

Tuckeroo / Beach Tamarind



FAMILY: Sapindaceae

HABIT: A small tree to 15m with a fairly short trunk and dense, well-rounded crown of dark green foliage.

LEAVES: Compound usually with 4-8 short-stalked leaflets but may have up to 12, with the main stalk (rachis) extending beyond the last leaflet. The obovate or elliptic leaflets, from 4.5-19 x 1.5-7.5 cm have prominent venation and may be either rounded or notched at the apices.

FLOWER/FRUITS: Small pale green flowers are borne in sprays towards the ends of the branchlets in winter. The golden yellow coloured fruits, about 2cm in diameter, are three to six lobed capsules. They contain three brown-black oval seeds which are covered by a yellow to orange-red fleshy aril.

PROPAGATION: Seed maturity is usually reached from October to November. Once first fruits start to open, collect and leave in a warm dry spot and fruit will continue to open. Seeds can be separated from fruits by gently picking out seeds with fingers. Remove aril, sow fresh.

LOCAL HABITAT: Littoral forest and rainforest.

DISTRIBUTION: East coast of Queensland and north eastern New South Wales to Port Hacking, Western Australia and Northern Territory.



GENERAL: A useful shade tree for coastal areas. The timber is suitable for heavy cabinet making and tool handles. Excellent street tree. Fruit attracts birds.

REFERENCES: Alcock & Champion, 1989 *One Hundred and One Trees of Mackay*.