

Bay Cherry



Botanical Name: *Eugenia reinwardtiana* (Myrtaceae)

Common Name: Bay Cherry, or Cedar Bay Cherry.

Origin: Related to the Lilly Pilly tree, with one of its cousins producing pungently-scented flower buds that, when dried, become the spice we call cloves. It is a member of the Myrtle family and this particularly species is sometimes called the Fruiting Myrtle.

Distribution: Australia, Indonesia and the Pacific Islands

Australian Distribution: Considered to be a native tree of Australia, a common shrub at Cedar Bay in the Daintree area, but found anywhere from Bundaberg to the Torres Strait as well as into Papua New Guinea and many other countries.

Preferred Climate and Soil Types: It grows usually as a low bush or small tree in a range of tropical and sub-tropical areas and on a range of soil types. It is quite adaptable and hardy in either a sunny or partially shaded position. It prefers assured moisture, but will tolerate short dry periods.

Description: The tree is an ornamental evergreen and can grow to 2-3 metres. Sometimes it is grown as a hedge. The fruits are solitary, but the flowers are small and cream coloured and cover the whole crown of the tree. They are a decorative fruit, with a bright orange-red colour. Leaves are shiny deep green, elliptical in shape up to 90mm long. New growth is pink maturing through lime green. This shrub is very attractive to birds, particularly Figbirds, Bowerbirds and Friarbirds.

Fruiting Season: All year round

Harvesting: Fruits are eaten fresh or are used to make juice or jam. The fruit is a source of antioxidants.



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