

Bastard Ironwood

Planchonella costata SAPOTACEAE

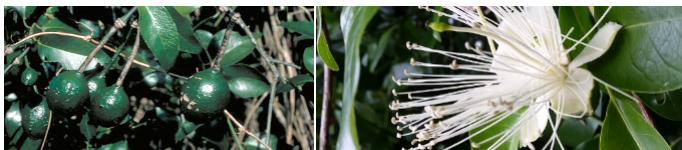
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The leaves of this tree are readily identified by their prominently raised primary veins. Mature trees can reach up to 20 metres in height, and produce large, multicoloured berries. Distinguished from *Nestegis* sp. by its alternative, rather than opposite leaves, this tree prefers low altitude forest and can be seen thriving in the Botanic Garden.

Devil's Guts

Capparis nobilis CAPPARACEAE



Also known as 'wait a while', this woody climber earns its colourful name from the sharp backward-bending thorns on its stems that can easily cut your skin. Tufts of large 2–3 centimetre long white stamens are a striking feature of the plant's large white flowers in spring and summer.

Birdcatcher

Pisonia brunoniana NYCTAGINACEAE

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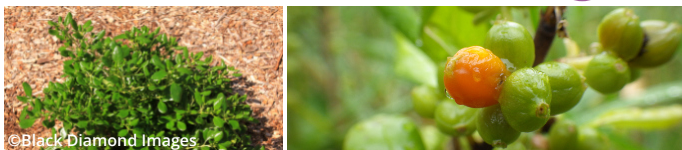


With large, dark green fleshy leaves, this small tree is found throughout the National Park and Botanic Garden. It produces small white flowers that are followed by extremely sticky elongated fruit. The fruit are so sticky that they are reputed to occasionally trap small birds.

Coastal Coprosma

Coprosma baueri RUBIACEAE

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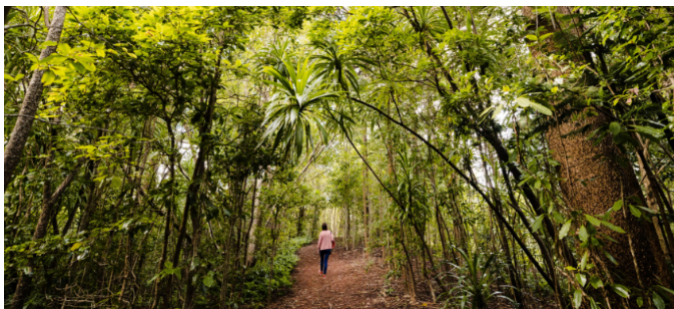
This small coastal shrub was first drawn by convict artist John Doody in 1792. Even in 1912, records report it as very rare, however the removal of rabbits from Phillip Island in the 1980s has supported its natural regrowth, and it is planted widely on Norfolk Island. The bright orange fruit was reported as being good to eat.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

- Please wear sturdy footwear – bare feet, thongs or high heels are not recommended.
- Take sufficient drinking water with you. There are no refill stations along the tracks.
- Take extra care after rain because the tracks may become slippery.
- Some tracks may be uneven with protruding tree roots, or have numerous steps – please watch your step and use handrails where provided.
- Do not use mountain bikes, cars, quad-bikes or motor bikes on walking tracks (Park Service and emergency vehicles are permitted).
- Slip, slop, slap! – protect yourself from the sun.
- Please stay away from cliff edges.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Stay on the tracks to avoid damaging plants and causing erosion.
- All plants, animals, timber and soil are protected throughout the park. Please do not disturb or take them.
- Please take your rubbish with you when you leave the park.
- Feeding the birds or leaving food scraps around helps the introduced birds and rodents – please don't feed the wildlife.



Norfolk Island National Park

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<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/norfolk/>



Australian Government
Parks Australia

Discover the
diversity of
Norfolk's plants



PLANTS OF
NORFOLK ISLAND
NATIONAL PARK AND
BOTANIC GARDEN



Australian Government
Parks Australia

Norfolk Island Pine

Araucaria heterophylla ARAUCARIACEAE



One of Norfolk's best-known symbols and common across the island, this magnificent tree can grow as tall as 60 metres. Seeds fall in May–June each year and are a popular food for the endangered Green Parrot. Most years occur every 5-7 years, when prolific seeds are produced, and the forest floor is carpeted with new seedlings.

Phillip Island Hibiscus

Hibiscus insularis MALVACEAE



While the entire wild population of this plant is confined to Phillip Island, thanks to widespread plantings it is now well distributed throughout Norfolk Island. Its beautiful flowers are cream to light green with a dark magenta centre when they first open and redden as they age.

