

Flindersia species

Flindersia australis

Flindersia brayleyana

Flindersia schottiana

Flindersia brayleyana, commonly known as the Queensland Maple or Silkwood is a large tree with a spreading crown, that occurs naturally in highland rainforests of north-eastern Queensland from the Atherton Tableland to near Townsville.

In the wild Queensland maple grows to some 25m with a spread of 15m. In cultivation it is smaller, growing to perhaps 8 - 12m with a spread of 6m. It is a handsome columnar tree with a spreading crown of attractive, glossy, dark green leathery foliage. Large clusters of sweetly scented, small white flowers appear in early summer followed by interesting woody seed pods.

It is a very important timber tree with attractive, easy-to-work pink wood which is extensively used for cabinets and indoor fittings. The species is planted commercially in the reforestation of logged areas. An excellent shade tree for parks, large gardens and acreage plantings and attractive tub specimen when young. Young trees are fairly fast growing and in open situations develop a rounded, dense, dark green canopy. It is a good street tree with non-invasive roots.

They prefer loamy soils with plenty of moisture but will grow on other soils. They grow well in subtropical regions but can adapt well to cooler climates and are tolerant of moderate frosts.

Propagation

Soak seed for a few hours in warm water.

Sow seed directly into the growing medium in either a forestry tube or seed tray. The medium should be a good loam cut with 20% clean sand. Seed should just be covered by the medium and not buried.

Place the tube or seed tray in a light spot out of direct sunlight. Maintain the medium in a lightly moist state. Prick individual seedlings out into individual tubes at 5cm and grow on.