

Davidson's Plum

Davidsonia spp. · Cunoniaceae, native to Australia

DIFFICULTY Moderate

TYPE Evergreen perennial tree, native to Australia

MATURITY 4–5 years to first useful crop



SUN
Part shade–full sun



WATER
Regular, appreciates humidity



SOIL PH
5.5–6.5



SPACING
3–4m



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Rainforest understorey native

Native to subtropical rainforest, this tree fruits directly on the trunk and older branches (a habit called cauliflory) — an unusual and distinctive feature to look out for.



graft union

loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant from a nursery pot in a sheltered, part-shaded spot.
SOIL	Rich, moisture-retentive, well-drained.
TIMING	Plant in spring, in a warm, sheltered position.

04 Problems

- **Frost damage** — limits it to milder zones.
- **Fruit fly** — net or manage as fruit develops.
- **Drying out** — the main risk in hot, dry conditions; mulch well.
- **Slow to establish** — be patient in early years.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Other rainforest natives

AVOID NEARBY

Hot, dry, exposed positions

ROTATION NOTE

Not applicable — long-lived perennial tree.

03 Growing care

- Provide some shelter and dappled shade, especially while young.
- Water regularly — dislikes drying out.
- Mulch well to retain moisture.
- Protect from frost — best suited to subtropical and warm temperate zones.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Fruit turns deep purple, growing directly on the trunk and branches.
METHOD	Pick by hand once fully coloured.
CURING	None needed — very tart, almost always used cooked or processed rather than eaten raw.
STORAGE	Fridge a few days; freezes well for later use.