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Botanical name:

*Brachychiton rupestris*

Common name:

Queensland Bottle Tree

Origin:

Endemic to a limited region of Australia in Central Queensland through to northern New South Wales.

Typical height:

8-12 metres (larger in natural habitats)

Typical width:

5-8 metres

Growth rate:

Moderate to slow

Typical form:

Pyramidal to rounded on stout bulbous trunk.

The common name “bottle tree” refers to the characteristic trunk of the tree, which can reach a 2 m diameter.

Characteristics:

A small to medium sized tree which may reach 18-20 metres in height although it is usually much smaller in cultivation in cooler areas. Leaves are about 100 mm long and may have entire margins or be deeply lobed. The inconspicuous bell-shaped flowers are yellowish in clusters at the ends of the branches. The flowers are followed by seed capsules which contain many large seeds.

Site requirements:

It naturally grows in a soil that consists of a medium to heavy clay, silt, sand and volcanic rocks. However the tree is quite adaptable and can tolerate a variety of climates and soil types.



Tolerances:

High drought tolerance and frost resistant. Fire retardant

Notes:

The name of the bottle tree can be taken literally, as there is a significant amount of water stored between the inner bark and the trunk. Aboriginally historically carved holes into the soft bark to create reservoir-like structures. The seeds, roots, stems, and bark have all traditionally been a source of food for people and animals alike. Another use has been made of the fibrous inner bark to make twine or rope and even woven together to make fishing nets (<https://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/interns-2005/brachychiton-rupestris.html>).