

River Oak



FAMILY: Casuarinaceae

HABIT: A large pyramidal tree with rough, deeply furrowed, dark grey bark.

LEAVES: The foliage is pine-like with leaves reduced to scales in whorls of eight to ten.

FLOWER/FRUIT: Male and female flowers are on separate trees. The reddish female flowers are followed by very small globular cones, about 0.8-1cm.

PROPAGATION: The best time to collect cones is as they turn from green to brown and one or two chambers are just starting to open on the cone. Once picked, they are best placed in a calico or brown paper bag and left in a warm spot. The cones will open releasing the seeds. Sow in a sandy medium.

LOCAL HABITAT: Riparian.

DISTRIBUTION: Widespread in Queensland. Also in New South Wales and Papua New Guinea.



GENERAL: A fast growing tree, useful for erosion control on stream banks. Timber is very tough and has been used for shingles, bullock yokes and axe handles. Seed is eaten by a number of parrot, rosellas and cockatoo species.

REFERENCES: Alcock & Champion 1989 *One Hundred and One Trees of Mackay*.
Melzer & Plumb 2007 *Plants of Capricornia*.