

Bumpy Ash/Silver Ash



S Robins



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FAMILY: Rutaceae

HABIT: Tall slender tree. The trunk often may have 'bumpy' protrusions where branches have fallen off. The bark is grey, fairly smooth or finely warted.

LEAVES: Opposite, pinnate, up to 28cm long with 8-18 paired leaflets plus a single terminal leaflet. The soft textured, stalkless leaflets, 7-13cm long are slightly curved, unequal sided at the base and taper to a point at the apex. They are dark green above, greyish and softly hairy beneath.

FLOWER/FRUITS: Terminal spray of white, honey scented flowers are followed by large, ovoid, five valved woody capsules, about 10cm long and covered in woody spikes. The boat shaped valves of broken fruit release about 30 winged seeds.

Fruit reach maturity during December-January.

PROPAGATION: Winged seeds are more easily collected by placing a tarp beneath the tree. The seeds then need to be sown immediately with their wings pointing upwards. Germination is within two weeks.

LOCAL HABITAT: Tropical rainforest and littoral forest

DISTRIBUTION: Eastern Australia from Cape York to Hasting River in New South Wales.

GENERAL: Bumpy ash is often used in rainforest revegetation and regeneration as it grows quickly, but displays longevity.

References: Alcock & Champion (1989) *One Hundred and One Trees of Mackay*.