

Commersonia bartramia
(Sterculiaceae)

- Common name:** Brown kurrajong.
- Localities:** Upper Brookfield, and widespread in suitable habitats.
- Growth form:** An attractive, shrub or small tree to 12 m tall, with widely spreading branches, giving the tree a layered effect.
- Foliage:** Leaves are large and simple, up to 17 cm long and 13 cm wide, irregularly toothed, the under surface silver-grey. Young shoots are hairy and reddish in colour.
- Flowers and fruit:** Flowers are small and white, but are produced in profusion in dense, attractive inflorescences, appearing about mid-summer.
- Habitat:** Dry rainforest and subtropical rainforest, and along forest margins. It is also common along creeks and wet gullies, where its filtered shade allows other species to establish underneath.
- Propagation and Management:** May be propagated from cuttings, or from seed, which first needs to be treated with boiling water (which should be poured onto the seed and left overnight) to break dormancy. Brown kurrajong is hardy and is tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions, and can grow at a rate of 3 m per year, in favourable conditions.
- General:** An excellent pioneer species.

