

Native Rosella /Native Hibiscus



FAMILY: Malvaceae

HABIT: A shrub to small tree from 2 to 6 metres.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple or three lobed; margins are finely toothed. The leaves and stems are somewhat prickly hairy.

FLOWER/FRUIT: The flowers are large and showy up to 15cm in diameter. Petals are yellow, white or pink with maroon centres. Yellow being the most common in this district. The flowers normally open about mid-morning and close by mid-afternoon. The fruit are rosella-like, 5 valved capsules containing dark brown seeds.

PROPAGATION: Seed and cuttings.

LOCAL HABITAT: Margins of dry rainforests and woodlands.

DISTRIBUTION: Eastern Queensland and New South Wales and the Northern Territory.



GENERAL: Aborigines used the white, strong and fine fibre to make dilly-bags. They also use many components of the plant as a food source. Early settlers used the fruits to make 'rosella' jam. Attracts many species of insects: larval food plant for some moth species.

REFERENCES: Anderson, 2003 *Plants of central Queensland, their identification and uses.*
Melzer & Plung 2007 *Plants of Capricornia.*