

## Alloxylon flammeum – Tree Waratah

A tall tree to 25-30m in its native habitat but is much smaller in cultivation. The adult leaves are glossy green, elliptical and about 150mm long by about 50mm wide. Juvenile leaves may be much larger and may also be lobed. The flowers occur in clusters up to 75 mm in diameter and are conspicuously displayed in the leaf axils towards the ends of the branches. The flower colour is a bright red and flowers are seen in spring and early summer.

Alloxylon flammeum is one of the most spectacular of all Australian native plants. Despite its tropical origin, tree waratah has been successfully cultivated in cooler districts at least as far south as Sydney where the plant flowers reliably.

It is tolerant of a range of soils provided they are not waterlogged. It will even survive extended dry periods once established but flowering is reduced under these conditions. Established plants will withstand moderate frosts but heavy frosts can be expected to cause damage.

### Propagation

Propagation from seed is straightforward and no pretreatment is required. Sow at a depth equal to the width of the seed in any good quality potting mix. Lie the seed flat. Keep the media moist but not damp. Place in a warm shady position. Optimum germination temperature is 25°C+.

Prick the seedling out at about 2 inches and pot on into a forestry tube or a 1L milk carton or a toilet roll. The milk carton or toilet roll has advantages as Proteaceae generally do not like root disturbance and you can plant the whole pot this way, just remove the bottom. We suggest you grow your seedlings on until about 6 inches and then plant them out in a warm sunny position in good loamy soil.

Protect your young seedlings from slugs and snails.