe.

Distinguishing features

- Branches layered, entangled, held horizontally
- Branches slightly zig-zag and prickly
- Leaves tough, oval, glossy, to 1cm long

NEEDLEWOOD

(*Hakea purpurea*)



Rigid,
prickly
shrub to
2m tall
with bright
red spider-
flowers.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate
- Leaves divide into 2-7 segments with prickly tips
- Leaves terete (round in cross-section)

HILL HIBISCUS

(Hibiscus sturtii)



Shrub to 60cm tall with flowers in summer which can range from pale to dark pink .



Distinguishing features

- Leaves soft, to 5cm x 3cm
- Leaves alternate; margins crenate (bluntly toothed)
- Leaves ovate (widest towards the base)

HOVEA

(*Hovea longipes*)



A beautiful native shrub. Purple pea flowers in winter sometimes age to very pale or white.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves dark green above, yellowish and ageing to grey below
- Leaves alternate and small, to 35mm x 9mm
- Leaf margins slightly curved downwards

AUSTRALIAN INDIGO

(Indigofera australis subsp. australis)



A dainty, erect shrub to 1.5m tall with pink pea-flowers most of the year.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves have 7-17 leaflets, each to 3cm long
- Leaves \pm oblong
- Leaves have a small pointy tip

DOGWOOD

(Jacksonia scoparia)



A common native shrub to 3m tall with masses of golden pea-flowers in spring. Ludwig Leichhardt named Dogwood Creek in Miles after this plant on 23 October, 1844.



Distinguishing features

- Angular grey-green branchlets
- Leaves on young growth; otherwise leafless
- Mature trunk slender, dark and furrowed

KARDOMIA

(Kardomia jucunda)



Twiggy shrub to 2m with crowded leaves and masses of white flowers.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves tiny, to 3mm x 1mm
- Leaves obovate (widest towards the tip)
- Leaf margins slightly recurved (curved downwards)

WILD MAY

(Leptospermum polygalifolium)



Large shrub to 4m tall with masses of white flowers in spring. Common near water courses.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves more or less elliptic (widest in the middle)
- Leaves to 20mm x 5mm
- Petiole (leaf stem) very short or absent

CREAM URN-HEATH

(Melichrus urceolatus)



*Like Twin-flowered
Beard-heath,
leaves are prickly
and are
prominently
ribbed on the
underside.*

A prickly native shrub to 90cm tall with cream urn-shaped flowers in winter.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves stiff, prickly and widest near the base
- Leaves alternate, to 20mm long
- Flowers crowded and sessile (no stem)

WATER BUSH

(*Myoporum acuminatum*)



Shrub to 3m tall with white flowers and berries that are pink when mature anytime after rain.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves smooth, to 10cm long
- Leaves taper to a point at both ends
- Mid-vein more prominent on underside of leaf

GREY DAISY BUSH

(*Olearia canescens*)



Open shrub to 2m tall; white flowers late spring to autumn. The related *Olearia elliptica* has shinier, sticky leaves.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves grey-green
- Leaves soft, wrinkled; to 7cm long
- Leaves pale and densely hairy below

SAGO FLOWER

(Ozothamnus diosmifolius)



Erect shrub to 2m tall with white papery flowers in spring.

Distinguishing features

- Small dark green leaves to 15mm x 2mm
- Leaves crowded along branches
- Leaves alternate

HEATH EVERLASTING

(*Ozothamnus diotophyllus*)



Shrub to 90cm tall
with yellow flower
heads Sept - Nov.

Distinguishing features

- Straggly appearance
- Tiny leaves to 5mm long which lie close to branches
- Branches whitish, woolly

BUTTERFLY BUSH

(*Petalostylis labicheoides*)



Open shrub to 2m tall with showy golden flowers in spring and summer.

Distinguishing features

- Up to 15 leaflets per leaf, each up to 20mm long
- Leaflets mostly arranged alternately
- Branchlets yellow-green with a waxy surface

KOGAN WAXFLOWER

(Philotheca sporadica)



A dense shrub to 1m
with white flowers.

