

# *Pittosporum angustifolium*

**Common name – Native Apricot**  
**Common name – Kurti/Mondroo/Mutja**

**Native Apricots** (*Pittosporum angustifolium*) are widespread, but never common plants, found across most of inland Australia.

Other common names include: “Weeping Pittosporum”, “Bitterbush” and “Gumbi Gumbi”. The native apricot can be either a large shrub or a small tree.

They are slow growing trees usually between two and six metres high, though exceptional specimens may exceed ten metres.

They have light grey bark and are drought and frost resistant.

They can survive in areas with rainfall as low as 150 mm per year - a resilient desert species. Individual trees may live for over a hundred years.



## Flowers, Leaves and Fruits

The leaves are green, long, thin and weeping. The trees produce small, creamish-yellow flowers from late winter to mid spring. These are tubular with a pleasant scent. They develop into small round orange fruit, resembling an apricot.

The fruit can remain on the tree for several years. They produce wrinkled, dark-red seeds that are held together by a sticky yellow pulp. The fruit is extremely bitter.



## Uses

Indigenous Australians have been using various parts of the tree for a wide range of ailments. Extracts of the plant have been used in the treatment of internal pains, skin irritations, sprained limbs, and colds. It also produces a chewable gum.

This elegant, weeping, tree that has been getting quite a bit of attention of late as another potential anti-cancer remedy.

## Interesting Facts

(Pitta is Greek for pitch (resinous pulp around the seeds) and sporos for seed. Angustum is latin for narrow, and folium for leaf.