

# Desert Lime

Scientific name: *Citrus glauca*

Aboriginal name: Unknown



Plant habit (juvenile)



Leaf and stem



Fruit



Flower

## About ...

The Desert Lime is part of the citrus family (orange, lemon, lime, grapefruit).

The young Desert Lime is a thorny plant; however, as it matures, the thorns disappear. It begins to produce fruit when the plant is about four years old. The mature plant generally produces a large number of fruits. The fruit has a soft rind and juicy pulp.

Due to its ability to grow in semi-arid areas, Desert Lime is of interest as a grafting rootstock to possibly extend the range of commercial citrus crops. There is also potential for breeding to develop new citrus varieties. They are tolerant of heat, frost, drought and salinity.

## Aboriginal Uses

- The fruits are edible and can be eaten whole, having a strong citrus flavour with a bitter aftertaste
- The fruits can be used in drinks, marmalades, jams, dipping sauces, simmer sauces and desserts

**Family** RUTACEAE

**Climate** Semi-arid

**Habitat** Dry forest, scrub and along creek lines in arid parts of Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia

**Form** Shrub or small tree  
Height: 2 – 6 m

**Foliage** Tough, light grey-to-green leaves  
Length: 50 mm  
Width: 5 mm  
Leaves fall off during dry periods

**Flower** Kambarang (Spring)  
White flowers with a citrus aroma

**Fruit** Kambarang to Birak (late Spring and Summer)  
Small, lime green-to-yellow rounded fruits  
Length: 10 – 20 mm  
Sour taste

Developed by SERCUL for use with the *Bush Tucker Education Program*.



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.