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Macadamia tetraphylla

ROUGH SHELLED MACADAMIA is an evergreen tree. Native to eastern Australia (Queensland and New South Wales) it has many small creamy pink to purplish-beige flowers.

It is also known as Hawaiian nut, Macadamia nut, and Queensland nut.

The flowers are pollinated by bees.

Tetraphylla is derived from Greek *tetra-* (four) and *phyllo-* (leaf) components meaning ‘four-leaved or with four leaflets’.

Locally the shelled white nuts are eaten raw, roasted and salted or when boiled in oil. They can also be used in the kitchen in say fruit salads, cakes or stuffings like macadamia nuts (*Macadamia integrifolia*).

It is interesting to note that the brown nutshells are so hard that they have warranted investigation into the design of special nutcrackers.

The shells have been used for tanning leather and in the manufacture of plastics – and the seed oil has been used in cosmetics.

Apart from the greater emphasis on macadamia nuts (*Macadamia integrifolia*) rough-shelled macadamia has experienced a similar track record in Hawaii since its introduction there in the early 1880s. It was included in reforestation programmes and grown as an ornamental plant before its nuts were recognized as an export commodity. Although apparently still catching up with its close relative it is said to be increasingly valuable commercially for Hawaii, especially in the United States.