

Buckinghamia celsissima – Ivory Curl Tree

In its native far North Queensland high-altitude rainforest the *Buckinghamia celsissima* reaches a height of at least 20m but in cultivation it rarely exceeds 7-8m. If given some protection it can grow and flower prolifically as far south as Melbourne but it will usually only attain the proportions of a large shrub.

The creamy white brush-like flowers are carried from Summer through to early Winter, depending on the location. It is effectively used in the background or as a feature plant.

Propagation

Most soils are suitable and full sun will encourage it to flower well. Being a member of the Proteaceae family, it is intolerant of phosphatic fertilisers. It'll stand a reasonably hard prune right after flowering to maintain desired height if required. It doesn't seem to have any pest or disease problems.

Propagation is straightforward and seed needs no pre-treatment. Soak seed overnight and plant into a medium potting mix. Maintain the media in a moist but not damp state. Water gently and cover with clear polythene until germination starts in 3-6 weeks. Keep soil moist place in warm shady position, Protect from snails and slugs.

It doesn't like to have its roots disturbed so make sure you get it in the right spot first time.