

## Rainforest Plants

There is an increased awareness of the beauty of many of our Australian rainforest plants.

Many produce:

- attractive flowers and fruits, some of which are edible
- bursts of colourful new leaves several times a year
- beautiful markings on tree trunks and attractive bark.

Rainforest trees in cultivation are proving not to grow into forest giants, growing about a third the size that they would in their natural habitat.

Rainforest plants can be grown in most Central Coast gardens provided they are given protection from the extremes of heat, cold and the drying winds.

Some plants are referred to as *pioneer plants*. They can produce rapid growth rates of 2-3 meters per year.

Pioneer plants can be used to protect slower growing species if established large plants are not present.

New garden plantings should be limited to sun hardy species and pioneer plants.

## Watering

Although watering is necessary initially, once established, rainforest plants require no more water than other garden plants.

## Mulch Mulch and more Mulch

Heavy mulching is very important in establishing rainforest plants. Mulching will keep the root system cool, moist and help eliminate weed competition. Mulches can be applied to a depth of 20cm. Do not dig the mulch into the ground.

## Fertiliser

Most require regular fertilizing. Use organic cow manure, fowl manure, blood & bone or a slow release fertilizer. All artificial fertilizers should be watered in.

## Pruning

Most respond to pruning, developing into bushy plants, producing flushes of new growth.

## Palms, Ferns, Orchids & Mosses

These plants form part of the rainforest flora and can add a lush look to your garden.

## Climbing plants

Climbing plants and vines are a feature of the rainforest as they scramble across rocks or grow up tree trunks towards the light.

## Container Plants

Some rainforest plants make excellent container plants that can be used for short periods indoors.

## Palms

Plant Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i>	Alexander palm	Attractive palm to 10m.
<i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i>	Bangalow palm	Local growing palm to 10m.
<i>Linospadix monostachya</i>	Walking stick palm	Needs shade. Slow growing to 3m.
<i>Livistona australis</i>	Cabbage tree palm	Local. Hardy in sun or shade to 15m.

## Climbing Plants

Plant Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Hibbertia scandens</i>	Guinea flower	Yellow flowers. Ground cover or climber
<i>Hoya australis</i>	Wax flower	Sweetly scented waxy white flower
<i>Pandorea jasminoides</i>	Bower of beauty	Climber with large pink or white flowers
<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>	Wonga vine	Hardy climber. Spring flowering
<i>Tecomanthe hillii</i>	Pink trumpet vine	Fast growing climber. Warm position

## Scented leaves

<i>Backhousia anisata</i>	Aniseed tree	Leaves have a strong aniseed perfume
<i>Backhousia citriodora</i>	Lemon scented myrtle	Leaves strongly lemon scented

## Pioneer Plants

Plant Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	Red Ash	Natural coloniser. Hardy in most soils
<i>Alphitonia petriei</i>	Pink Ash	Hardy in full sun with rapid growth rate
<i>Callicoma serratifolia</i>	Callicoma	Rapid growth in moist soils. Full sun or shade
<i>Commersonia bartramia</i>	Brown kurrajong	Extremely fast growing in suitable conditions
<i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i>	Cheese tree	Adapts to harsh conditions. Fast growing
<i>Omalanthus nutans</i>	Bleeding heart	Fast growing in full sun or shade

## Fruits of the Rainforest

Plant Name	Common name	Comments
<i>Acmena smithii</i>	Narrow leaf Lilly Pilly	Pink or white fruit in late summer
<i>Alpinia caerulea</i>	Native ginger	Blue fruit. Excellent foliage plant
<i>Austromyrtus dulcis</i>	Midgen	Cinnamon flavoured fruit in autumn
<i>Clerodendrum floribundum</i>	Lolly bush	Blue/ black fruit surrounded by a red calyx
<i>Davidsonia pruriens</i>	Davidsons plum	Large edible fruit. Makes delicious jam
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	Blue flax lily	Cobalt blue sweet fruit for birds
<i>Diploglottis australis</i>	Native tamarind	Orange fruit, sour but juicy. Pleasant taste.
<i>Pittosporum rhombifolium</i>	Hollywood	Attractive orange fruit in autumn
<i>Syzygium paniculatum</i>	Magenta Lilly Pilly	Sweet juicy fruit. Withstands salt spray
<i>Syzygium oleosum</i>	Blue Lilly Pilly	Large purple fruit with crisp juicy flesh

## Decorative Flowers

Name	Common name	Comments
<i>Backhousia citriodora</i>	Lemon scented myrtle	Masses of cream flowers
<i>Backhousia myrtifolia</i>	Grey myrtle	Profusion of flowers
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Illawarra Flame tree	Striking red flowers
<i>Buckinghamia celsissima</i>	Ivory curl	Masses of cream flowers
<i>Cordyline stricta</i>	Palm lily	Purple/ violet flowers..Purple or black fruit
<i>Crinum pedunculatum</i>	River lily	Fragrant white flowers
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Tuckeroo	Masses of yellow fruit
<i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i>	Blueberry ash	Masses of pink or white dainty flowers
<i>Graptophyllum ilicifolium</i>	Native fuchsia	Holly leaves. Dark crimson flowers
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Silky oak	For large gardens and parks
<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Native frangipani	Fragrant cream flowers ageing to yellow
<i>Melicope elleryana</i>	Pink Euodia	Butterfly attracting flowers
<i>Melastoma affine</i>	Native lasiandra	Appealing mauve flowers
<i>Randia fitzalanii</i>	Native gardenia	Fragrant flowers, good container plant
<i>Rhododendron lochiaie</i>	Native rhododendron	Striking red flowers
<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i>	Firewheel tree	Tall deciduous tree, showy red flowers
<i>Xanthostemon chrysanthus</i>	Golden penda	Striking golden yellow flowers

## Plants with colourful leaves

Name	Common name	Comments
<i>Doodia aspera</i>	Rasp fern	Attractive pink new fronds
<i>Grevillea baileyana</i>	White oak	Rich bronze colour under-side leaves

Name	Common name	Comments
<i>Pilidiostigma glabrum</i>	Plum myrtle	Blue green new foliage
<i>Syzygium 'Cascade'</i>		Colourful new growth. Pink flowers
<i>Syzygium francisii</i>	Francis water gum	New leaves bright red or pink
<i>Syzygium luehmannii</i>	Riberry	Young leaves red & bright pink
<i>Syzygium wilsonii ssp wilsonii</i>	Powder-puff Lilly-Pilly	New leaves pink. Crimson flowers
<i>Uromyrtus australis</i>	Peach Myrtle	Good for containers, weeping habit
<i>Waterhousia floribunda</i>	Weeping Lilly Pilly	Dark shiny green leaves
<i>Waterhousia unipunctata</i>	Roly poly satinash	Flushes of red & pink new growth



*Syzygium wilsonii*

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