

## RAINFOREST PLANTS

**Australian Tropical Herbarium & CSIRO Plant Industry (2010) Australian tropical rain forest plants. Edition 6, version 6.1.**

**ELECTRONIC RESOURCE: ON-LINE, interactive:** <http://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/rfk/>

This information system is an updated version of one developed by Hyland et al. (2003), but much expanded and on up-to-date software (Lucid 3.5 system and Matrix Java Applet - check site for system requirements). The key system is easy to use on-line after short familiarisation, even with limited plant material (many characters are available) and leads to very comprehensive species fact-sheets with descriptions and notes supported by good colour images of adult plants, colour scans of juveniles, and many leaf x-ray images to show venation patterns. The system covers the seed-plants (trees, shrubs, vines, herbs, grasses, sedges, palms, pandans and epiphytes) of the rainforests of northern Australia – the area of coverage is north of a line from Broome to Townsville, but is also useful further south in Queensland (eventual extension to fully cover the area between Townsville and Rockhampton is anticipated; south from Rocky is covered by Harden et al. (2015).

### RECOMMENDED

Earlier versions issued in various formats but now out of ‘print’ (e.g. 2 CD-ROMS + booklet from CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Vic ISBN-10: 9643068724; ISBN-13: 9780643068728) have significantly less coverage in area and growth forms, but may still be useful.

**For the on-line interactive ‘Orchid module’** of the current product, see Jones et al. (2010) *Australian tropical rainforest orchids*, in Orchid section of this bibliography, or go direct to <http://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/orfk/index.html>

**Booth R, Harwood RK, & Mangion CP (eds) (2001) Field Key for the monsoon rainforest flora of the Darwin Region.** Jointly published by Northern Territory University Press; Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (NT Botanical Bulletin No 28); and Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management, Northern Territory University [now Charles Darwin University] (Occasional paper No 2). ISBN-10: 1876248769; ISBN-13: 9781876248765. 95 pp.

Covers about 360 species of vascular plants for the Darwin region, and is useful for this community elsewhere in the NT as well. This is a key only (no separate species treatments). It uses an ‘artificial’ arrangement, based as much as possible on easy-to-interpret vegetative characters (habit, stems and leaves), with diagnostic line illustrations throughout.

**Cameron D (2008) A field guide to rainforest identification in Victoria: differential species keys for the delineation of rainforest boundaries.** Dept of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria; Melbourne. 140 pp. ISBN 9781742088990.

Intended as a guide to the identification of rainforest subtypes by the use of indicator species, but doubles as a useful guide to 107 of these. Detailed descriptions and excellent colour photos. Sturdy spiral-bound format.

**Cooper W & Cooper WT (1994) Fruits of the rainforest: a guide to fruits in Australian tropical rainforest.** Geo Productions, Chatswood, NSW. 327 pp. ISBN 0646198033.

Excellent colour-painting illustrations of the fruits of over 600 species; leaf diagrams and very brief descriptive and distribution notes accompany. Superseded by Cooper & Cooper 2004, see next.

**Cooper W & Cooper WT (2004) Fruits of the Australian tropical rainforest.** Nokomis Editions

(<http://nokomis.com.au/>). 632 pp. ISBN-10: 0958174210; ISBN-13: 9780958174213.

Covers the fruiting plants of Queensland's tropical rainforest from Rockhampton to the Torres Strait. 2,436 species are treated, of which 1,236 are illustrated by good colour paintings, plus line illustrations of leaves. Also includes keys to the families, genera and species.

**Cooper W & Cooper W (2013) Australian rainforest fruits: a field guide.** CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Vic. 266 pp. ISBN 9780643107847 (pbk), 9780643107854 (epdf), 9780643107861 (epub).

A compact and abridged version of the 2004 work (see previous); a very useful guide to fruit identification for 504 of the most common species in Australia's eastern rainforests. Pictorial based (excellent colour illustrations), with brief general descriptive notes.

