



INDIGENOUS GARDEN

Araucaria bidwillii (*Bunya Pine*)

Description

Araucaria bidwillii (3-20m) originating from coastal rainforest areas 50-800m above sea level. The trees are big and typically range from 20m to 50m in height with leaves that have strings of very rigid and sharply pointed leaves.

Habitat

Araucaria bidwillii grow in the wild in only a few locations in southeast and north Queensland. They need fertile basalt soils in a cool and moist environment that is well drained



Indigenous use

The cultural connection of the Bunya pine to Aboriginal Australians is very powerful. The Bunya Mountains in southeast Queensland used to host massive gatherings of Aboriginal groups.

People came to visit the Bunya pines and feasted on the nuts in their abundant cones. Some travelled from hundreds of kilometres away, and traditional hostilities were dropped to allow access. The seed in the Bunya cone is a delicious and nutritious food, a famous and celebrated example of Australian bush tucker.