



Australian nectar plants for adult Richmond birdwing butterflies

We know what plants we need to guarantee healthy Richmond birdwing butterfly (RBB) larvae that turn into healthy adult butterflies: *P. praevenosa* in lowland habitats and *P. laheyana* in highland habitats.

But what about the adult butterflies?

The work of Dr Don Sands, retired CSIRO entomologist, has been critical in the efforts to save the threatened Richmond birdwing. He tells us that although adult RBBs will travel long distances to find nectar, in lowland habitats they prefer flowering trees in rainforest. We also asked RBCN members for their observations on the nectar feeding by RBBs.

Plants suitable for growing in SE Queensland and NE NSW

Don Sands has published a list of native, locally occurring nectar-producing plants that are attractive to RBBs, although not all are suited to domestic gardens because of their size. The following table includes both his observations and additional observations from members of the RBCN.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Possible height (metres)
<i>Alloxylon pinnatum</i>	Red Silky Oak or Dorrigo Waratah (highland habitat)	6–24
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Illawarra Flame Tree	10–40
<i>Castanospermum australe</i>	Black Bean	8–20
<i>Clerodendrum floribundum</i>	Lolly Bush or Smooth Clerodendrum	2–10
<i>Diploglottis australis</i>	Native Tamarind	35
<i>Doryanthes excelsa</i>	Gynea Lily	2–4
<i>Elaeocarpus grandis</i> (<i>E. angustifolius</i>)	Blue Quandong	35
<i>Eucalyptus</i> and <i>Corymbia</i> spp.	Eucalypt and bloodwood spp.	2–80
<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i>	Flooded Gum or Rose Gum	50–80
<i>Grevillea hilliana</i>	White Yiel-Yiel	8–30
<i>Grevillea</i> spp.	<i>Grevillea</i> spp. and hybrids	0.5–35
<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Native Frangipani	10
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	Broad-leaved Paperbark	10–15
<i>Melaleuca</i> spp.	Bottlebrush spp.	1–35
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	White Cedar	12–30
<i>Melicope elleryana</i>	Pink Euodia or Pink Evodia	25
<i>Melicope micrococca</i>	White Euodia or White Evodia	30–35
<i>Pavetta australiensis</i>	Butterfly Bush	7
<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i>	Wheel of Fire or Firewheel Tree	35
<i>Syzygium australe</i>	Brush Cherry or Scrub Cherry	25
<i>Syzygium luehmannii</i>	Riberry or Small-leaved Lilly Pilly	30
<i>Syzygium</i> spp.	Lilly pilly spp.	3–35
<i>Toona ciliata</i> (<i>T. australis</i>)	Red Cedar	40–60
<i>Waterhousea floribunda</i>	Weeping Lilly Pilly	30
<i>Xanthorrhoea</i> spp.	Grass tree spp.	1.5–5

When choosing eucalypt, melaleuca or other native species, check that they are appropriate for your geographical area and are not likely to become weeds. See the links below for more information.

Useful reading:

Sands, D.P.A. and New, T.R. (2013). *Conservation of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly in Australia*, Springer, Dordrecht.

<https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/>

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/herbarium/weeds>

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds>

For suitable native plants, visit your local Bushcare, catchment or Landcare nursery, or other nurseries that specialise in local native plants. See the list below for some examples.

Brisbane Region

B4C

1358 Old Cleveland Rd, Carindale QLD 4152
(07) 3398 8003

<http://bulimbacreek.org.au>

IndigiScapes

17 Runnymede Rd, Capalaba QLD 4157
(07) 3824 8611

<https://indigiscapes.redland.qld.gov.au/>

Moggill Creek Catchment Group - gives locally native plants away for free if you join their group for \$20.

mccgsecretary@live.com.au

<http://www.moggillcreek.org/plants>

Oxley Creek Catchment Association

9 Macdevitt St, Coopers Plains QLD 4108
(07) 3345 5541

<https://www.oxleycreekcatchment.org.au/>

Save Our Waterways Now (SOWN)

57 Paten Rd, The Gap QLD 4061

info@saveourwaterwaysnow.com.au

<http://www.saveourwaterwaysnow.com.au/>

Gold Coast and Hinterland

Steve Ward's Rivermill Nursery

Beside the Coomera River bridge
Mt Nathan QLD 4211

Mob: 0430 205 812

sales@barbstrees.com

Moreton Bay

Kumbartcho Sanctuary and Nursery

15 Bunya Pine Court, EATON'S HILL QLD. 4037
(07) 3264 3953

<https://www.kumbartcho.org.au/nursery>

Sunshine Coast and Hinterland

Barung Landcare Native Plant Nursery

26 Porters Ln, North Maleny QLD 4552
0429 943 152

<http://barunglandcare.org.au/Plantavailability>

Coolum Community Native Nursery

157 Warran Rd, Yaroomba QLD 4573
(07) 5473 9322

<https://coolumnatives.com/wordpress/>

Mooloolah River Waterwatch and Landcare.

2671 Steve Irwin Way, Glenview QLD 4553
(07) 5494 5074

<http://www.mooloolahwaterwatchandlandcare.org/>

Noosa & District Landcare

PO Box 278,

Pomona QLD 4568

Ph: (07) 5485 2155

nrmanager@noosalandcare.org