

# FINDLAY'S SILKY OAK

**Alternative name:** Cheese Tree, Pin Flower Tree

**FAMILY:** EUPHORBIACEAE

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Glochidion lobocarpum*



**Form and size:**

A shrub to small tree

**Leaves:**

Simple, alternate entire, ovate to elliptic 2-10cm long

**Adult leaf -**

**Topside:** dull to glossy green

**Underside:** glaucous (dull greyish-green or blue colour)

**Bark:**

Brown with vertical fissures

**Flowers:**

Axillary clusters of yellowish green perfumed flowers

Dioecious flowers, i.e. male and female flowers are found on separate plants

Flowers prolifically



**Flowering Period:**

May to February

**Fruit:**

Small pumpkin shaped capsules, about 8 mm in diameter

Green turning orange/yellow when ripe.

Fruit is recorded as resembling a miniature Edam cheese, hence the common name, Cheese Tree.

December to May



**Ecological notes**

Fruit and seeds eaten by the Brown Cuckoo Dove.  
Larval food plant of the moths *Anisodes turneri* and *Hyalobathra moniosalis*.

**Cultivation:**

Grow from fresh seed or cutting.

**Distribution:**

Found in rainforest margins, beach forest, eucalypt understory and fringing forest along creeks and rivers of Queensland, as well as Papua New Guinea. Will grow in a wide range of coastal soils including saline clay, coastal sands and gravel.



**OTHER INFORMATION**

**Disclaimer:** Rotary Club of Capricorn Coast can not take any responsibility for any adverse effects from the use of plants. Always seek advice from a professional before using a plant medicinally.

**QUIZ TIME**

1. Why is one common name for Findlay's Silky Oak the Cheese Tree?
  - a. It smells like cheese.

- b. The fruit smells cheesy.
- c. Mice like to eat the leaves.
- d. The fruit resembles small Edam cheese wheels.

**2. What colour is the underside of the leaves?**

- a. dull greyish-green or blue colour
- b. dull pinkish-grey
- c. glossy green
- d. bright lime green with green-grey hairs

**3. What type of flowers are found on Findlay's Silky Oak trees?**

- a. gall flowers
- b. monoecious - male and female flowers found on same plant
- c. dioecious - male and female flowers found on different plants
- d. spores

**ANSWERS:**

- 1. D
- 2. A
- 3. C

**REFERENCES**

CSIRO. (2020). *Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants*.

Melzer, R., & Plumb, J. (2011). *Plants of Capricornia*. Belgamba.

Williams, P., Kirkpatrick, S., Griffith University. Centre for Coastal Management, & Gold Coast (Qld.). Council. (2009). *Coastal Plant Pocket Guide*. Griffith Centre for Coastal Management.

**Image 1**

Gavins, S. (n.d.). *Glochidion lobocarpum*.

<https://alphitonia.com/EditSpeciesE.cshtml?id=1785#openModal3>

**Image 2**

Marathon, M. (2015). *Glochidion lobocarpum* tree.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Glochidion\\_lobocarpum\\_habit.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Glochidion_lobocarpum_habit.jpg)

**Image 3**

Fader, R. (n.d.). *Glochidion lobocarpum* fruit.

[https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/taxa/369930-Glochidion-lobocarpum/browse\\_photos?term\\_id=12&term\\_value\\_id=14](https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/taxa/369930-Glochidion-lobocarpum/browse_photos?term_id=12&term_value_id=14)

**Image 4**

Sinclair, G. (n.d.). *Glochidion lobocarpum* flowers.

[https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/taxa/369930-Glochidion-lobocarpum/browse\\_photos](https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/taxa/369930-Glochidion-lobocarpum/browse_photos)

**Image 5**

The Australasian Virtual Herbarium. (2022). *Glochidion lobocarpum*.

[https://avh.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?taxa=Glochidion+lobocarpum#tab\\_mapView](https://avh.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?taxa=Glochidion+lobocarpum#tab_mapView)