

## Barklya syringifolia – Golden Blossom Tree

**Flowers** – The large dense racemes of small yellow flowers are the glory of the tree and are borne in great profusion.

**Timber** – The wood is hard, closed-grained, and of a blackish-grey colour, considered to be possibly suitable for tool handles. It is but a small tree, not very abundant, and considering its beauty from a horticultural point of view, it would appear wicked to cut it down for use as timber, which is really inferior, having no special merit to recommend it.

**Size** – Up to a height of 12 - 15m, with a stem-diameter of 30-40cm.

**Habitat** – This tree is confined to northern NSW and QLD. In the former State it does not appear to occur further south than the Richmond River in the wild. In Queensland it has been recorded as far north as Rockhampton; but its precise southern and northern localities remain to be defined. It grows in rich brush land.

**Propagation** – From seed. This is one of the most beautiful trees of medium size that Australia produces. It is of little or no economic value; but as a handsome plant it should be widely cultivated wherever moisture, warmth, and good soil are available. There is a fine specimen in the Sydney Botanic Garden, and its rich dark exuberant foliage, surmounted by a golden crown of flowers every January, is worth a long journey to see.

Seed benefits from scarification to hasten germination. Propagate in a mixture of one-part peat moss to three parts river sand. Prick out after second leaf has formed and grow on in a medium potting mixture and plant out in a sunny position after the danger of frost has passed.

This species increases its cold tolerance with size and is best planted out after say 12 months in a pot in a fairly protected position. Avoid too much root disturbance - growing on in a biodegradable container or one that can have its bottom removed allowing planting out of the whole pot is an advantage in cooler climates.