

***Alphitonia petriei* Pink Ash, White Ash, Sarsaparilla RHAMNACEAE**



Typical height: >40m **Spread:**

Climate: Tropical, subtropical.

Light conditions: Full sun, part shade.

Growth habit: A fast-growing tree (up to 3m per year). May be buttressed.

Growing conditions: Occurs in Cape York Peninsula, North East Queensland, Central East Queensland, and further south into northeast New South Wales, in well-developed rainforest, at an altitudinal range of 100m - 1200m. More common in upland and mountain areas. A hardy plant tolerant of poor soils. Favoured by disturbance, supports rainforest regrowth.

Flowers: Fragrant, Sept – Mar **Fruit:** Jan - July

References: Cooper W., Cooper W.T. (2004) *Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest*. Melzer R., Plumb J., Zich F.A., Hyland B.P.M., Whiffin T., Kerrigan R.A. (2020) *Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants, Edition 8*. <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/rainforest/>. Accessed 18/03/2024. Nicholson, N. & H. (1990) *Australian Rainforest Plants*. Turpin G. *et al.* (2022) *Aboriginal Medicinal Plants of Queensland*. **Image Credit:** Hansen, V.

Other: The fallen fruit is eaten by Cassowaries, and the seeds by Crimson Rosellas and King Parrots. Also attracts insect eating birds. The leaves and fresh bark emit a strong scent like wintergreen oil. The bark is used in aboriginal medicine to treat body pain.

References: Cooper W., Cooper W.T. (2004) **Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest.** Melzer R., Plumb J., Zich F.A., Hyland B.P.M., Whiffin T., Kerrigan R.A. (2020) **Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants, Edition 8.** <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/rainforest/>. Accessed 18/03/2024. Nicholson, N. & H. (1990) **Australian Rainforest Plants.** Turpin G. *et al.* (2022) **Aboriginal Medicinal Plants of Queensland.** **Image Credit:** Hansen, V.