

Pittosporum angustifolium

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Pittosporum angustifolium (formerly *Pittosporum phylliraeoides*) is a shrub or small tree growing in inland Australia.^[1] A slow growing plant, usually seen between two and six metres high, though exceptional specimens may exceed ten metres. Common names include **Weeping Pittosporum**, **Butterbush**, **Cattle Bush**, **Native Apricot**, **Gumbi Gumbi**, **Cumby Cumby**, **Meemeei** and **Berrigan**.^[2] It is drought and frost resistant. It can survive in areas with rainfall as low as 150 mm per year. A resilient desert species, individuals may live for over a hundred years. A revision of the genus *Pittosporum* re-instated this species the year 2000.^{[2][3]}

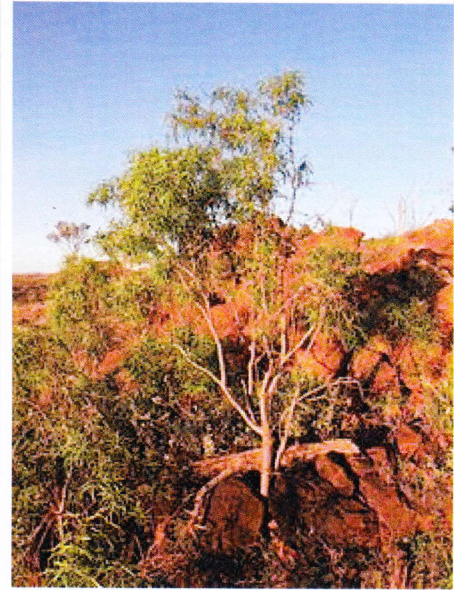
Pittosporum angustifolium was first described in 1832 in the Loddiges' *The Botanical Cabinet*. George Bentham combined this species and *P. ligustrifolium* with *P. phillyreoides*, however all three were split in the 2000 revision; the true *P. phillyreoides* is only found in a narrow coastal strip of northwestern Australia. The weeping foliage of *P. angustifolium* distinguishes it from the other two taxa.^[2]

It is a tree to 10 m (35 ft), with pendulous (weeping) branches.^[1] The leaves are long and thin, 4 to 12 cm (1.6-4.4 in) long and 0.4-1.2 cm (0.2-0.5 in) wide. The small creamish yellow tubular flowers have a pleasant scent. Flowering occurs from late winter to mid spring.^[1] Up to 1.4 cm in diameter, the small round orange fruit resembles an apricot and can remain on the tree for several years. The wrinkled dark red seeds are held within a sticky yellow pulp.^[2]

Full sun and good drainage is recommended for planting. Seeds germinate in around 17 days without any particular difficulty at 25°C. There's around 20 viable seeds per gram.

Pittosporum angustifolium is a widespread plant found across most of inland Australia in mallee communities, alluvial flats, ridges, as well as dry woodland and on loamy, clay or sandy soils, however it is never common.^[2] The hanging low branches and thin leaves gives a graceful and willow-like effect. Cattle often browse on the leaves which provide reasonable nutrition. The timber can be used for wood turning. Extracts of the plant may be used in the treatment of eczema, pruritis, internal pains, skin irritations, sprained limbs, and colds. A compress of warmed leaves is said to induce milk flow in new mothers. It also produces a chewable gum.^[4]

Weeping Pittosporum



Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Asterids
Order:	Apiales
Family:	Pittosporaceae
Genus:	<i>Pittosporum</i>
Species:	<i>P. angustifolium</i>

Binomial name

Pittosporum angustifolium

Lodd.

Synonyms

Pittosporum phillyreoides auct. non (DC.) Benth.

References

- [^] ^{*a*} ^{*b*} ^{*c*} "Pittosporum angustifolium" (<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Pittosporum~angustifolium>). *Plant Net - NSW Flora Online*. NSW Government. Retrieved 22 April 2012.
- [^] ^{*a*} ^{*b*} ^{*c*} ^{*d*} ^{*e*} "Revision of Pittosporum (Pittosporaceae) in Australia" (<http://www.publish.csiro.au/paper/SB99021.htm>). *Cayzer Lindy W., Crisp Michael D., Telford Ian R. H. (2000) Revision of Pittosporum (Pittosporaceae) in Australia. Australian Systematic Botany 13, 845–902.* CSIRO. Retrieved 22 April 2012.
- [^] "Pittosporum angustifolium" (http://www.florabank.org.au/lucid/key/species%20navigator/media/html/Pittosporum_angustifolium.htm). *FloraBank*. Retrieved April 23, 2012.
- [^] Greig, Denise. *A Photographic Guide to Trees in Australia*. p. 128. ISBN 1864363266.

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Pittosporum phyllyreoides

Family: Pittosporaceae

Common names: Weeping pittosporum, Bitterbush

Derivation: from Greek *pitte*, tar and *sporos*, seed being coated with a resinous substance

In GBG: In 21st Century Garden, Australian plants border (on edge of path beside flat rock

Label is *Pittosporum phyllyreoides* but recent name change refers to *Pittosporum angustifolium*

There is another old specimen in the northern Australian border
In 20th century garden – this one is lying prostrate on the ground

Please refer to attached sheet

J Salmon May 2014