

Toona australis

(Meliaceae)

- Common name:** Red cedar.
- Localities:** Kholo Creek, Moggill State Forest.
- Growth form:** A medium to large deciduous tree to 30 m tall, buttressed at the base, the bark dark brown and flaky.
- Foliage:** Leaves are pinnate, with 8-20 leaflets, usually lacking a terminal leaflet, the leaflets somewhat curved, up to 14 cm long and 6 cm wide.
- Flowers and fruit:** Inflorescences are large, the flowers fragrant and with petals about 5 mm long, appearing from spring to early summer. The fruit are small and 5-valved.
- Habitat:** Occurs in subtropical rainforest, particularly along creek and river banks
- Propagation and Management:** Fresh seed collected in mid-summer germinates within 2-3 weeks. Growth is rapid if plants are kept moist and soil nutrient status is adequate, although the red cedar tip moth can kill young seedlings or distort later growth. Red cedar should be protected from heavy frosts when young.
- General:** This well-known species is attractive throughout the growing season, particularly in early spring when the new growth is pink in colour. It provides one of our most famous cabinet timbers.

