



## Riberry Lilly Pilly

### Makes a tasty High Tea



The berry has a tart, cranberry-like flavour, with a hint of cloves. Considered one of the tastier of the rainforest lilly pilly, the riberry fruit is used to make a distinctively flavoured jam and is used in sauces, syrups and confectionery. It can also be eaten and enjoyed straight off the tree.

It has been popular as a gourmet bushfood since the early 1980s and is commercially cultivated on a small-scale basis.



### Propagation and cultivation

Seed germination is unreliable, complete after 25 days; however, cuttings strike readily. The riberry plant is also very popular as a garden ornamental and street tree. It is easily maintained as a smaller tree by light pruning.

**Family:** *Myrtaceae*

**Genus:** *Syzygium*

**Botanic name:** *Syzygium luehmannii*

*luehmannii* – named in honour of Johann George Luehmann (1843-1904) a German who came to Australia and was assistant botanist to Ferdinand von Mueller and became the Victorian Government botanist after him

**Also known as:** riberry, small leaved lilly pilly, cherry satinash, cherry alder, or clove lilly pilli

**Origin:** Native to Australia

**Habitat:** The habitat is Australian riverine, littoral, subtropical or tropical rainforest. It grows on volcanic soils or deep sandy soils between the Macleay River in New South Wales to near Cairns in tropical Queensland.

**Description:** A medium-sized coastal rainforest tree occasionally reaching 30m in height and 90cm in trunk diameter. Large trees are buttressed at the base. The tree's crown is dense with small leaves above a tall straight trunk. The bark is red brown, light grey or pinkish grey with soft papery scales.

The small, glossy, lance-shaped leaves are a shiny green when mature, but pink/red when young. They are opposite, simple, entire, lanceolate to ovate, 4-5cm long, drawn out to a long prominent point. The leaf stalks are 2-3mm long.



Flowers form in November or December. They are in small panicles at the ends of branchlets, half the length of the leaves or less. The white or cream petals form in fours or fives, 1.5mm long. The stamen is 2-5mm long.



The fruit matures from December to February, being a pear-shaped red berry, known as a riberry, growing to 13mm long, covering a single seed, 4mm in diameter. The fruit is eaten by the Australasian figbird, emu, and flying fox (*pteropus*).



### Sources:

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