

# LOLLY BUSH

**Alternative name:** Thurkoo, Abundant Clerodendron

**FAMILY:** LAMIACEAE

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Clerodendrum floribundum*



**Form and size:**

Locally, a scraggly bush  
Can grow to a shapely small tree

**Leaves:**

Simple, smooth, opposite, narrowly to broadly ovate or elliptic in shape, 4-18cm x 2-10cm  
Purple tinged petioles (stalks that connects the blade with the leaf base)  
**Adult leaf -**  
**Topside:** green  
**Underside:** paler

**Bark:**

Brown, fissures evident

**Flowers:**

White fragrant flowers in cymes (flat-topped or convex flower clusters)



**Flowering Period:**

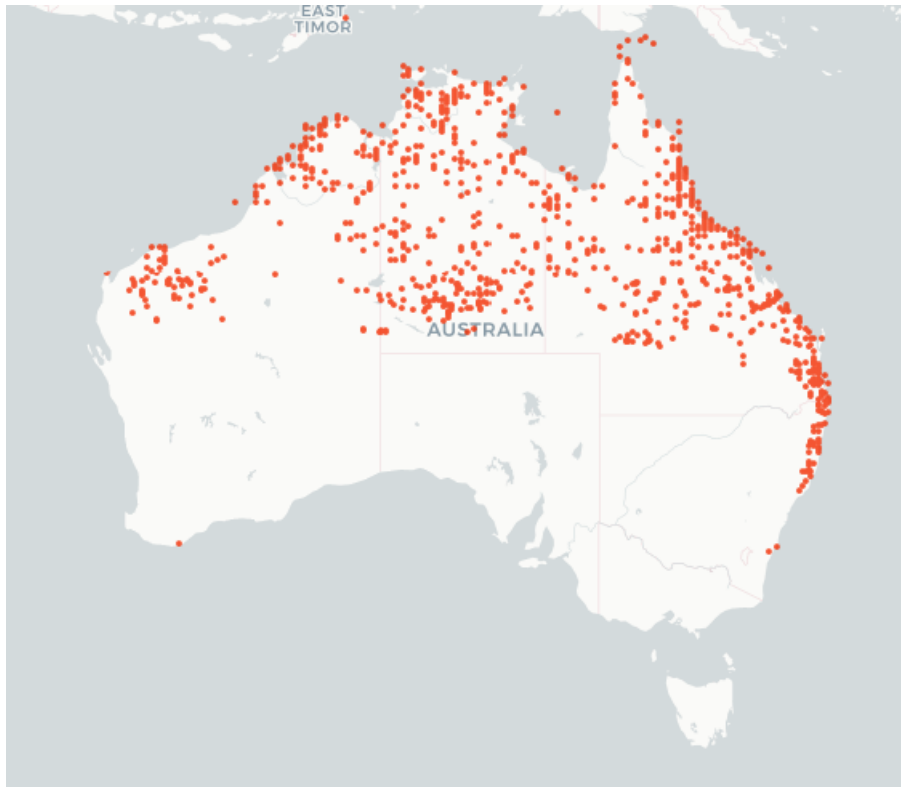
September and February

**Fruit:**

Globular shiny bluish black drupe (simple fleshy fruit that usually contains a single seed) that sits in an enlarged red calyx (the outermost section of a flower). The calyx has the appearance of 5 waxy petals.  
March to December

**Ecological notes:**

The red calyx attracts birds such as the Green Catbird and Satin Bowerbird to the fruit.

	Larval food plant for the Fiery Jewels and Black-spotted Flash Butterflies and the Sandal-box Hawk and Common Tit Moths.
<b>Cultivation:</b>	Grow from stem, root cuttings or fresh seed. Germination from seed can be fairly unreliable and may take a few months. Pour hot water over the seed and soak for 24 hours before sowing. Suckers readily shoot from damaged roots.
<b>Distribution:</b>	Widespread across Northern Australia Will grow in most soils and situations but requires moisture. Generally grows in open forest and woodlands but occasionally found in monsoon forest and vine thickets.
	 <p>The map shows Australia with red dots indicating the distribution of the Lolly Bush. The dots are most densely packed in the northern and eastern coastal regions, with some scattered dots in the western and southern parts of the continent. Labels for 'EAST TIMOR' and 'AUSTRALIA' are visible on the map.</p>
<b>OTHER INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Disclaimer:</b> <i>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 ingesting any part of a plant or using a plant medicinally.</i>	
The Lolly Bush is used in the rehabilitation of mined areas.	
<b>Timber:</b> Timber used for firewood.	

## QUIZ TIME

### 1. Finding this tree indicates:

- A sign of good diversity.
- There will be other less common trees nearby.
- It's in a patch of remnant dry rainforest.
- All of the above

### 2. The flowers are:

- Separate male and female
- Are both male and female

**3. The bark of this tree is:**

- a. Fissured
- b. Blackish
- c. Scaly
- d. All of the above

**ANSWERS:**

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

**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**

Cumming, R. (2019). *Clerodendrum floribundum* fruit.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/58828131@N07/49110303151/in/photostream/>

**Image 2**

Gardner, P. (2013). *Clerodendrum floribundum* tree.

<http://toowoombaplants2008.blogspot.com/2013/11/smooth-lolly-bush.html>

**Image 3**

Donald, M. (2020). *Clerodendrum floribundum* flower.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Clerodendrum\\_floribundum\\_PB031207\\_03.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Clerodendrum_floribundum_PB031207_03.jpg)

**Image 4**

The Australasian Virtual Herbarium. (2021). *Clerodendrum floribundum*.

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