

# *Toona ciliata*, Australian Red Cedar

The Red Cedar is a majestic tree, fast growing and popular for parks, but now almost extinct in the wild, because of felling by early Australian settlers. It is one of Australia's few deciduous trees. The early settlers probably noted the trees without leaves and therefore felling was made easier because the trees stood out. The young trees often suffer from Cedar Tip Moth. Fragrant white flowers with 5 petals appear in summer, followed by capsule-like brown fruit which splits into 5 segments when dry.

With its natural red lustre, the timber of the Red Cedar is prized for lute and guitar making, as well as piano cases. Boasting a fine light grain, it is also used in furniture making, as well as for light-weight racing boats and dinghies. The old train carriages, fondly nicknamed "the red rattlers," were lined with this precious timber.

This tree grows naturally in sub-tropical rain forests of NSW and Queensland, particularly Atherton Tablelands, also Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea and Norfolk Island

Red Cedar: Flowers (Forest & Kim Starr, Wikipedia, CC BY 3.0)





Family: Meliaceae

Genus: *Toona* after Toon, Indian name for one species

Species: *ciliata* (fringed with hairs)

Other common names: Red Cedar, Red Giant, Red Gold and Indian Mahogany.



Red Cedar: Timber,  
5-segment capsules and winged  
seeds  
(Androstachys CC BY 3.0,  
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Geelong Botanic Gardens Map



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