**Cronin L (2009) Cronin's Key Guide: Australian rainforest plants.** Jacana Books, Crows nest, NSW. 181 pp. ISBN 9781741751130.

Handy general-interest guide covering about 300 common species, with good plain-language descriptions and good colour illustrations. No keys.

**Floyd AG (2008) Rainforest trees of mainland south-eastern Australia. Revised edition.** Terania Rainforest Publishing, Lismore NSW. 443 pp. ISBN 9780958943673.

A guide to 402 rainforest tree species of Victoria and NSW, with some relevance for southern Queensland. Detailed descriptions and notes, including sample localities, good line drawings, and a good key. Both this and the original (1989) edition are now very dated.

**Floyd AG (1990) Australian rainforests in New South Wales.** Surrey Beatty & Sons in association with National Parks and Wildlife Service of New South Wales, Chipping Norton, NSW. (2 vols, 136 & 180 pp.). ISBNs 0949324310 (vol. 1), 0949324329 (vol. 2), 0949324302 (set).

Not an identification guide, but an overview of the rainforest communities with many useful references. **Vol. 1** covers the physical structure of the forest, the classification of rainforest types, their distribution, conservation, and modes of natural and artificial regeneration. **Vol. 2** looks in detail at the rainforest types, the vegetational alliances that occur in them, and gets down to specific discussion of sites of these around the state.

**Francis WD (1981) Australian rain-forest trees. 4th edn.** Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra. 468 pp. ISBN 0642056439.

Once a standard but now very dated work on the subject. Some black and white photos.

**Harden GJ & Williams JB (1979) Fruits - a guide to some common and unusual fruits found in rainforests.** University of New England, Armidale, NSW. 12 pp. ISBN 0858342812.

A field guide to identification of fruits of rainforest plants of NSW. A simple key leads to diagnostic line drawings with brief descriptions and notes. Not comprehensive and very dated, now fully superseded by the interactive system of Harden *et al.* (2014), see below.

**Harden GJ, McDonald B, & Williams, J (2006) Rainforest trees and shrubs – a field guide to their identification.** Gwen Harden Publishing, PO Box 186 Nambucca Heads NSW 2448. 264 pp.

ISBN 0977555305.

A fully revised and much expanded version of 'The Red Book' (Williams, Harden & McDonald, 1984), this version covers 850 species in Victoria, New South Wales and subtropical Queensland. A very easy to use starter key, based on growth forms and leaf characteristics, leads to seventeen artificial groups; these in turn are subdivided by easy leaf characters to small groups of species, each of which is described and illustrated with small line drawings of diagnostic features, including flowers and fruit where useful. Now superseded by the interactive system of Harden *et al.* (2014), see below, but still useful for many situations in the absence of that new tool.

**Harden GJ, McDonald B, & Williams J (2007) Rainforest climbing plants – a field guide to their identification.** Gwen Harden Publishing (PO Box 186, Nambucca Heads, NSW 2448). 192 pp. ISBN 9780977555314.

An update of the 1980 edition ('The Green Book'), now covering the east Australian mainland south from Rockhampton. Descriptions and 1,330 diagnostic line illustrations for 265 species are embedded in an easy-to-use key format. Now largely superseded by the interactive system of Harden *et al.* (2014), see below, but still useful for most situations in the absence of that new tool.

**Harden G, Nicholson H, McDonald B, Nicholson N, Tame T & Williams J (2014) Rainforest plants of Australia – Rockhampton to Victoria.** Gwen Harden Publishing, P.O. Box 186, Nambucca Heads NSW 2448; <http://rainforests.net.au/>.

