



# The Wild Macadamia Hunt

## Project Information Sheet

### Help us find wild macadamia trees in Brisbane and beyond!

The delicious macadamia nut is native to Australia – but where are the wild trees? Cultivated macadamia trees are now abundant, but their wild relatives are under threat. Now, the hunt is on to find wild macadamia trees and their descendants around Brisbane.

These wild relatives may be growing in your backyard, acreage block, pastoral property, old orchard, or in your local park or bushland reserve. Remnant wild populations and isolated macadamia trees naturally occur in the rainforest scrubs around Brisbane. All wild macadamia trees are potentially important for the future of the species and for the Australian macadamia industry.

**So how can you help? Join the hunt! Find a wild macadamia tree and tell us about it.** If your tree is one we are looking for, we will ask you to collect a leaf sample and send it to us! The samples will be compiled and if the hunt is successful, the leaves will be genetically analysed. The results will help determine the best way to conserve wild macadamia trees.



### Which macadamia trees are we looking for?

We want to find macadamia trees that are at least 100 years old, and we're interested in three species (or types) of macadamia:

- Queensland Nut (*Macadamia integrifolia*)
- Rough-shelled Bush Nut (*Macadamia tetraphylla*)
- Gympie Nut (*Macadamia ternifolia*)

Our Macadamia Identification factsheet will help you to work out which species you might have.

### Why only old trees?

There is currently a mix of wild and cultivated macadamia trees scattered across south east Queensland and northern New South Wales.

The early 1900s was a growth time for the Australian macadamia industry, resulting in distribution of large numbers of macadamia seedlings. Though these seedlings had wild parents, the seeds (nuts) were collected from only a few trees, limiting their genetic diversity. Compounding this, from around 1960, imported trees (both cultivars and hybrids) from Hawaii started replacing Australian stock in local orchards. The imported trees have significantly less genetic diversity than wild trees or are mixed species.

So now, we are hunting for macadamia trees that are at least 100 years old. These trees are likely wild trees, either planted or naturally occurring; some may be the sole descendants of wild populations that no longer exist.





## Why do we need your help?

There are potentially thousands of wild macadamia descendants hidden away on private properties or in bushland, so we need your help – and that of your neighbours and friends – to find them!

If you know of an old macadamia tree or two (or several!), that could be more than 100 years old, we would love to hear from you!

**1. REGISTER** – Tell us about your tree/s – simply visit the [Wild Macadamia Hunt data portal](#), answer the questions as fully as possible and upload some pictures of the tree/s. Or contact us by phone on 07 3816 9720.



**2. SHARE YOUR STORY** – We would love to hear the story behind your old macadamia tree/s. Please join our Facebook group to share your stories and learn more about macadamias.



## What happens once you have registered your tree/s?

If your tree/s is one we'd like to investigate, we will send you a leaf collection kit. The kit contains instructions on how to collect and supply leaves, and storage materials. Limited project resources means priority will be given to Brisbane residents and collected leaves will be put into secure storage, ready for future genetic analysis. Recent research by Dr Craig Hardner and Dr Catherine Nock has used genetic analysis of macadamia leaves to provide important information on the ancestry of trees.

### RECEIVE KIT



### COLLECT LEAVES\*



### SEND FOR GENETIC ANALYSIS



### STAY CONNECTED



*\*Please do not collect any leaves before we send you the collection kit as their genetic material deteriorates quickly and collection from protected species is regulated.*

## For more information: Proudly supported by:

### Contact

Vanessa: [Vanessa.d@hlw.org.au](mailto:Vanessa.d@hlw.org.au), 07 3816 9720

Liz: [Liz.g@hlw.org.au](mailto:Liz.g@hlw.org.au), 0400 748 157

Visit [hlw.org.au/macadamias](http://hlw.org.au/macadamias)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wildmacadamiahunt>

Photos: Australian Macadamia Society (nuts in shell);  
Dr Catherine Nock, Southern Cross University (young leaves);  
Paul Donatiu, Healthy Land & Water (flowers, nuts on tree)



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