White Oak

Lagunaria patersonia MALVACEAE



This is a commonly occurring, large and spectacular tree on Norfolk Island. It can grow to more than 20 metres tall. Its pink and mauve coloured flowers fade to white with age and have a waxy texture. Watch out for the seed pods as they contain sharp hairs that can irritate your skin.

Common Name

Scientific name FAMILY NAME



Endemic



Endangered



Vulnerable



Critically Endangered

Bastard Oak

Ungeria floribunda MALVACEAE



The abundant pink flowers give the Bastard Oak its Latin name *floribunda*. Growing to around 15 metres tall, it is mostly limited to isolated stands within and immediately surrounding the park. Not only is this species endemic to Norfolk Island, the *Ungeria* genus is found nowhere else in the world.

King Fern

Ptisana salicina MARATTIACEAE



The fronds of this large robust fern can reach lengths of three to six metres. A few years ago there were less than 250 plants left in the wild. Although found mostly in the moist valleys of the National Park, there are also a few specimens in the Botanic Garden.

Sharkwood

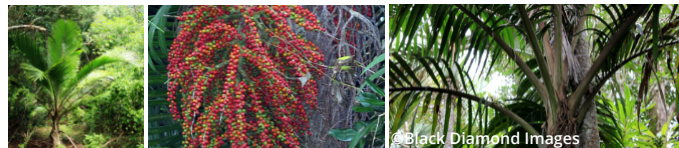
Dysoxylum bijugum MELIACEAE



If you smell a strong foul or garlic like smell while walking in the park during the spring months, it is likely from this medium sized tree. Sharkwood has dark green foliage, yellow flowers and seeds that form in capsules and are red when mature. It is found throughout the National Park.

Norfolk Island Palm

Rhopalostylis baueri ARECACEAE



Known locally as Niau, these palms are prevalent along gullies in and near the National Park. Reaching 10 metres in height, its attractive bright red fruit is one of the Green Parrot's favourite foods. Early settlers used the growing tip as a vegetable. They also used the ribs of the palm fronds for making brooms and wove the fronds into baskets.

Evergreen

Alyxia gynopogon APOCYNACEAE



This shrub can grow to 4 metres and has dark glossy leaves with pointy ends forming whorls around the branches. Its small white flowers resemble miniature frangipani, and its green seeds turn to an attractive dark orange when ripe. It is common in shaded forest throughout the Botanic Garden, National Park and adjacent areas.

Broad-leafed Meryta

Meryta latifolia ARALIACEAE



One of Norfolk's plant success stories, this species is on the road to recovery. In the early 2000s, there were only about 20 female plants left, but with propagation and replanting, the numbers have increased dramatically. Merytas grow up to 4 metres tall with their large leaves forming clumps at the end of a single stem or very few branches.

Forest Achyrantes

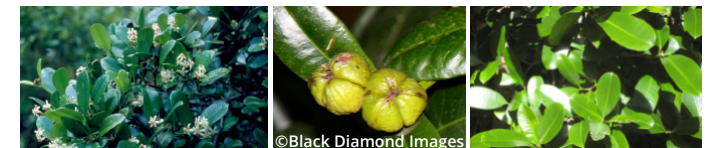
Achyranthes arborescens AMARANTHACEAE



You can find small stands of this small tree, also known as 'Chaff Tree', in the gullies and occasionally on the ridges of forested areas within and surrounding the park. Once down to extremely low numbers, it has been successfully propagated and is now widely distributed around the island.

Bloodwood

Baloghia inophylla EUPHORBIACEAE



A blood-red sap oozes from cuts in the textured bark of Bloodwood. The smooth-edged leaves are thick and glossy, averaging 10 centimetres in length. Early settlers used the sap for staining furniture, marking convicts' clothing and thought it a good tonic and astringent. The tree grows to about 12 metres tall and is common on the Island.

Ironwood

Nestegis apetala OLEACEAE



This common, small tree grows to 12 metres tall, with 10 centimetre long wavy-edged leaves that are opposite. Its common name alludes to its hard timber, which was used for fence posts and other jobs where durability was important. Fruits are most often yellow, sometimes red or rarely purple, and look like small olives. Birds like the fruit, which helps its prolific regeneration.

Whitewood

Celtis paniculata CANNABACEAE



These large and spectacular trees can be identified by their white to grey trunks that are often buttressed at the base, and leaves that generally have one side longer than the other. Clusters of green flowers can be seen in summer, after which a small round fruit is produced. Trees grow to 20 metres tall across the island with some of the largest trees in the Botanic Garden.

