

Pittosporum phylliraeoides angustifolium – Gumby Gumby

Commonly known as Weeping Pittosporum, Native Apricot or Gumby Gumby is an evergreen tree reaching 8m in height and 4m in width that is found naturally in most states in the drier inland.

It has a weeping form with pendulous branches and the leaves are narrow lanceolate to 10 cm. The bark is grey to white and mottled. In the Spring and Summer it produces small, lightly fragrant bell shaped flowers in a creamy yellow, followed by 2cm orange-yellow berries that give it its alternate common name of native apricot. The berries split and release bright red sticky seed - the fruit is attractive but not edible for humans but birds seem to enjoy it. Foliage is attractive to browsing livestock and it is not uncommon to see this tree in a "standard" form when it grows wild.

Pittosporum prefers a well-drained position in full sun.

Propagation

Pre-treat seeds by hot water treatment to overcome dormancy inhibitors. Place the seed in something such as a muslin bag. Boil water and take off heat and immerse the seed immediately and leave to soak over night.

Germination can be affected by using a plastic bag with about a fistful of moist sphagnum moss. Mix the seed in the damp moss and seal the plastic bag, place the bag in a warm, sunny position and maintain the moss in a lightly moist state.

Or

Sow in a good seed raising mix, just lightly covering the seeds and water from below to avoid disturbance.

Germination takes from 21 to 28 days at a temperature of 23°C.

Pot up in a 3:1 mixture of clean sand and peat moss in a pot or forestry tube with some depth. Grow on as desired, potting if where necessary.