

Silver Ash - *Flindersia schottiana* F.Muell. (syn.: *F. pubescens* F.M.Bailey)

Also known as cudgerie or bumpy ash.

A large, evergreen, fast growing tree with a dense, rounded or spreading crown of attractive dark green foliage. Large sprays of honey-scented small white flowers appear en masse in late spring to early summer followed by interesting woody seed pods.

It grows from Mid North Coast NSW to New Guinea, in lowland subtropical and littoral rainforest



Flindersia is a genus of 17 species of trees in the family *Rutaceae*. They grow naturally in the Moluccas, New Guinea, Australia (New South Wales and Queensland) and New Caledonia. Many of these are highly sort after by wood workers. Other *Flindersia* species include Queensland Maple, Australian Teak, Hickory Ash, Yellow Wood and Silkwood. They all have distinctive seed pods. *Flindersia bourjotiana* is also known as Queensland silver ash and it grows in North East Queensland.

Flindersia are cultivated and planted for both timber and as street trees. Ces Johns in his autobiography "To enjoy the Interval" talks about Cudgerie as street trees in Casino, NSW planted in the 1920s. The genus was named after explorer Matthew Flinders.

A medium-sized, slim boled tree attaining a height of 50 m and 1 m stem diameter. The trunk is usually well formed and circular in cross-section. The bark, which is approximately 15 mm thick, is fairly smooth or finely warted. The tree can usually be recognised by swellings on the tree bole covering overgrown circles of broken-off limbs, giving it the local name of 'bumpy ash'.



It is distributed mainly in the rainforest areas; *F. bourjotiana* - Mt Fox (south-west of Ingham) to Cooktown and *F. schottiana* - Hastings Valley in New South Wales to Gladstone; areas of the Atherton Tableland and into New Guinea.

Colour - The heartwood ranges from silver-white to pale yellow shades. There is no noticeable colour difference between sapwood and heartwood. Those grown in NSW tend

to have pale yellow shading and there are often black streaks in those trees grown in New Guinea.

Grain - Open and predominantly straight. Slight grain deviation may occur associated with bumps on the log surface. There is no pronounced figure but a characteristic of the species is its long straight vessel lines on longitudinal surfaces.

Untreated sapwood susceptible to lyctid borer attack. The timber is subject to blue stain and needs careful drying and if not using a kiln then treated with borax acid. Rather slow air drying but little degrade.

Density - 640-675 kg/m³ at 12 per cent moisture content.

Workability – easy to work, turns to a smooth surface, good for steam bending, readily accepts stain, polish and paint, and glues well.

Shrinkage to 12% MC - *F. bourjotiana*: 5.5% (tangential); 3.0% (radial). *F. shottiana*: 4.8% (tangential); 3.1% (radial)



Uses - Furniture, plywood, laminated beams, laminated bench tops, shop and office fixtures, flooring, lining, joinery, mouldings, parquet flooring, turnery, carving, picture frames

Former Uses - . Boat building, marine plywood, structural plywood, coach, vehicle and carriage building, aircraft construction. Has been used for tool handles (axe, adze, pick), scaffold planks, sporting goods (baseball bats, archery bows, billiard cues, cricket stumps, skis), bentwork, draughtsperson's implements, gun stocks, drum sticks, dowelling, fishing rods, boat oars, walking sticks, brush stock, broom handles

Tall Boy - Silver Ash, Flooded Gum and Jarrah Handles - Designed by Neil Scobie and Paul Massey-Reed.