*Kogan Waxflower is
similar to Philotheca
difformis, which has
leaves that are broadest
in the middle and pure
white flowers.*

Distinguishing features

- Leaves tiny, to 5mm long
- Leaves club-like (broadest towards the tip)
- Leaves alternate

MINT BUSH

(*Prostanthera cryptandroides* subsp.
euphrasioides)



Shrub to 90cm tall
with showy pink
tubular flowers
most of the year.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves small, to 10mm long, in pairs/clusters
- Leaves have 3-4 lobes on each side
- Leaves sticky

PUNTY BUSH

(*Senna artemisioides* subsp. *zygophylla*)



Shrub to
2m tall
with
showy
yellow
flowers
winter-
spring.



Distinguishing features

- Silvery-grey foliage
- 2-6 pairs of narrow, softly-hairy leaflets per leaf
- Leaves alternate; leaflets opposite, often in-rolled

TWIN-FLOWERED BEARD HEATH

(*Styphelia biflora*)



Prickly shrub to 1m tall with white tubular flowers in pairs in winter-spring.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves to 12mm x 3mm with a spiny tip
- Leaves sessile (no stem) and paler below
- Fine parallel veins obvious on lower leaf surface

WESTERN ROSEMARY

(*Westringia cheelii*)



Shrub to 1.2m on sandy/ gravelly soils. Flowers are white and tubular with pink spots in the throat.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves to 7mm long, in whorls of 3
- Leaf margins slightly rolled under
- Leaves and stems have short white hairs

MOTHER OF MILLIONS

(*Bryophyllum delagoense**)



An invasive plant which is poisonous to stock and considered a significant environmental weed in Queensland. Native to Madagascar.

Distinguishing features

- Erect habit
- Leaves fleshy, succulent, circular in cross-section
- Mottled camouflage-like pattern on leaves

PURPLE BURR-DAISY

(Calotis cuneifolia)



Perennial to 60cm tall. Flowers can appear throughout the year.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves more or less wedge-shaped
- Leaves have a broad, toothed apex
- Leaves alternate up the stem

MALLEE BURR-DAISY

(Calotis lappulacea)



Upper leaf



Lower leaf

A long-flowering perennial native daisy to 50cm tall. Yellow flowers are followed by round burr-like seed heads.

Distinguishing features

- Clumping habit
- Upper leaves small and sessile (no leaf stem); lower leaves lobed
- Leaves alternate

SPLIT JACK

(*Capparis lasiantha*)



Climber or scrambling shrub to 3m with fragrant white flowers aging to yellow.



Distinguishing features

- Grey-green leathery leaves to 9cm x 20mm
- Some branches slightly zig-zag in form
- Curved thorns in pairs to 4mm long

MULGA FERN

(*Cheilanthes sieberi*)



Drought-resistant
fern to 30cm tall.



Distinguishing features

- Fronds crowded; frond segments deeply lobed
- Stipe (stem) red- to dark-brown
- Hairless

BLACK ORCHID

(*Cymbidium canaliculatum*)



A native orchid typically growing on large trunks or logs. An extensive root & rhizome system helps this epiphyte reach nutrients deep in decaying wood and helps protect it from desiccation and heat in dry areas.



Distinguishing features

- Clumping habit
- Leaves long (to 60cm), rigid and channelled
- Leaves alternate and sessile (no leaf stem)

BUSHY DAMPIERA

(*Dampiera adpressa*)



Bushy subshrub to 40cm tall. Occurs in stony soil or roadside table drains around Kogan and Tara.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate and sessile (lacking a leaf stem)
- Leaves variable in shape; sometimes toothed
- Flowers varying shades of purple/blue

SMOOTH FLAX LILY

(*Dianella longifolia*)



Mid-rib vein, raised on underside of leaf. Lomandras can look similar to Dianellas but Lomandras lack this mid-rib vein.

Tufting or clumping native plant to 1m tall with blue flowers in spring/summer followed by purplish berries.

