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Botanical name:

Brachychiton acerifolius

Common name:

Illawarra Flame Tree

Origin:

Coastal rainforests from central New South Wales to far north Queensland.

Typical height:

12-15 metres (larger in natural habitats)

Typical width:

5-8 metres

Growth rate:

Moderate to slow

Typical form:

Pyramidal to narrow-domed on stout tapering trunk

Characteristics:

In cultivation a medium deciduous to evergreen tree (can vary). Smooth, green or grey-green bark on trunk, often tapering. Leaves have long petioles and can be about 250 mm long and may have entire margins or be deeply lobed. Bell-shaped flowers are bright red or scarlet in colour. Typically sheds its leaves just prior to producing flowers. Flowers are followed by large, leathery seed capsules containing many seeds that are covered in irritant hairs.

Site requirements:

Common tree in cultivation adaptable to a range of soil types; sandy or heavy soils.

Tolerances:

Drought and frost resistant. Fire retardant

Notes:

B. acerifolius is generally deciduous before flowers are seen in early summer. However, the

deciduous nature of the plant is variable.
Flowering may take around 5-8 years from
seed.