PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Casuarina cunninghamiana* Miq.

**GENUS** *Casuarina* **FAMILY** Casuarinaceae

**COMMON NAMES** River oak

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Leaves for water, Seeds, Gum

## DESCRIPTION

A tall spreading tree. It grows 10-30 m high. It spreads 5-15 m across. The branches tend to droop. The leaves are reduced to rings or 8-10 tiny sharp leaf-teeth at the nodes of the stems. They are dark green. Trees are separately male and female. Male flowers are short and reddish brown spikes 3-4 cm long at the end of branches. Female flowers are red and round. They occur on mature wood. The fruit are cones which are round, grey and 1 cm across. They have sharp points on them. Plants are wind pollinated.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows near watercourses. It grows in warm temperate places and can grow in tropical regions. In the Cairns Botanical Gardens. It can stand frost. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. It forms suckers. It can be grown by cuttings and air-layering.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

It is a fast growing tree.

## NOTES

There are about 17 Casuarina species.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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