

***Acmena smithii*- Lillypilly**

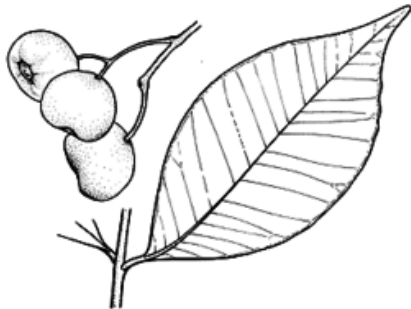
Family:
Myrtaceae

Common Name:
Lillypilly

Distribution:
Coastal areas and ranges from Victoria into Qld mainly in rainforest or creeklines. In HSC, Community O1 (107.9ha), O2 (10.9ha), BG2 (14.0ha) & rarely larger creeklines of L (837.3ha) .

Derivation of Name:
Acmena, Greek, after “Acmene” a beautiful wood nymph.
smithii, after James Smith an English botanist.

Conservation Status:
Uncommon in general to locally common in particular habitats across HSC. This species particular habitat, creek banks and gullies, is highly prone to exotic weed invasion which can consequently outcompete Lillypilly.



Description:
A small to tall tree up to 15m, often multi trunked. The trunk is generally a rich red brown in colour with a fine rough bubbly texture. Foliage is deep glossy green, narrow-lanceolate to broad-ovate or elliptic; 3–11 cm long and 1–5 cm wide, larger and broader with decreasing light exposure. White staminate fragrant flowers are produced in spring and are followed by abundant pale coloured fruits in autumn which are prominently displayed.

Longevity:
100-200 years

Horticultural Merit and uses:
An excellent tree for horticultural applications. Unpruned this tree grows in an upright oval shape with a thick tight canopy and reasonably low branching. It may occasionally achieve heights of 12 metres but is generally around the 8m mark in cultivation. It prefers a moist soil either loam or clay and will require irrigation or watering during the establishment period if no rainfall occurs. Grows best in full sun to light shade, trees in full shade will be spindly in appearance and grow tall reaching towards sunlight. In hot humid weather the foliage may attract sooty mould.

Fauna Value:
An excellent bird attracting tree. Fruiting attracts a wide range of fruit eating rainforest pigeons. Parrots will also feed on the fruit. Flowers attract a wide range of insects.





