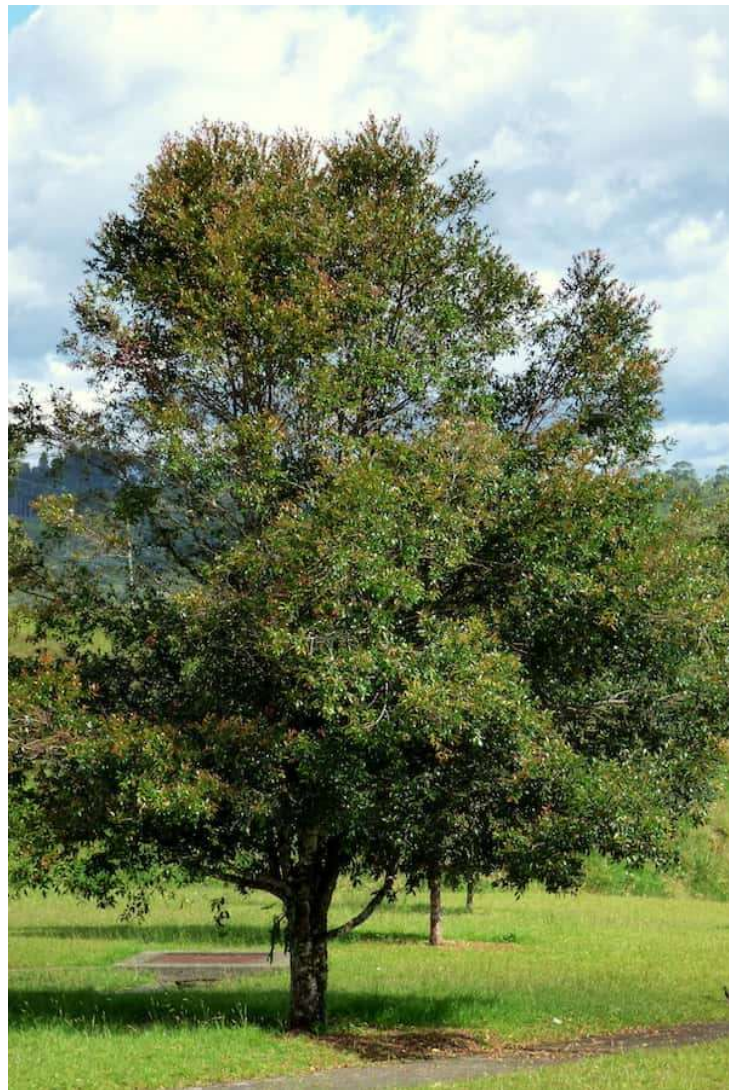
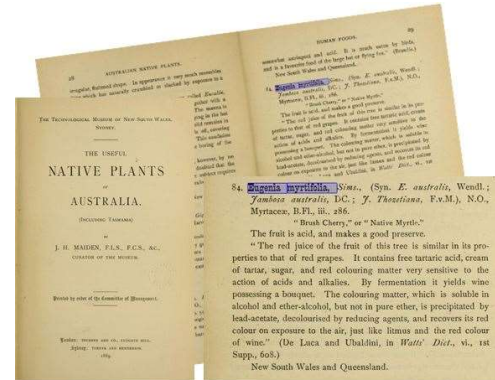




Magenta Lilly Pilly



Believe it or not



The book, *The Useful Native Plants of Australia* (1889), records that the synonymous *Eugenia myrtifolia* had common names including brush cherry and native myrtle. It also stated that “the red juice of the fruit is similar in its properties to that of red grapes in that it contains free tartaric acid, cream of tartar, sugar, and red colouring matter very sensitive to the action of acids and alkalis.” It goes on to say that once fermented it yields wine possessing a bouquet though we cannot vouch for the taste!

Propagation and cultivation

Propagation from seed or soft-wood cuttings.

Uses

The fruit is a well-known bush tucker fruit with a pleasantly sour apple-like flavour, can be eaten fresh or cooked into jams and sauces. The fruit is very attractive to birds.

Family: *Myrtaceae*

Genus: *Syzygium*

Botanic name: *Syzygium paniculatum*

Greek *syzygos*, joined, referring to paired leaves and branchlets; *paniculatum* – Latin for panicle-bearing, having flowers branched clusters

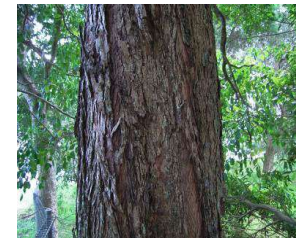
Also known as: Magenta Lilly Pilly or Magenta Cherry; Indigenous name: Daguba (Cadigal)

Origin: Endemic to N.S.W. generally from north of Jervis Bay to about Bulahdelah

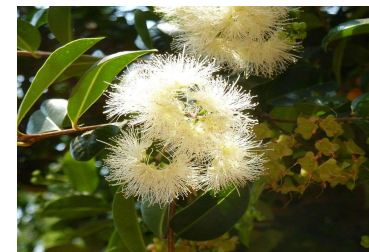
Habitat: It grows along the coast of N.S.W., in subtropical and littoral rainforest, as well as sand dunes behind the beach. There are extensive stands around the central coast of N.S.W., but it is considered threatened in the wild due to forest clearing for habitation. On the south coast the Magenta Lilly Pilly occurs on grey soils over sandstone, restricted mainly to remnant stands of littoral (coastal) rainforest while on the central coast it occurs on gravels, sands, silts and clays in riverside gallery rainforests and remnant littoral rainforest communities.

Description: A broad dense bushy rainforest tree, in cultivation it grows to a height of 8-15m with a trunk diameter up to 35cm. The largest known example is at Ourimbah Creek, 35m tall. The bark is flaky. The leaves are 3–9cm long, opposite, simple and slightly obovate, tapering at the leaf base. They are dark glossy green above, and paler below.

No ID #



Cream/white flower-clusters at the end of each branch appear between November and February. The petals are small and are accompanied by prominent long stamens creating a “fluffy” flowering effect. The edible deep magenta fruits, which may be spherical or egg-shaped, about 25mm long and wide, mature in May, and contain a single seed.



Sources:

- <https://resources.austplants.com.au/plant/syzygium-paniculatum/>
- www.environment.nsw.gov.au
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syzygium_paniculatum