**ELECTRONIC RESOURCE, INTERACTIVE – USB.**

This comprehensive interactive key and information system runs on the user-friendly Lucid software, runnable on Windows or Mac. It covers 1139 species of trees, shrubs, mistletoes, and climbing plants, with over 11,000 excellent images. Each taxon has a fact sheet describing and illustrating (with enlargeable images) the general and diagnostic features of habit, bark, leaves, flowers and fruit, plus distribution data, habitat (including rainforest type), native/exotic status, and conservation listing status. This is now the tool of choice for rainforest species identification in mainland eastern Australia south of Rockhampton and inland to the dry vine thicket communities.  
RECOMMENDED

**Hauser PJ (1992) Fragments of green : an identification field guide for rainforest plants of the greater Brisbane region.** Rainforest Conservation Society Inc., Bardon, Qld.. 381 pp. ISBN 0958989117.

Native trees and shrubs of rainforest and former rainforest areas from Beaudesert north to Caboolture and west to Fassifern and Lake Wivenhoe. Simple keys to groups using leaf and growth form features, and species descriptions with good line drawings. Now superseded by more recent works.

**Hyland BPM, Whiffin T, Christofel DC, Gray B, & Elick RW (2003) Australian tropical rain forest plants : trees, shrubs and vines.** CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Vic. (2 CD-ROMS + booklet). ISBN-10: 9643068724; ISBN-13: 9780643068728.

CD-ROM interactive identification and information system for 2154 species of trees, shrubs and vines of the rainforests of northern Australia (area of coverage is north of a line from Broome to Townsville, but is also useful further south in Queensland). The key system is easy to use, even with limited plant material (154 characters are available) and the descriptions and notes are supported by over 3400 colour images of adult plants, the same number of colour scans of juveniles, and nearly

2150 leaf x-ray images to show venation patterns.

This work and its earlier versions were widely used but are now superseded by the on-line 6<sup>th</sup> edition (auth. Australian Tropical Herbarium & CSIRO Plant Industry, 2010, *q.v.*)

**Jackes BR (1990) Plants of the tropical rainforest : Mt Spec area, North Queensland.** Botany Department, James Cook University, Townsville, Qld. 81 pp. ISBN 086443359X.

Guide to ID of the trees, shrubs, vines, folliicolous lichens, bryophytes, and ferns of the Mt Spec / Paluma Range area. Few illustrations, but good exhaustive keys. Foolscap format.

Jackes BR (2007) Plants of the Tropics, rainforest to heath - an identification guide. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. School of Tropical Biology, James Cook University, Townsville Qld. 241 pp.

The major part of this guide is authored by Betsy Jackes and is focussed on the vascular plants of two pairs of biomes: firstly the wet rainforest systems immediately west of Cairns and the drier heaths of the Herberton-Stannary Hills area, and secondly the corresponding wet rainforest around Paluma (north-west of Townsville) and the adjoining heathy area around Hidden Valley. Most species occurring in the focus areas are included. The guide also has use throughout the 'marginal' area between these locales, but is less comprehensive there. Separate 'wet' and 'dry' area keys are provided, and very extensive tables of diagnostic features for all species covered (including bark and blaze features for trees).

A separate section (pp. 189-225) by Andi Cairns, entitled '*Introduction to tropical rainforest bryophytes: mosses, liverworts and hornworts*', includes full dichotomous keys to the species of these groups in the Mt Spec area, but has validity (at least to generic level if not always species) in other rainforest areas of north-east Queensland.

The first edition (2001, ISBN 0864436858) remains useful.

**Jones DL (1986) Ornamental rainforest plants in Australia.** Reed Books, Frenchs Forest, NSW. 364 pp. ISBN 0730101134.

Essentially a horticultural book, not a systematic identification resource, but contains short descriptions with cultivation notes for many Australian species, some line drawings, and some colour photos; deals with a surprising number of species which are seldom written up elsewhere.

**Liddle DT, Russell-Smith J, Brock J, Leach GJ & Connors GT (1994) Atlas of the vascular rainforest plants of the Northern Territory.** Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra. (Flora of Australia supplementary series no. 3) 164 pp. ISBN 0642220905.

