



Botanical name:

Brachychiton populneus

Common name:

Kurrajong

Origin:

Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland,
Northern Territory

Typical height:

10-15 metres

Typical width:

8-12 metres

Growth rate:

Moderate

Typical form:

Evergreen broad domed, medium sized tree generally with a stout trunk.



Characteristics:

Bark is green and smooth on young trees, becoming dark, compacted and coarsely fissured on stout trunk to larger branches of maturing specimens.

Foliage discolourous, glossy green above and paler green below. Mostly entire but sometimes with up to 3 small, pointed lobes depending on subspecies. Flowers, appearing in October to December, are cream to pale green bell-shaped flowers with pale pink to purple flecks in the throat of the bell.

Fruit is a leathery boat shaped follicle with hairs on the seeds held within.

Site requirements:

Adaptable to many soil types, prefers free draining soils.

Tolerances:

High drought tolerant. Low tolerance of waterlogged sites and excessive root

disturbance. Can be transplanted successfully as a smaller tree (3-4m) but presence of residual tap root can be problematic.

Suitable for use under powerlines:
Potentially with management

Notes:

A terrific dense, broad domed tree offering cool shade suitable for use in average to larger gardens.

An ideal street tree and suitable for pruning below electrical services.

While juvenile growth is often very slow, improvement in establishment and vigour is possible through soil cultivation and watering. Kurrajongs may cause nuisance from their large woody fruit.

Facts and trivia:

Ground-up seeds can be brewed into a coffee substitute or added to bread. The swollen, carrot-like taproot is a nutritious and agreeable vegetable, and the gum exudate is also edible. Kurrajong fibre taken from the stem has been used in twine and netting manufacture.

Native populations on agricultural land are often retained to provide dense shade and drought fodder. Leaves lopped from branches are nutritious and desirable to stock, however consumption of the fruit may cause illness.

References

ANBG (2021) *Brachychiton populneus* [Seen at: <https://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/interns-2002/brachychiton-populneus.html>. Accessed 21/7/21]