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Brachychiton acerifolius

[Synonyms : *Clompanus acerifolia*, *Sterculia acerifolia*]

ILLAWARRA FLAMETREE 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 *Arbol del fuego* (Spanish), *Árvore do Fogo* (Portuguese), Australian flametree, *Australischer Flammenbaum* (German), *Braquiquito rujo* (Spanish), *Flammender Flaschenbaum* (German), Flame bottle tree, Flame kurrajong, Flame tree, *Flammetræ* (Danish), Kurrajong, *Sterculia*, *Sterculia à feuilles d'érable* (French), *Sterculier* (French), and White crowsfoot.

The blossom appears every few years.

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

Acerifolius 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 flametree is cultivated primarily for ornament.