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Brachychiton acerifolium

[Synonyms : *Sterculia acerifolia*]

ILLAWARRA FLAME-TREE is a deciduous or semi-deciduous shrub. Native to Australia (north-eastern to south-eastern) it has small, yellowish-white flowers and leaves which turn yellow and crimson in Autumn.

It is also known as *Árvore do Fogo* (Portuguese), *Australischer Flammenbaum* (German), Flame bottle tree, Flame kurrajong, Flame-tree, *Flammetræ* (Danish), Kurrajong, *Sterculia*, *Sterculia à feuilles d'érable* (French), and *Sterculier* (French).

The blossom appears every few years.

Warning – the tree contains a fibre that can cause irritation to the skin.

Acerifolium is made up of *Acer* (genus name) and Latin *-folia* (leaved) components meaning ‘with leaves like those of that (maple) genus’.

Fibre from the inner bark has been used to make cordage mats, baskets and hats.

Illawarra flame-tree is grown primarily for ornament.