



# Hollywood

ID # 52



### Change of genus

Australian botanists recently examined the large genus *Pittosporum* and decided the more northerly examples are significantly different from those in the south. Subsequently, a new genus was created *Auranticarpa*, which means "gold fruit".

### Birds, Bees & Butterflies

Butterflies and native bees are attracted to the nectar in the flowers, and seeds are eaten and dispersed by native birds.

### Urban Beauty

The white flowers and orange fruit make it a most appealing street or garden tree.

**Family:** *Pittosporaceae*

**Genus:** *Auranticarpa*

**Botanic name:** *Auranticarpa rhombifolium*  
(previously known as *Pittosporum rhombifolium*)

*Pittosporum* meaning "pitch-seed" which refers to the resinous film covering the seeds and rhombifolium from the rhomboidal shape of the leaves.

**Also known as:** Diamond leaf pittosporum, Hollywood, diamond leaf laurel, white myrtle and white holly

**Origin:** Australia

**Habitat:** *Auranticarpa* occurs mostly in monsoonal northern Australia. The range of natural distribution is on red-brown basaltic soils from Richmond River, New South Wales to Forty Mile Scrub National Park in tropical Queensland.

**Description:** A small tree, up to 25m in height and a trunk diameter of 45cm. The bark is grey, irregular, not smooth and almost corky.

Holly shaped glossy green leaves alternate, toothed in uneven patterns in the top half of the leaf, not toothed closer to the stem. 5-10cm long and 4-7cm wide. Midrib, lateral and net veins easily seen on both the upper and lower leaf surface.

Large clusters of small white flowers occur from November to January.

Masses of shiny orange fruits mature from February to May. Fruit is a small pear shaped capsule, 9mm long, containing two or three oval black seeds. The fruit can stay on the tree for three months.



### Sources:

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auranticarpa\\_rhombifolia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auranticarpa_rhombifolia)
- [http://www.brisrain.org.au/01\\_cms/details\\_pop.asp?ID=30](http://www.brisrain.org.au/01_cms/details_pop.asp?ID=30)

**Propagation and cultivation:** Dry ripe fruit to split capsules then plant seeds immediately. Germination from fresh seed is slow, taking up to four months with around a third of seeds sending out roots and shoots.