Distinguishing features

- Grey-green strap-like leaves to 85cm x 15mm
- Leaves conduplicate (folded together lengthwise)
- Flower stems held above foliage

WINTER APPLE

(*Eremophila debilis*)



A trailing groundcover with white flowers followed by pink berries.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate, to 6cm x 15mm
- Leaves may have toothed margin towards the base
- Leaf stem very short or absent

ROUGH SAW-SEDGE

(*Gahnia aspera*)



A native sedge common in Queensland and NSW. Leaves have razor sharp edges. Seeds were pounded by Indigenous people to make a type of flour. Host plant for several butterflies, including a number of skipper species.

Distinguishing features

- Thin strap-like leaves with no prominent midvein
- Leaves have very sharp edges
- Seeds rusty-brown

DESERT JASMINE

(Jasminum didymum subsp. lineare)



Tangled, scrambling shrub or climber. White tubular flowers are followed by berries that are black when ripe.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves consist of 3 narrow leaflets
- Leaves mostly opposite
- Largest leaflets to 10cm x 5mm

MAT RUSH

(*Lomandra sp.*)



Lomandra longifolia leaves typically have a ragged tip.



Lomandra longifolia seed head.

Distinguishing features

- Grow as tussocks
- Long strap-like leaves
- Leaves have no midrib vein (unlike *Dianellas*)

Several species of perennial grass-like tufting herbs.

WOOLLY-HEADED MAT RUSH

(*Lomandra leucocephala*)



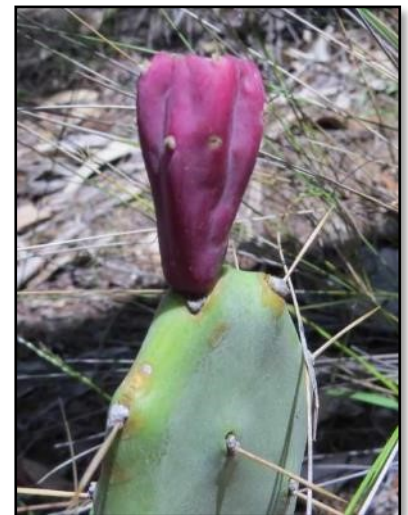
A tufting plant
on sandy soils.
Has striking
white woolly
flower heads.

Distinguishing features

- Forms a dense tussock
- Leaves grey-green, narrow, to 40cm long
- White filaments common on the leaves

VELVET TREE PEAR

(*Opuntia tomentosa*)*



A prickly invasive cactus to 6m tall. Native to Mexico.

Distinguishing features

- Single woody main stem
- Segments usually obovate (widest towards the tip)
- Much-branched; spines to 25mm long

WONGA VINE

(*Pandorea pandorana*)



A vigorous twining plant with showy flowers in winter-spring.



Adult leaves



Juvenile leaves

Distinguishing features

- Leaves mostly opposite
- Adult leaves compound with 5-9 leaflets
- Juvenile leaves fern-like with much smaller leaflets

GARGALOO

(*Parsonsia eucalyptophylla*)



A scrambling,
woody climber
with a dense
habit.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves long and thin, resembling eucalypt leaves (usually more than 8 times as long as wide)
- Leaves opposite
- Watery sap

POMAX

(*Pomax umbellata*)



Herb or sub-shrub to 40cm
with flowers in wheel-like
arrangement.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves to 3cm x 12mm
- Leaves opposite, with pointed tip
- Stems \pm hairy

GALVANISED BURR

(*Sclerolaena birchii*)



A prickly perennial shrub to 70cm tall.



Distinguishing features

- Grey-green foliage; leaves to 15mm long
- Leaves and branches covered in white, woolly hairs
- Fruit has spines in sets of 5 (sometimes 4)

VARIABLE GROUNDSEL

(*Senecio pinnatifolius* var. *pinnatifolius*)



A short-lived herb
to 70cm tall.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves deeply dissected, to 10cm long
- Leaves alternate
- Multiple golden flower heads

SMALL FIREBUSH

(Seringia corollata)



Open shrub to 60cm tall with mauve flowers in clusters of two to four.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves deeply wrinkled, to 7cm x 16mm
- Leaves paler and softly hairy below
- Leaf margins may be toothed or entire

PRETTY NIGHTSHADE

(*Solanum jucundum*)



Erect shrub to 1.5m tall.



