

# RED FRUITED KURRAJONG

Alternative name: Peanut Tree

**FAMILY:** STERCULIACEAE

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Sterculia quadrifida*



**Form and size:**

Small to medium, deciduous tree with attractive, ornamental foliage and fruit

**Leaves:**

Simple, entire, alternate but clustered in pseudo-whorls at the tips.

**Mature leaf** - smooth, green on both sides

**Young leaf** - bright light green

**Bark:**

Greyish fawn

Smooth to slightly scaly or pimply

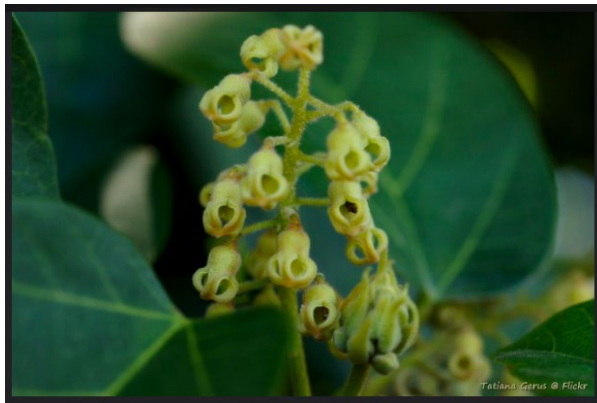
**Flowers:**

Numerous short racemes (flower clusters with the separate flowers attached to central stalk) of creamy green to dull yellow, hairy, bell shaped flowers amongst the upper leaves.

The bells are made from the sepals, petals are absent.

Flowers are unisexual.

Lemon scented.



**Flowering Period:**

Mainly spring and summer i.e. September to February

**Fruit:**

Boat-shaped, firm to almost woody follicles, 5-7 cm long

Bright orange/red when ripe.

When open, follicles reveal 2-8 glossy ovoid seeds, 3-18 mm long with a thin, shiny blue-black covering the creamy white kernel.  
Ripening in the winter months - June to August.



**Ecological notes**

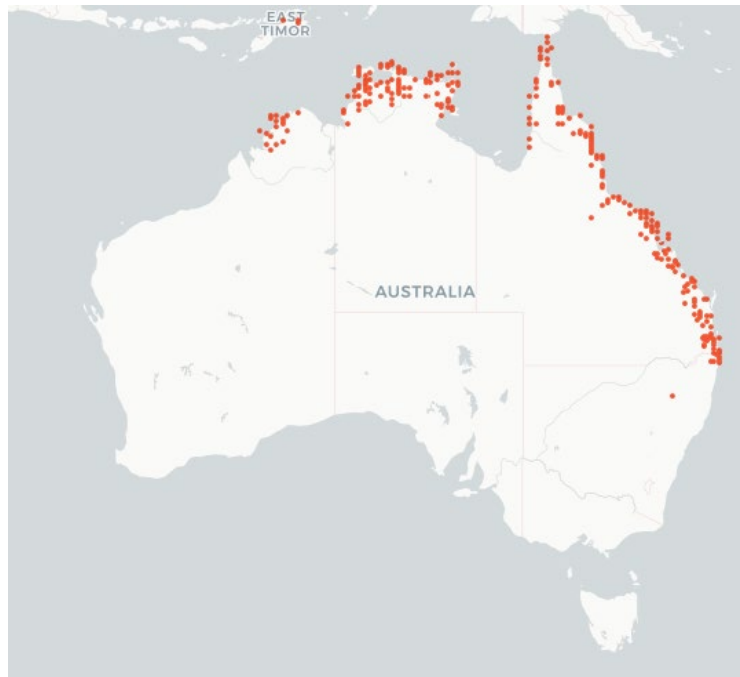
Flowers eaten by the Golden Shouldered Parrot.  
Seeds eaten by White-quilled Rock Pigeon and Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeon.  
Larvae of the moth *Tonica effractella* tunnel into the stems.

**Cultivation:**

Fresh seed germinates within a few days.  
Prefers well drained soils and is moderately resistant to drought.

**Distribution:**

Largely found in littoral and riverine rainforests, north from Broken Head in northern New South Wales and into Queensland, as well as Northern Territory and northern Western Australia.



**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 ingesting any part of a plant or using a plant medicinally.

**Timber:** suitable for making toys.

**Bark:** Australian Aboriginal peoples used fibre from the bark for making twine, ropes, fishing lines and nets. A bark infusion was used for sore eyes.

**Leaves:** used in cooking and were applied to stingray and stonefish stings and other wounds.

## **QUIZ TIME**

- 1. Why is the Red Fruited Kurrajong called the Peanut Tree?**
  - a. The leaves are peanut shaped.
  - b. The seeds look like peanuts.
  - c. The seeds taste like peanuts.
  - d. The seed kernels are found in the ground like peanuts.
  
- 2. What colour are the seeds?**
  - a. black
  - b. orange
  - c. yellow
  - d. blue
  
- 3. Are the flowers unisexual?**
  - a. Yes
  - b. No

## **ANSWERS:**

1. C
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**

Gerus, T. (2014). *Sterculia quadrifida* flowers.

[https://live.staticflickr.com/3929/15564095702\\_2422d92fd9\\_c.jpg](https://live.staticflickr.com/3929/15564095702_2422d92fd9_c.jpg)

### **Image 2**

Morris, I. (n.d.). *Sterculia quadrifida* tree.

<https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/5bacb83e809d8e12a0e172eb/1544016066692-HU9CAY0FZTJLC87UCMX9/Sterculia-quadrifida-lan-Morris.jpg?format=750w>

### **Image 3**

Gers, T. (2014). *Sterculia quadrifida* flowers.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tgerus/15377617830>

### **Image 4**

Morris, I. (n.d.). *Sterculia quadrifida* seedpod.

<https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/5bacb83e809d8e12a0e172eb/1544016039964-SV40DKF25BNG7YJNBD7G/1-Sterculia-quadrifida-lan-Morris.jpg?format=750w>

### **Image 5**

The Australasian Virtual Herbarium. (2022). *Sterculia quadrifida*.

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