WHITE CEDAR

Alternative name: Tulip Cedar, Persian Lilac, Karabil, Chinaberry Tree, China Berry, Cape Lilac

FAMILY: MELIACEAE

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Melia azedarach*





Form and size:	Small to medium tree, with shady canopy to 6-35m Unusually, it is a winter deciduous tree
Leaves:	Alternate, bipinnate leaflets with 9-70 leaflets Leaflets opposite ovate or lobed, 2-5cm Glossy green Deciduous; leafless for a period between June and August
Bark:	Brown with greyish ridges, fissured
Flowers:	Large panicles (a loose branching cluster of flowers) with lilac bisexual flowers with purple staminal tube that is fringed at the top Subtle fragrance

Flowering Period:	August to December
Fruit:	TOXIC to humans Yellow globular to ovoid drupes (simple fleshy fruit that usually contains a single seed), 1-1.5cm that occur in bunches Succulent outer layer over the hard ribbed stone that has five cells each containing a seed. Fruit ripens while tree is leafless February to June

Ecological notes:

Fruit and/ or seed eaten by the Spectacled Flying-fox, Emerald Dove, Rose-crowned and Wompoo Fruit-doves, Pied Imperial, Topknot, Wonga and White-headed Pigeons, Red-tailed Black and Sulphur Cockatoos, Rainbow Lorikeet, Crimson and Eastern Rosellas, Red-capped Parrot, Australian King Parrot, Western Ringneck, Lewin's Honeyeater, Trillers, Figbird, Olive-backed and Yellow Orioles, Pied Currawong, Green and Spotted Catbirds and the Regent, Stain, Spotted and Tooth-billed Bowerbirds.

Nectar eaten by the Red Wattlebird.

Larval food plant of the White Cedar Moth (NOTE: Contact with larva causes an itching condition of the skin.)



Cultivation:

Grows from seed

Seed can be stored at low temperature for several years.

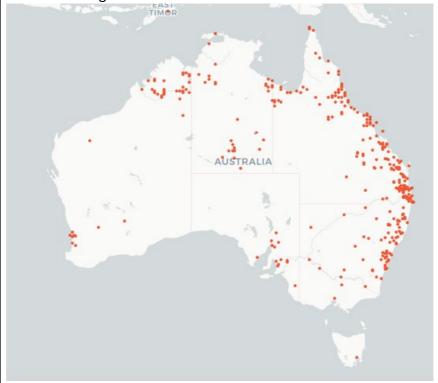
Distribution:

Found across Australia

Edges of rainforest along drainage lines, monsoon forests and dry rainforest and more seasonal rainforests

Extremely drought tolerant

Common in regrowth



OTHER INFORMATION

<u>Disclaimer</u>: 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.

White Cedar is declared a weed in the USA and New Zealand.

Seeds: Seeds have been used to make jewellery and rosary beads.

QUIZ TIME

- 1. In which two countries is White Cedar declared a weed?
 - a. USA and Canada
 - b. USA and Australia
 - c. USA and NZ
 - d. USA and Iceland
- 2. True or False. The fruit of the White Cedar is poisonous to humans.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 3. Which one of the following is not a use for White Cedar?
 - a. sunscreen
 - b. to treat intestinal worms
 - c. fishing technique
 - d. jewelry

ANSWERS:

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

REFERENCES

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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

Alpsdake. (2012). Melia azedarach.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Melia azedarach flower.JPG

Image 2

Lim, M. (2020). Melia azedarach tree growing in Australia.

https://commons.m.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Melia azedarach (White Cedar) tree in suburban backyar d.jpg

Image 3

Jago, B. (n.d.). Melia azedarach flowers.

https://apps.lucidcentral.org/rainforest/text/entities/melia azedarach.htm?zoom highlight=Melia+azedar ach

Image 4

Anichkova, A. (2014). Melia azedarach flowers.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Melia azedarach 01434.jpg

Image 5

The Australasian Virtual Herbarium. (2021). Melia azedarach.

https://avh.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?taxa=Melia+azedarach#tab mapView