



Weeping Lilly Pilly



From edging creeks to streets



Its gentle weeping habit, lush green new growth and a ripple in the leaves edging creek beds in its native rainforest makes *Syzygium floribundum* the best looking of the Lilly Pilly family.

And why it can now also be seen in urban areas providing attractive edging for streets and gardens as hedges and boundary markers.

Interesting Facts

Planted trees from 1827 may be seen at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. However, these trees are damaged and threatened by the roosting grey headed flying foxes.

A very large tree (diameter 110.5 cm) is located at Western Park in Auckland, New Zealand

Uses

As with many of the lilly pilly trees, the berries from this plant are considered excellent bush food and can be eaten fresh or cooked and used as fruit-based additions to make jams, jellies, cordials, sauces or other condiments.

Young seedlings are eaten by Wallabies. Seeds are eaten by birds.

Family: *Myrtaceae*

Genus: *Syzygium*

Botanic name: *Syzygium floribundum*, synonym *Waterhousea floribunda*
Greek *syzygos*, joined, referring to paired leaves and branchlets; *floribundum* – Latin for abundance of flowers, referring to the many-flowered panicles

Originally named *Syzygium floribundum* but changed to *Waterhousea* in 1983 in honour of John T. Waterhouse (1924-1983), a botanist and lecturer at the University of NSW and a substantial contributor to research and collecting of Australian flora. It is considered by some botanists to be *Syzygium* but the name of *Waterhousea* is currently retained by NSW Herbarium.

Also known as: Weeping Lilly Pilly, Weeping Myrtle

Origin: A rainforest tree of eastern Australia.

Habitat: Found in riverine rainforest, often close to streams, on the North Coast of NSW from the Williams River near Dungog, north from and as far west as the Hunter Valley, extending along the coast into far northern Queensland to around Cairns.

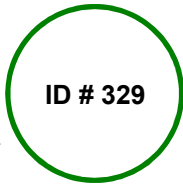
Description: A medium to large tree growing to 30m tall and a trunk diameter of 75cm. The trunk is grey, with vertical lines and cracks. Flanged at the base of larger trees.

Leaves opposite, not toothed. Wavy edged and thin, 5-15cm long with a long tip. The midrib is raised under the leaf, but sunken on the upper side.

Masses of white fluffy flowers appear on panicles in the months of November to January.

After flowering in late summer to autumn the fruit, globe-shaped berries about 20mm in diameter, mature and will start to turn from pale green to more pinkish red. This will indicate they are ripe and ready to be picked from the branches.

Inside is one large seed.



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Sources:

https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Waterhousea~floribundaen.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waterhousea_floribundaen.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syzygium_floribundum

Propagation and cultivation: As with most of the Australian fleshy fruited myrtles, removal of the fleshy aril is advised to assist seed germination. Germination is remarkably swift with this species, taking as little as ten days.