

Araucaria cunninghamii
(Araucariaceae)

Common name: Hoop pine.

Localities: Moggill State Forest, Upper Brookfield.

Growth form: A tall and stately symmetrical tree to 50 m tall, with straight, vertical trunk covered in attractive scaly bark.

Foliage: Leaves are spirally arranged and overlapping, up to 8 mm long and 5 mm wide at the base.

Flowers and fruit: Seed is borne in female cones which are up to 10 cm long.

Habitat: Occurs in subtropical and dry rainforest, on poor, well-drained soils.

Propagation and Management: Fresh seed germinates rapidly (although only a small percentage may be viable) and also may retain viability for some years. Early growth is often slow. Hoop pine is a very hardy tree in our area.

General: Hoop pine is one of the most striking trees of the district. It is a good pioneer tree although slow growing as a young plant. It is also a good host for various epiphytic orchids. The timber is an excellent softwood. Aboriginal people used the sap as a sort of cement, warming it with their fingers. The prickly foliage provides safe nesting sites for small birds.

