

Lophostemon confertus

Brush Box

A medium sized evergreen tree with a dense, round to pyramidal habit. An excellent shade tree, very common street tree in some parts of Melbourne.

Foliage glossy, dark green above and paler beneath. A variegated form is available, but is prone to reversion, particularly if shaded.

Bark smooth, orange to brown bark and flaky at base.

Adapts to most soil types, grows well in urban areas.

Fruit and leaf litter can create a serious problem.

Moderately frost hardy.

height x width (m) 10-15 x 5-8 smaller on colder sites

origin New South Wales, Queensland

growth rate Moderate to fast with sufficient water.

flower colour White

flowering time Late spring/summer

shade tolerance Full sun to part shade

drought Following sustained years of drought a number of these trees have partially or fully defoliated, most recover to some degree. Requires irrigation to establish and performs better where summer water is available.

low soil oxygen Tolerates moist well drained soils.

compacted soils Evidence of very high tolerance.

pest + disease Generally not prone to insects that cause obvious damage to foliage; possum resistant.

root disturbance Occasionally displaces hard surfaces when in narrow nature strips.

advanced Low incidence of problem from planting out as industry standard, 2m plus container grown trees.

limb shear Few if any reports of the shedding of major limbs in urban landscape plantings, generally a well structured tree that rarely fails, formative pruning required developing central trunk and strong structure.

weed risk No records of species becoming established in urban landscapes by self-sown seed.

under powerlines Suitable. Open canopy form that may be successfully pruned into an open centre under wires.

habitat value Food or habitat resource for native fauna – insects, butterflies and birds.

