

## Blue Lilly Pilly

*Syzygium oleosum*



Family: Myrtaceae

Small evergreen tree 4 - 15 m



**Distribution:** East coast rainforests from north Queensland to southern New South Wales.

**Description:** The leaves have a dark glossy upper surface and paler under-surface. The leaves have oil dots and are distinctly aromatic when crushed. Its flowers are small and white-cream colored. It produces a purplish red fruit when young, changing to purplish blue when ripe.

**Propagation:** Propagation may be carried out from fresh seed, either by sowing the fruits whole or after removing the flesh. The species can also be grown from cuttings of firm, current season's growth.

**Habitat:** Rainforests and wet sclerophyll forests. Prefers rich, well drained soils but will survive in poorer soils. Can be prone to lillypilly psyllid damage, but responds well to clipping. Makes an excellent hedge plant.

**Uses:** The fruit can be eaten freshly picked from the tree or cooked. It has a pleasantly crisp texture and is mildly aromatic and sweet. The fruit can also be made into jams, jellies and wine. It is also grown as an ornamental plant. Food for native birds.