Pepper Tree

Piper excelsum subsp. *psittacorum* (syn. *Macropiper* sp.) PIPERACEAE



Widespread in the understorey of the forest, the Pepper Tree is a shrub that grows up to 3 metres tall. It has distinctive round to heart-shaped, dark green leaves that are lighter underneath. Fruits are elongated, conical, fleshy, green at first and turning to orange when ripe. Early settlers picked and ate the green fruits and used the spicy, ripe seeds as "pepper".

Popwood

Myoporum obscurum SCROPHULARIACEAE



These often dome-shaped small trees grow to about 6 metres tall in open areas of forests. Their shiny green leaves have a black tip and often black margin. Prolific, scented white flowers in summer are followed by pea-sized purple berries. Through active management, these trees are far more common than in the early 2000s when there were fewer than 50 trees left.

Norfolk Island Abutilon

Abutilon julianae MALVACEAE



Last seen in 1912, this low-growing plant was considered extinct until rediscovered on Phillip Island in 1985. It survived on isolated cliff ledges away from the ravages of the introduced goats, pigs and rabbits that destroyed most of the island's vegetation. Propagation and active planting is securing this species' future on Norfolk Island.

Norfolk Tree Fern

Cyathea brownii CYATHEACEAE



This attractive Tree Fern is in the Guinness Book of Records as the tallest fern in the world, and can be found in the gullies of the National Park and Botanic Garden. The trunk is much smoother than its close relative, the Rough Tree Fern. For the early settlers, the centre stem (the heart) provided "good food for hogs, sheep and goats".

Beech

Myrsine ralstoniae PRIMULACEAE



Abundant throughout Norfolk Island, this small understorey tree with dark glossy leaves grows to around 6 metres tall. It is one of the few species that can withstand the suppressive effect of the widespread woody weed African Olive. Its name honours former Norfolk resident Pat Ralston who was active in conserving native plants on the island.

Tea-tree

Dodonaea viscosa subsp. *viscosa* SAPINDACEAE



Also known as 'Hopbush', this quick-growing shrub or small tree grows to 5 metres tall and is common across the island. The shiny, elongated leaves contrast with the spectacular profusion of flowers that can range from purple and pink to green or any shade in between. These are followed by crimson, winged fruits, which gradually fade to a light tan.

Oleander

Pittosporum bracteolatum PITTOSPORACEAE



This endemic tree grows up to 7 metres tall and is now fairly common in the forest and wooded areas across the island. Its small, tulip-shaped cream flowers are followed by a spherical fruit containing numerous seeds in a sticky orange pulp. Look for the blackish coloured trunk and long light green leaves.

Nettle Tree

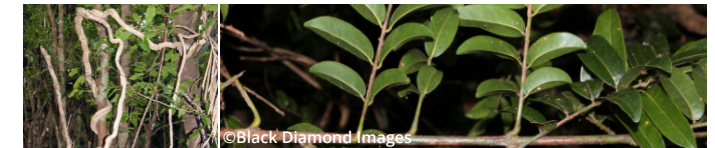
Pouzolzia australis (syn. *Boehmeria* sp.) URTICACEAE



With sandpaper-like leaves and a serrated leaf margin, this small, spreading tree occurs naturally within the National Park and Botanic Garden. In 2003, there were less than 50 mature trees remaining, but propagation and planting has seen the numbers and distribution increase on Norfolk. Unlike other Nettle Trees, this one will not sting you.

Samson's Sinew

Austrocallerya australis (syn. *Milletia* sp.) FABACEAE



Samson's Sinew, also called 'Wild Wisteria', often appears as large woody coils hanging from the tops of trees. Its springtime flowers are cream-coloured, sometimes with a bluish tint, and resemble a pea flower. They are followed by thick bean-like velvety pods. You will find this vine throughout the Botanic Garden and in the south-western section of the park.

Cordyline

Cordyline obtecta ASPARAGACEAE



This palm-like tree, known locally as 'Ti', grows up to 10 metres tall and occurs throughout forested areas of Norfolk. Look for the large narrow leaves clustered at the end of branches, the grape-like sprays of white flowers or current-like seeds in the warmer months. Though less durable than Ironwood, Green Parrots often use hollows in old Cordylines for nesting.

Flax

Phormium tenax ASPHODELACEAE



You can often see this tufted, broad-leaved, grass-like herb on exposed cliff faces around Norfolk and Phillip Islands. Captain Cook, on discovering Norfolk Island, thought that the Flax could be used to make sails, and it was one of the reasons that convicts were sent to settle on Norfolk Island. Today, Flax is used culturally for weaving.

