



INDIGENOUS GARDEN

Davidsonia jerseyana (Davidson Plum)

Indigenous name

Ooray

Description

Davidsonia jerseyana is a slender small tree growing 6 -10m. Leaves are alternate between 35-75 cm long. Each leaf has 11-17 oblong shaped leaflets, 6-30 cm long and between 3-10 cm wide. Flowers are small dark pink to red arranged on panicles, which are borne on the main stem. Fruits are dark purple in colour, oval shaped and covered with fine hairs, they grow directly out of the trunk or thick branches. The fruit flesh is dark red when fully ripe.

Habitat

Davidsonia jerseyana grows in altitudes between 100-300 m. Clusters of natural populations are mainly growing in sheltered positions on south and east facing slopes mainly in riparian and rainforest areas.



Indigenous use

Davidson's Plum trees produce an edible, sour fruit with purple skin and bright red flesh. This very sour fruit is eaten by native animals, and by humans as bush tucker jam, sauces and desserts.

The Davidson plum has long been a food source for Indigenous Australians, who consumed the fruit raw despite its extremely sour taste.