

Macadamia

Scientific name: *Macadamia integrifolia*

Aboriginal name: Boombera (NSW)



Plant habit



Nuts



Flower spikes

About ...

Macadamia's are native to the south-east of Queensland and the north-east of New South Wales; however, this plant does really well in the clay soil along the Swan and Canning Rivers and north to Carnarvon. It thrives in nutrient-rich, moist soil.

The average trunk diameter is around 300 mm. The root system is dicot; producing a tap root upon germination followed by lateral roots to stabilise the plant.

It takes around 185 days for the nuts to mature. The macadamia tree can have flowers, nutlets and mature nuts growing simultaneously, for most of the year.

This evergreen was once considered the only Australian native plant ever developed as a commercial fruit crop. In 1927, Herbert Ramsey (nurseryman) fulfilled an order for 10 000 macadamia seeds for the United States.

Aboriginal Uses

- Nuts are eaten raw or after cooking and can be used in many food dishes
- They are prized for their high energy and fat content

Family

PROTEACEAE

Climate

Subtropical to warm temperate

Habitat

Rainforests of northern NSW and southern Queensland. Can be grown from Perth to Carnarvon.

Form

Tall tree with a smooth trunk

Height: 8 – 20 m

Width: 4 – 10 m

Foliage

Tough, glossy, deep green leaves growing to about 200 mm

Leaves have spines along the edges

Grow in circular groups of three

New growth is pale green with purple tips

Flower

Kambarang to Bunuru (Spring to Summer)

Creamy white, drooping feather flower

spikes to about 250 – 300 mm long

Sweet smelling

Pollinated by bees

Nut

Djeran to Djilba (Autumn to Winter)

Shiny brown spherical shaped measuring

20 – 30 mm in diameter

Very hard

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.