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*Gordonia lasianthus*

[Synonyms : *Hypericum lasianthus*]

**LOBLOLLY BAY** is an evergreen shrub or tree. Native to south-eastern North America it has camellia-like sweetly scented, white flowers with many orange stamens.

It is also known as Bay, Black laurel, Gordonia, Holly bay, Swamp laurel, and Tan bay.

Usually a flower opens alone in a cluster.

*Lasianthus* is derived from Greek *lasio-* (shaggy) and *-antha* (flowered) components meaning 'hairy or woolly flowered'.

In the past the bark has been used locally for tanning.

Today the wood is used commercially for making furniture.