

## Leichhardt Tree



**FAMILY:** Rubiaceae prev Naucleaceae

**HABIT:** A medium to tall, semi-deciduous tree with rough grey bark.

**LEAVES:** Simple, opposite, ovate, large, from 10-30 x 10-20cm, glossy green above and paler beneath, with conspicuous veins. New growth is protected by large oval stipules, up to 4.5cm long.

**FLOWER/FRUITS:** Small yellow and white flowers occur in dense globular heads. The bumpy fruits; about 4cm across, turn yellowish brown at maturity, are quite soft and contain numerous small brown seeds.

**PROPAGATION:** Collect soft fruit and soak overnight, break open and scrap out seed then mix with sand; sow immediately.

**LOCAL HABITAT:** Riparian, lowland rainforest and melaleuca swamps.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Northern Western Australia and Northern Territory, coastal Queensland from Cape York to Gladstone.

**GENERAL:** The dark yellow, close-grained timber with its musk-like odour is suitable for cabinet making. Aborigines used the trunk to make canoes and paddles, and the fruit for medicinal purposes. Fruit is eaten by the Agile Wallaby and Spectacled Flying-fox.

**REFERENCES:** Alcock & Champion 1989 *One Hundred and One Trees of Mackay*.

Cooper & Cooper, 2004 *Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest*.

Melzer & Plumb 2007 *Plants of Capricornia*