Distinguishing features

- Velvety leaves to 8cm x 2cm
- Leaves grey-green or dark green, rusty/paler below
- Can have prickles scattered on branches and leaves

BRIGALOW BURR

(*Sclerolaena tetracuspis*)



A prickly,
mat-forming
native herb
to 25cm tall.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves mid-green, cylindrical, succulent; to 10mm
- Spines usually 4 in number, regularly spaced
- Leaves not petiolate (have no leaf stem)

TWINLEAF

(Roepera apiculata)



A low, spreading native shrub. Host plant for the Dark Grass Blue Butterfly, the Whitelined Hawk Moth and the Castor Semi-Looper Moth.



Distinguishing features

- Each leaf consists of two broad, rounded leaflets
- Leaflets are obliquely obovate (egg-shaped)
- Leaves articulate (jointed) at base of leaflets

BOX MISTLETOE

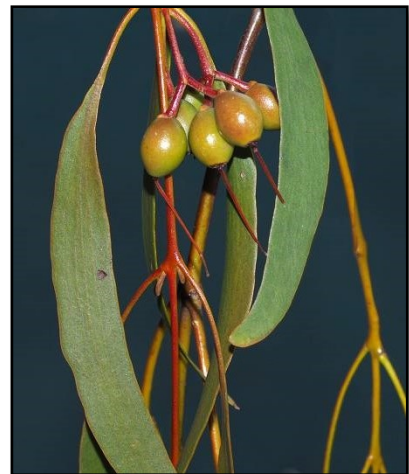
(*Ameyema miquelii*)



A weeping mistletoe growing on *Eucalypt* and *Acacia* species.

Distinguishing features

- Long drooping branches
- Leaves to 25cm long
- Flowers downward-pointing, in 3-7 groups of two or three



BULL OAK MISTLETOE

(Amyema linophylla subsp. orientalis)



A spreading/drooping mistletoe with coral-pink flowers found exclusively on *Casuarina* and *Allocasuarina* species (notably Bull Oak).



Distinguishing features

- Needle-like leaves to 12cm long (mimicking host)
- Flowers upward-pointing, usually in three groups of three
- Flower buds covered in whitish down

GREY MISTLETOE

(*Amyema quandang* var. *bancroftii*)



A pendulous, branching mistletoe which grows on *Acacia* (wattle) species. The threatened Painted Honeyeater relies on the fruit of this species, along with Needle-leaf Mistletoe, during breeding.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves grey-green, leathery
- Leaves often opposite, broad, to 12cm x 4.5cm
- Flowers upward-pointing, in two groups of three

HARLEQUIN MISTLETOE

(*Lysiana exocarpi* subsp. *tenuis*)



A mistletoe found mainly on Bull Oak though sometimes also Belah.

Distinguishing features

- Narrow, bright green leaves to 15cm x 3mm
- Leaves opposite or clustered
- Flowers upward-pointing, in pairs or groups of three

NEEDLE-LEAF MISTLETOE

(*Amyema cambagei*)



A mistletoe which uses *Casuarina* and *Allocasuarina* host plants almost exclusively. Like many mistletoes, its leaves resemble those of the host plant.

Distinguishing features

- Needle-like leaves to 15cm long
- Stems, leaves and fruit finely downy
- Flowers downward-pointing, in three groups of three

VARIABLE MISTLETOE

(*Amyema congener*)



A mistletoe often found on *Acacia* and *Casuarina* species.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves rounded, mostly obovate (widest near tip)
- Leaves leathery, to 11cm x 4cm, veins obscure
- Flowers downward-pointing, in 3-5 groups of three

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