Not an identification book as such, but a distribution census with a considerable amount of tightly coded information about each species; distribution is shown on a map, with source of record, nominated voucher specimens, literature reference, endemism and conservation status, and life-form.

**Nicholson N & Nicholson H (1985-2000) Australian rainforest plants, in the forest & in the garden.** Terania Rainforest Publishing, 391 The Channon Rd, The Channon via Lismore NSW 2480; web <http://www.rainforestpublishing.com.au>; email [terania@rainforestpublishing.com.au](mailto:terania@rainforestpublishing.com.au).

- **Vol. 1** (6th edn 2007), ISBN-10 0958943605, ISBN-13 97809589436 80;
- **Vol. 2** (4th edn 2007), ISBN-10 0958943613, ISBN-13 9780958943611;
- **Vol. 3** (3rd edn 2006), ISBN-10 095894363X, ISBN-13 978095894363X;

- **Vol. 4** (2nd edn 2003), ISBN-10 0958943648, ISBN-13 9780958943648;
- **Vol. 5** (2nd edn 2008), ISBN-10 0958943656, ISBN-13 9780958943659;
- **Vol. 6** (2004), ISBN-10 0958943664, ISBN-13 9780958943664.

Each volume (all of 72 pp.) has species arranged alphabetically; there is no overall taxonomic scheme. Scope is Tasmania to Kimberley. Very general descriptions, no maps or keys, good quality colour photographs. Superseded by more recent works, especially the interactives.

**Pearson S & Pearson A (1992) Rainforest plants of eastern Australia.** Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst, NSW. 224 pp. ISBN 0864174748.

A slightly misleading title - the book is strongly biased in species coverage to Queensland and northern NSW. Nevertheless a very useful book for those areas, with an innovative tabular key (with flower colour-coding) and high-quality colour photos. Notes on species are lamentably brief.

**Podberscek M (1993) Field guide to rainforest trees, shrubs, and climbers of Fraser Island, using vegetative characters.** Department of Primary Industry, Brisbane. 136 pp. ISBN 0724253688.

Provides easy keys, with glossaries, using mainly leaf characters; these are followed by descriptions and black & white illustrations of leaves for each species.

**Poropat P (2009) Barks and trunks: rainforest trees of south-eastern Australia.** [Self-published by the author, Goonellabah NSW: purchasing details at <http://barksandtrunks.com/books>). 98 pp. ISBN 9780980628265.

A very useful compendium of images and descriptions of 93 tree species, from Victoria to the Brisbane region, with excellent colour photos of trunk features, supplementary photos of other parts of the plant, simple descriptions, and comments on the timber colour and properties. Also a useful tabulation of 'bingo!' identification characters. See also next two entries.

**Poropat P (2013) Barks and trunks: rainforest trees of eastern Australia. Volume 2.** [Self-published by the author, Goonellabah NSW: purchasing details at <http://barksandtrunks.com/books/>). 150 pp. ISBN 9780987351524

Companion volume to Poropat (2009), but note the slightly different title. A similar compendium of images and descriptions, with excellent colour photos of trunk features, supplementary photos of other parts of the plant, simple descriptions, and comments on the timber colour and properties. This volume presents a further 150 species (from the Illawarra of NSW to the Bunya Mountains and Kilkivan in SEQ, and including a selection of species from the drier rainforest scrubs), bringing the total to 243. A third volume is in preparation.

**Poropat P [undated] Eastern Australian rainforest trees poster** [Bark and trunk images]. [Self-published by author: purchasing details at <http://barksandtrunks.com/books/>). Poster. ISBN lacking. 97 good quality photos of bark and trunks, covering the 93 species of Poropat (2009).

**Radke P, Radke A, Sankowsky G, & Sankowsky N (1993) Growing Australian tropical plants.** Frith & Frith Books, Malanda, Qld. 70 pp. ISBN 0958994293.

Not an identification guide but included here because of the excellent colour photos, including

many species rarely illustrated elsewhere. Includes brief descriptive and horticultural notes.

