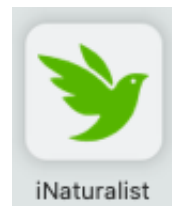


Plant ID Guide - Tips to Aid Plant Identification

A number of free phone applications and online databases are now available to assist anyone get started with identifying a plant.

A recommended free phone application (app) to download to your phone is **iNaturalist** – which uses the camera on your phone and phone location services to help identify plants and animals. By taking a few photographs of the plant, and recording its location, the iNaturalist app will often accurately identify a plant or at least provide a start with the name of the plant's genus or family. Your observational record can be stored on the iNaturalist application where other plant identifiers may assist to confirm an identification.



On a computer: search for iNaturalist Australia <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au> This offers a way to upload photos of plants and their location to help with identification. iNaturalist Australia is connected to the Atlas of Living Australia <https://www.ala.org.au> which is maintained by the CSIRO.

Plantnet is an online database to check the identification of a native plant and its distribution: <https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au> Plantnet is updated by the Royal Botanic Garden in Sydney.

In the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden you can find also photos of the plants that are in the garden's Living Plants Collection, and their location in the garden, by accessing our online database using this link: <https://coffsbotanicgarden.hortis.com/public/site/garden/map>

PLANT IDENTIFICATION SERVICE

The Friends of the Botanic Garden offer a free service to assist in the identification of plants.

The best way to use this service now is to **email photos** of the plant along with information about its location and habit, rather than providing samples of the leaves and flowers of the plant. These plant parts can decay quickly and may not provide all the information needed to aid identification.

Email requests for plant identification, with copies of photos, to: botanyCBG@gmail.com
Here are some tips on the photos to take and the information to provide.

Take photos of:

- The leaves, and their arrangement on a stem, and of both sides of a leaf.
- The whole plant. (Is it a tree, shrub, grass, vine, ground cover?)
- The flower or fruit (or both) where possible. And for trees: the bark.

Tip: When taking a photo of the leaves on a stem, turn one leaf over with your thumb to show both sides of the leaf in the one photo. Having a thumb or fingers in the photo also helps provide scale.

Information to provide with the photos:

- Name and Contact details of the person requesting the ID
- Plant Location The suburb name, or nearest road to the plant location.
- Plant Habit Is the plant a tree (height?), shrub, grass, vine, ground cover, aquatic?
- Any flowers or fruit or seed pods seen on/under the plant or other information which may assist?