

Gordonia - A genus of some 70 species of evergreen trees and shrubs which are closely allied to Camellia, found in East Asia and the warmer parts of North America. Gordonias are now in flower all over our region. *Gordonia axillaris* is the most widely cultivated species.

		
<p>Botanical name: <i>Franklinia axillaris</i> syn <i>Polyspora axillaris</i> syn <i>Gordonia axillaris</i> Common name: Gordonia, Fried Egg Plant Family: Theaceae Origin: Sth China including Hong Kong and Hainan, Taiwan and Vietnam. Habit: Large shrub, small tree with beautiful dome-shaped canopy. Height: 3.5-6m Flowers: Single creamy white crinkled petals with conspicuous golden yellow stamens facing upward with 5 or 6 petals commonly around 10cm wide. Blooms Autumn to Winter. Fruits: Dark brown capsule 30-40mm x 15mm ripening in winter. Bark: Beautiful pale brown bark, shedding in irregular patches exposing paler bark beneath. Leaves: Arranged alternately on stem oblong shaped 100-150mm x 30-60mm with mostly entire margins serrated at the tip. Dark shiny green with a pale mid rib.</p>		<p>Climate: Sub-tropical, Mediterranean and cool-temperate. Soil: Requires a humus rich moist ericaceous soil and a cool root run to grow well. Aspect: Sheltered full sun position or part shade. Avoid westerly summer sun that will turn leaves yellow. Care: Mulch well and apply general all-purpose or camellia/azalea fertiliser in spring Prune: To shape if required. Can be used as a hedge. Drought/Frost: Tender Propagation: Seed or semi-hardwood cuttings taken late summer or autumn in coarse well drained propagation mix. Pests/Diseases: Generally pest and disease free.</p>