

Christmas Tree



Scientific name: *Nuytsia floribunda*

Aboriginal name: Mooja (Noongar)



Plant habit



Foliage



Flower

About ...

The Christmas Tree is a hemiparasitic plant, which means its roots attach themselves to the roots of other plants to get nutrients from a host plant.

This tree is related to the mistletoe; however, it has its own root system in the ground.

They are known as Christmas Trees due to their spectacular show of golden flowers around Christmas time.

'According to Noongar people, when a person dies, their spirit inhabits a Christmas Tree, so its leaves should be taken inside a house or camp shelter, lest the spirit becomes trapped. The flowers; however, can be used as decoration.' Bush Tucker Plants of the South-West

Aboriginal Uses

- The roots have edible suckers that are juicy and succulent with a bitter or sweet taste
- Flowers are soaked in water to make a sweet drink
- Wood was used for shields, after taking the wood, families would return to eat the raw, sweet gum that oozed from the wounded tree

Family

LORANTHACEAE

Climate

Temperate

Habitat

Indigenous to south-west Western Australia from Kalbarri to Israelite Bay and inland to near Kellerberrin Forests, woodlands and coastal plain

Form

Medium tree
Height: 10 m
Bark is grey to dark brown

Foliage

Long, narrow leaves
Dull green to bluish-green

Flower

Birak (December)
Bright golden flowers
Dense sprays arranged in threes on a long stem
More stamens than petals

Fruit

Inedible (not to be eaten)
Dry, brown in colour
Light and winged
Carried on the wind



Used as food



Used as medicine



Used as resources



Local to SW WA

Caution: Do not prepare bush tucker food without having been shown by Indigenous or experienced persons. Some bush tucker if eaten in large quantities or not prepared correctly can cause illness.