

Healthy Habitat for Schools

Fact Sheet 3

Shade Trees for the School Yard

Common Names	Species Name	Comments
Banyans	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>	Banyans are strangler figs with aerial roots. It is wind resistant.
Cluster fig	<i>Ficus racemosa</i>	This grows to 20m, is strongly buttressed and deciduous in the dry season. It is tolerant of floods and waterlogging but not to fire.
Forest siris	<i>Albizia procera</i>	This is a semi-deciduous tree that grows to 18m. It is found in a broad range of habitats and is used in riparian and woodland revegetation projects. They are used to suppress weedy grasses and are moderately tolerant of floods. The mature trees are tolerant of fire.
Hairy fig or Drupe fig	<i>Ficus drupacea</i>	This is a spreading strangler fig that grows to 30m.
Helicopter tree	<i>Gyrocarpus americanus</i>	This is a deciduous softwood shrub from 1-6m tall with white flowers and winged seeds.
Native white mulberry	<i>Pipturus argenteus</i>	This is a small tree or tall shrub 3-10m. Male and female trees separate. The female plants are popular for bush tucker. It is intolerant of fire.

Shady trees to cool you and school buildings.



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Common Names	Species Name	Comments
Northern swamp box	<i>Lophostemon grandiflorus</i>	This tree grows to 20m tall and 15m wide. It has high tolerance of fire/floods when mature.
Peanut tree	<i>Sterculia quadrifida</i>	This is a medium tree 5-10m. It is deciduous and grows in vine thickets, beach scrub and riparian forests. The trees can resist cool fires. It has traditional uses. These trees are often used for coastal stabilisation projects.
Pongamia	<i>Millettia pinnata</i>	It grows from 5-10m and is tolerant of flooding and waterlogging. Is used in flood prone riparian revegetation projects as a foot path tree and it can be used under powerlines or as a screen planting.
Scaly ash	<i>Ganophyllum falcatum</i>	This grows from 10-32m. The fruit attracts many bird species. It is moderately tolerant to flood and salt breeze but is not fire tolerant.
Sea / tropical almond	<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	This can grow to 30m. Associated with coastal vegetation, especially strandline communities and beach forests including rocky shores and edges of mangrove swamps.
Soap bush	<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	This is a large spreading shrub that grows to 10m. It is intolerant of fire but is drought resistant. It is often used in riparian and woodland revegetation projects.
Terminalia	<i>Terminalia microcarpa</i>	This grows to 15-30m high and has a shady upper canopy. It is deciduous in dry seasons.
White fig	<i>Ficus virens</i>	A large buttressed tree that grows from 15-30m tall. It is found in a variety of soil types and produces large aerial roots. The fruit attracts many birds and bats while the trunk provides hollows for other animals. It is intolerant of fire.



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References:

Calvert G. (2009) *Bush Friendly Plants of the Burdekin Dry Tropics*, NQ Dry Tropics, Townsville.

Calvert G. (2010) *The Burdekin Delta Tree Guide*, Lower Burdekin Landcare Association, Ayr.



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