

Santalum acuminatum

Quandong/Native Peach



(Fagg, M, Australian Plant Image Index)



(Thiele, K.R., Australian Plant Image Index)



Adult Wood White, underside (top) and upperside (bottom)



(Grund, R, SA Butterflies & Moths)

Form: *Small tree*

Height: *4 – 5 m*

Spread: *2 – 4 m*

Flowers: *Cream*

Type: *Panicles*

Flowering time: *Spring, Summer*

Ecological functions:



Soils: *clay or loam; acidic, alkaline or neutral*

Germination rate: *3 to 4 weeks*

Seed collecting: collect ripe fruits either off trees or when fruit flesh is drying. Alternatively, collect off the ground as they fall off during Summer months. Collect seeds by hand.

Seed treatment: soak seed in mild bleach for 30 minutes then wash seed nut well with water. Place in airtight plastic bag with vermiculite, moisten contents. Store between 16° to 23° C.

Sowing requirements: germination will occur after a month in plastic bag. Remove from bag when root shoot is 1 cm long. Transplant into a container that is >1 L with leaf compost, peatmoss or vermiculite and well-washed fine gravel. Sow seed nuts in late Summer.

Position: full sun

Supplementary watering: minimal

Uses: ornamental, for shade or shelter. This species is semi-parasitic and survives off the roots of other plants. Tolerates poor soils and hot dry sites. Fruits eaten by indigenous peoples. Now popular as a bush food. Food source to Wood White (*Delias aganippe*) caterpillars.

Notes: seedlings require a host plant within the first 12 months.