

## *Microcitrus australis*

(Rutaceae)

- Common name:** Native lime.
- Localities:** Grandview Rd, Kholo Creek, Moggill State Forest, Priors Pocket, Upper Brookfield, Savages Rd.
- Growth form:** A shrub or tree to 20 m tall, the branchlets often zigzag, and bearing stiff thorns.
- Foliage:** Leaves are simple, up to 5.5 cm long and 3 cm wide.
- Flowers and fruit:** Flowers are white, with six petals about 6 mm long, and are produced in spring. These are followed by a green, lemon-like fruit up to 6 cm in diameter, which has edible juice.
- Habitat:** Occurs in dry rainforest, especially along creeks.
- Propagation and Management:** May be propagated from seed, or by cuttings (which are slow to strike) or by budding onto citrus rootstocks.
- General:** A very hardy species, tolerant of drought. Delicious aromatic marmalade may be made from the fruit. Aborigines also enjoyed the fruit, either raw or crushed to make a drink. Native lime is a host for the swallowtail butterfly, and woompoo pigeons relish the fruit.