**Ramsey D (2008) Rainforest of tropical Australia. Second edition.** Ecosystem Guides, Cairns, Qld ([www.ecosystem-guides.com.au](http://www.ecosystem-guides.com.au)). 470 pp. ISBN 9780975747049.

A general-interest guide to flora and fauna and their habitats. Covers a fair selection of the fungi, lichens, ferns and allies, conifers and flowering plants, with very brief descriptive notes and good colour photos.

**Robertson Environment Protection Society (1993) A guide to the Yarrowa Brush – trees, shrubs and vines of the rainforest remnants.** Robertson Environment Protection Society, Robertson, NSW. 77 pp. ISBN 0646125354.

Covers an area of tableland and escarpment to the south-west of the Illawarra region of NSW. Brief notes on the area, plain-language descriptions of 41 species, with propagation notes and variable-quality black and white photographs, plus bibliography and a map of the rainforest remnants.

**Sankowsky G (2003-ongoing) Australian tropical plants. Version 4.1** Zodiac Publications, P.O. Box 210, Tolga Qld 4882; <http://www.rainforestmagic.com.au/atp.html>. No ISBN.

**ELECTRONIC RESOURCE: LIMITED INTERACTIVITY (simple and complex SQL searches)**; on DVD – suitable only for Windows systems on stand-alone PCs.

A work in progress, this information system currently (Aug. 2015) covers 2050 species of Australian native tropical plants (including trees, shrubs, vines, ferns and orchids), with a strong Queensland bias. Over 1200 colour photo images and information on 524 Australia tropical species, most or all of Queensland rainforests. The system is image-based (over 12,000 good colour photos) with a large set of search criteria to narrow identification possibilities, and a capacity to generate data-sheets (including images) for each species. An update facility is available as the system develops.

**Wightman G & Andrews M (1989) Plants of Northern Territory monsoon vine forests. Volume 1.** Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, Darwin. 163 pp. ISBN 072450687X.

Contains a brief introduction to the floristics, structure and ecology of these communities, and one-page species treatments arranged by growth form (trees, shrubs, climbers, etc.). No keys, and not comprehensive, but a good selection of the plants likely to be encountered. A brief description of each, with habitat and distribution statements, local occurrences, and notes on uses and ecology, all accompanied by fair-quality line drawings.

**Williams JB & Harden GJ (1984) Rainforest climbing plants : a field guide to the rainforest climbing plants of New South Wales using vegetative characters. Revised edn.** University of New England, Armidale, NSW. 47 pp. ISBN 0858342936.

An easy illustrated key, with line drawings of each species. Superseded.

**Williams JB (1986) Checklist of the rainforest flora of New South Wales. 4<sup>th</sup> edn.** University of New England, Armidale, NSW. 40 pp. ISBN 0858344327.

Recognized names, authors, common names, community type, southern limits. No descriptions, keys or illustrations, and now very dated.

**Williams JB, Harden GW, & McDonald, WJF (1984) Trees and shrubs in rainforests of New South Wales and southern Queensland.** University of New England, Armidale, NSW. 142 pp. ISBN 0858345552.

This was 'The Red Book', much loved as a field guide by a generation of rainforest enthusiasts, but superseded first by Harden *et al* (2006) and now by the interactive Harden *et al* (2014) – see above. The simple keys are based largely on vegetative characters. 541 species are covered with short descriptions and line drawings of leaves and fruits.

**Williams JB & Harden GJ (1979) Rainforest trees and shrubs - a field guide to trees and shrubs of rainforests in New South Wales and south-eastern Queensland using leaf features.** Dept of Botany, University of New England, Armidale NSW. 63 pp. ISBN 0858342448.

Essentially an earlier, leaves-only version of Williams & Harden (1984), *q.v.*, and similarly superseded by later works – now of historical interest only. Key illustrated with clear line drawings, and brief descriptions and notes on species. Post-1981 printings carry a 5-page supplement correcting some earlier errors.