

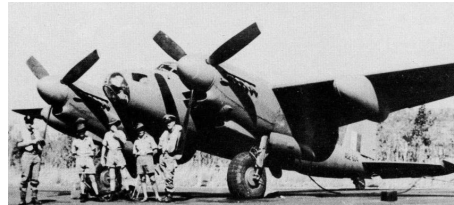


# Queensland Maple

ID # 408



### From decorative to decorated



It's hard to image that the Queensland Maple's attractive pink, curly grain timber played a significant role during the Second World War. But it did. Originally used to manufacture decorative furniture and musical instruments, the timber was utilised in the manufacture of propellers and plywood for the Mosquito bomber aircraft aka the "Wooden Wonder," because its frame was constructed mostly of wood.

### Uses

The easy-to-work pink wood is of good quality and extensively used for cabinets and indoor fittings and in acoustic guitars. The trees have a majestic growth habit and are a useful shady addition to parkland or as a street tree.

### Interesting fact

Most specimens are protected in World Heritage areas; the timber is now in very short supply. The species is planted commercially in the reforestation of logged areas.

### Propagation and cultivation

By seed.

**Family:** *Rutaceae*

**Genus:** *Flindersia*

**Botanic name:** *Flindersia brayleyana*

After Matthew Flinders, 1774-1814, leader of the "Investigator" voyage which collected many Australian plants; first formally described in 1866 by Ferdinand von Mueller. The specific epithet *brayleyana* honours Edward William Brayley (1801-1870), an English geographer, librarian, and science author

**Also known as:** Queensland Maple, Maple Silkwood or Red Beech

**Origin:** Australia – endemic to Queensland

**Habitat:** Occurs in rainforest at altitudes between 30-1100m between Daintree River and Rockingham Bay on Cape York.



**Description:** A medium to large sized evergreen it grows to 35m in rainforest. The trunk is usually well formed, circular in cross-section, not buttressed, and marked with vertical lines or fissures. In older trees these fissures are not so marked owing to a tendency to scaliness. The bark, which is approximately 12mm thick, is grey to brown in colour. Its heartwood is pink to brownish pink whilst the narrow sapwood band is white to pale grey.

Glossy dark leaves are pinnate arranged in opposite pairs with between six and ten leaflets. Sweetly scented, white or cream coloured flowers grow in large clusters. Petals are up to 4mm long.



These masses of white flowers are followed by pendulous fruits that are star-like when open. Fruit capsules are about 6-10cm long. The outer surface is almost smooth or shallowly sculptured that opens in five sections. Its seeds are winged at both ends.



### Sources:

- <https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=gn&name=Flindersia>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flindersia\\_brayleyana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flindersia_brayleyana)
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- [http://www.canbr.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/RFK7/key/RFK7/Media/Html/entities/Flindersia\\_brayleyana.htm](http://www.canbr.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/RFK7/key/RFK7/Media/Html/entities/Flindersia_brayleyana.htm)