

## Queensland-maple

*Flindersia brayleyana* F. Muell.

Rue or citrus family (Rutaceae)

Post-Cook introduction

Large evergreen tree introduced in 1935 for trial in forest plantations, characterized by large paired pinnate leaves with 8–12 paired leaflets and by large cylindrical seed capsules splitting open into 5 pans.

To 70 ft (21 m) high and 3 ft (0.9 m) in trunk diameter. Bark gray brown, smoothish, slightly fissured into warty ridges. Inner bark dark red near surface, beneath light pink streaked, with gritty bitter taste. Twigs stout, dark green, with tiny hairs and raised light brown dots and slightly triangular light brown leaf scars about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) wide.

Leaves paired (opposite), large, pinnate, 12–20 inches (30–51 cm) long, with minutely hairy dark green round axis 10–14 inches (25–36 cm) long. Leaflets 8–12 paired, with stalks of  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (1 cm), large, oblong to elliptical, 5–7 inches (13–18 cm) long, 2–3 inches (5–7.5 cm) wide, longpointed at apex, short-pointed or rounded at base, edges slightly turned under, hairless, thin, with numerous tiny gland dots visible under lens.

Flower clusters (panicles) large. Flowers many, fragrant, small;  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch (3 mm) long, with 5 white petals.

Fruits (seed capsules) few, clustered, hanging on long stalks, cylindrical, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches (6 cm) long, 1 inch (2.5 cm) in diameter, dark brown, becoming slightly five-angled, five-celled, and splitting from apex into five parts. Seeds several, flat and winged, 2 inches by  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (5 cm by 1 cm), light brown, with thin body surrounded by membranous wing.

Sapwood is pink and heartwood a lustrous pale brown, often with interlocked and wavy grain giving a pronounced figure. Called silkwood because of its resemblance to silk. This lightweight wood (sp. gr. 0.45) machines well but lacks resistance to decay or insect attack. It is an excellent cabinetwood, one of Australia's finest, and has been used for everything from aircraft propellers to boat planking. In Hawaii, trees now growing are expected to be used primarily for veneer production.

This species was first planted in two locations on Oahu in 1935. In 1957, one of these stands was evaluated and found to be growing very rapidly and reproducing naturally. Tests of the wood of two trees indi-

cated that the wood produced was the same as that of trees grown in Australia. On this basis, the Division of Forestry began more extensive planting of the species in the Waiakea Forest Reserve on Hawaii where there are now about 400 acres (162 ha) of trees 15–25 years old. This species has been introduced to all the large islands and has been found to grow best in wet forest conditions. Extremely tolerant of shade as seedlings, the trees can seed in on the forest floor and grow up through very heavy overstory shade.

### **Special area**

Waiakea

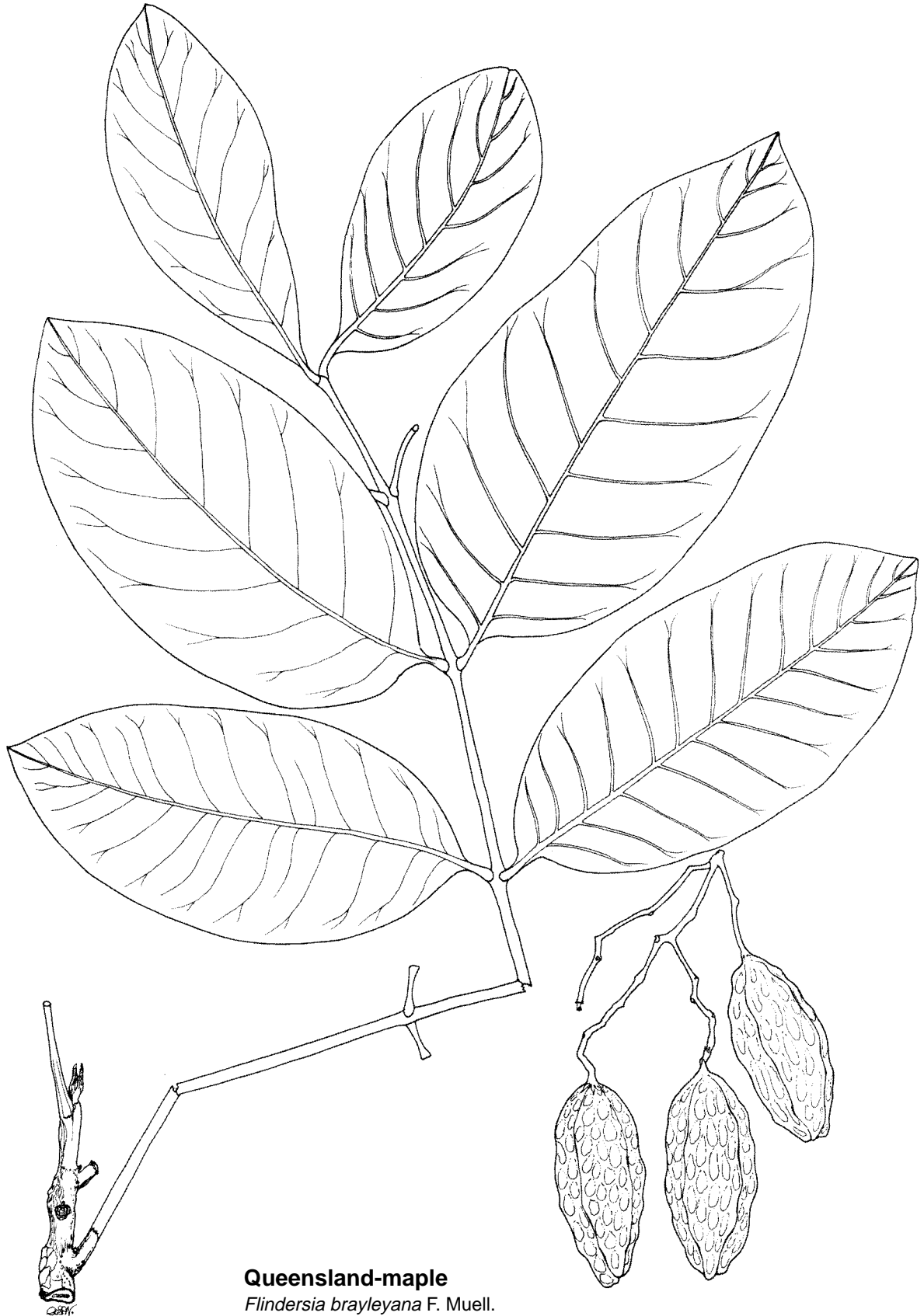
### **Range**

Native to Queensland, Australia

### **Other common name**

silkwood

This genus honors Matthew Flinders (1774–1814), British explorer.



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Leaf and fruits (lower right), 1/2 X.