

Glochidion ferdinandi

(Euphorbiaceae)

- Common name:** Cheese tree.
- Localities:** Moggill State Forest, Kholo Creek, Savages Rd, Upper Brookfield.
- Growth form:** A small, bushy tree to 8 m, with flaky bark.
- Foliage:** Leaves are simple, oval and indistinctly pointed, up to 10 cm long and 4 cm wide, and are arranged in two ranks.
- Flowers and fruit:** Male and female flowers are borne separately. Flowers are greenish yellow and are produced in clusters in leaf axils. Female flowers are followed by the fruit which is a green or red capsule 1-2 cm in diameter.
- Habitat:** Margins of subtropical and dry rainforest.
- Propagation and Management:** Seeds germinate rapidly when fresh, but need to be removed from the capsule first. The fruit often contains no seed. Cuttings also strike very quickly. Cheese tree is very hardy and can be fast growing; it is tolerant of a range of different soils, but benefits from adequate moisture. It also tolerates full sun, even from an early age.
- General:** A good pioneer species, which may also be used for stabilising creekbanks. The fruit are attractive to birds. Cheese tree may be attacked by various leaf-eating insects.

