



Plant of the Month: March 2014

Golden Penda - *Xanthostemon chrysanthus*

The bright golden flowers of the golden penda, or *Xanthostemon chrysanthus*, can be seen in gardens and forests throughout the Cassowary Coast region in March.

This hardy tree is the floral emblem of our shire.

The golden penda is tolerant of strong winds and has a good rate of survival and quick recovery after cyclones.

The tree has a spreading habit and eventually grows to 10m with a spreading, shady crown. It naturally occurs in rainforests from Cape York to Ingham and has become a popular garden tree.

Golden pendas flowers from an early age and attract honeyeaters. They often flower profusely after heavy rain periods and cyclones. Golden pendas will grow in most soils as long as there is sufficient moisture. Plant in the full sun for best flowering.

This plant is available at Cassowary Coast Regional Council nurseries in Tully and Innisfail.

The Innisfail Nursery, at the corner of Campbell & Sundown streets, is open for public sales on Thursdays from 8am to 3pm. The Tully Nursery, at the Council depot on Anderson St, is open on Fridays from 8am to 3pm. Ring 4068 0055 for more information.