Siah's Backbone

Streblus pendulinus MORACEAE



The name of this tree is reputed to refer to the pliability and toughness of the wood. Common to forested areas across the island, its leaves have sandpaper like texture. This plant is responding well to broad-scale woody weed control efforts in the National Park with many seedlings spontaneously occurring in treated areas.

Kurrajong

Wikstroemia australis THYMELAEACEAE



You can spot this plant by its blackish stems and very tough, fibrous bark. It grows to 4 metres or more, with large, 3-7 centimetre hairless green leaves and small tubular flowers that occur in groups of three to ten. The small fruit is orange.

Big Creeper

Melodinus baueri APOCYNACEAE



As its common name suggests this is one of Norfolk's large climbing vines. Unlike other vines, the leaves each have about 50 parallel veins on both sides of the mid-rib. It has cream coloured flowers, large grey-green fruit and is common within and immediately surrounding the National Park.

Hanging Forkfern

Tmesipteris norfolkensis PSILOTACEAE



Epiphytes are plants that grow on other plants. Look at the trunks of the tall tree ferns, particularly in the Botanic Gardens, to spot this epiphytic plant. Each of its branches are 10-25 centimetres long and support many 1-2 centimetre leaf-like 'leaves'.

Euphorbia

Euphorbia norfolkiana EUPHORBIACEAE



This highly endangered shrub typically reaches 1-3 metres tall. It generally grows in lightly shaded areas on coastal cliffs below Pines, but it has also been grown successfully in the Botanic Garden and in the National Park. Its whorled elongate leaves make this an attractive and distinctive uniquely Norfolk plant.

Native Cucumber

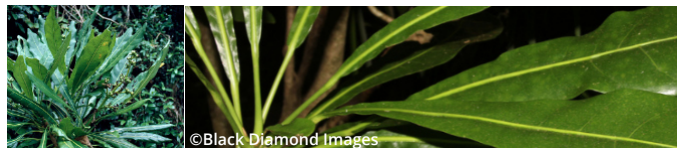
Zehneria baueriana CUCURBITACEAE



This flowering vine can be seen growing into the forest canopy, sometimes smothering entire plants in its path. It produces a small fruit, which is bright orange when ripe. It was named in honour of Austrian botanical illustrator Ferdinand Bauer.

Narrow-leaved Meryta

Meryta angustifolia ARALIACEAE



A closely related cousin of the Broad-leaved Meryta, this plant features narrower leaves, with sparser foliage. With the widespread planting of *M. latifolia*, *M. angustifolia* is now less common in the forest. Flowers are clustered and pale green in colour.

Ribbon-root Orchid

Taeniophyllum norfolkianum ORCHIDACEAE



This cryptic, leafless orchid grows to a maximum of 15 centimetres with flowers less than 2 millimetres. Due to the lack of leaves, the tiny roots, which are only 1.5 millimetres diameter, perform photosynthesis. It usually grows on the rough bark of Pines, and fewer than 500 plants are known.

Maple

Elaeodendron curtispendulum CELASTRACEAE



Easily distinguished by the shallowly serrated leaves, Maples are a key species of the hardwood forest. The flesh of the fruit is very thin, often dark purple in colour, with approximately three small seeds contained within. Mature Maple trees can reach up to 15 metres in height.

Dock

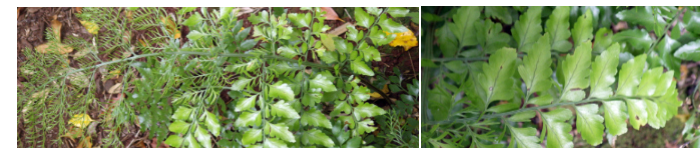
Asplenium australasicum ASPLENIACEAE



Known locally as a 'Dock', this large fern derives its nutrients from the air, rain, and debris that accumulate in its centre. You may recognise them as 'Birds-nest' or 'Crows-nest' ferns. Unlike in Australia, where *Asplenium* sp. grow as epiphytes on trees, the Norfolk Island docks are exclusively found growing on the ground.

Two-frond Lace Fern

Asplenium dimorphum ASPLENIACEAE



This fern is easily distinguishable by its contrasting fronds, one coarse and the other fine, or sometimes coarse near the base, and fine towards the tip. The coarse fronds are sterile, while the finer, lace-like fronds produce spores. Two-frond Lace Fern can be found throughout the National Park and Botanic Garden, particularly in well shaded areas.