

Bunya Nut

Araucaria bidwillii · *Araucariaceae*, native to Australia

DIFFICULTY Moderate

TYPE Evergreen coniferous tree, native to Australia

MATURITY 14–20 years to first cones

Bunya Nut reaches 30–50m at maturity, and its mature cones can weigh up to 10kg and fall without warning. Never plant one near a house, driveway, path, or fence line — this is a physical safety hazard that must shape where you plant from day one.



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular while young, drought hardy once established



SOIL PH
5.5–7.5



SPACING
15–20m, clear of buildings



DEPTH
as per pot

01 A multi-generation tree

Bunya Nut is a true long-term planting — 14 to 20 years to first cones, then a bumper "mast year" crop every 2 to 3 years after that. The large seeds inside each cone taste like a cross between chestnut and pine nut, and are worth the wait for anyone planning decades ahead.



loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant from a nursery pot, choosing the final position with care given its eventual size.
SOIL	Well-drained soil; tolerates a wide range once established.
TIMING	Plant in spring or autumn, in a spacious, open position.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

04 Problems

- **Falling cones** — the primary risk; see the safety note above.
- **Very few pests** — otherwise a hardy, trouble-free native.
- **Waterlogging while young** — ensure sharp drainage until well established.
- **Space underestimated** — plan for its full mature size from day one.

03 Growing care

- Water regularly while young; drought hardy once well established.
- Give it full sun and unrestricted room to grow to its full size.
- No routine feeding needed once established.
- Tolerates light frost, though happiest in warmer zones.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Whole cones drop when ripe, usually in a mast-year bumper crop every 2–3 years.
METHOD	Collect fallen cones promptly and carefully; break open to remove the large seeds inside.
CURING	None needed — boil or roast the seeds before eating, similar to a chestnut.
STORAGE	Fridge a couple of weeks; freezes well for long-term storage.
PRESERVING	See Dehydrating (drying for long-term storage) or Freezing Produce (freezing a harvest surplus) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Nothing within its mature canopy and cone-drop radius	Buildings, paths, driveways, fence lines	Not applicable — long-lived, multi-generation tree.