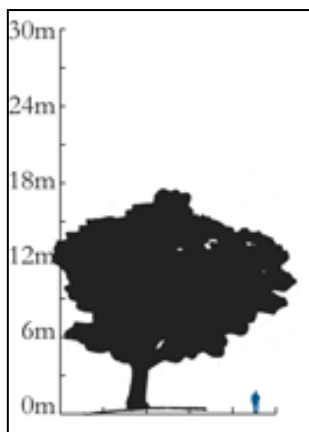


FACT SHEET

BRACHYCHITON ACERIFOLIUS |

'ILLAWARA FLAME TREE'



- Origin:** *B. acerifolius* comes from disjunct populations from the Cape York Peninsula southwards to the Shoalhaven region of New South Wales, but the greatest concentration of the population is in the dryer areas of the Illawara Range.
- Habit:** Typically 10 – 15 metres over 25 years. The vibrant flowers are bell-shaped and bright coral red. They appear in spring on leafless branches. The dark seed pod contains numerous seeds embedded in interlocking hairs in a honeycomb-like husk.
- Description:** Illawara Flame Tree is known for its evergreen, maple-like foliage and fantastic flower display. The name “Flame Tree” comes from the masses of bright scarlet flowers that come out just before Christmas. These flowers are frequently followed by long follicle fruits.
- Tolerances:** The *Brachychiton* is considered to be hardy in most soils although different tolerances will be found amongst the various species. The few trees that can be found throughout Victoria show a tree that succeeds in many conditions. Many of the trees listed in Spencer’s *Horticultural flora of south-eastern Australia* are over 75 years old, and many are planted in dry, difficult sites.
- Notes:** Overall considered to be a spectacular Australian native tree flowering profusely often when the tree is bare of leaves. Apart from the beauty of the tree the timber was often used in the past for shingles and fences in outback Australia.

References: <http://www.metrotrees.com.au/treehandbook/page-listings/brachychiton-acerifolius-and-hybrids.html>
http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/education/Resources/bush_foods/Brachychiton_acerifolius