

Illawarra Flame Tree

Brachychiton acerifolius



Images: Treelogic P/L ©



Description

Typical height:
10-12 metres

Typical width:
8-10 metres

Growth rate:
Moderate to slow

Typical form:
Tall pyramidal tree on stout,
tapering trunk. Spreading, often
weeping branches.

Origin

Occurs in NSW rainforests, Illawarra district northwards.

Characteristics

Deciduous to semi-deciduous tree. Clusters of dense, red bell-shaped flowers in late spring when tree is leafless. Leaves glossy green, shape very variable but generally either entire or 3-5 lobed with blades 10-25cm long. Fruit capsules large, leathery, boat-shaped.

Tolerances

Drought tolerant.

Facts and Trivia

Indigenous people used fibre from inner bark to make twine for fishing.

Cold Chisel's iconic song 'Flame Trees' refers to this species; Don Walker being inspired by the tree's vibrant colour and prominence in and around Grafton, northern NSW.