

Lagunaria Care Guide

Caring For Lagunaria Patersonia

Norfolk Island hibiscus, Queensland white oak

This is a tree for the greenhouse, except in frost free parts of the country. It has a pyramidal habit, with ovate or lance-shaped leaves, which are olive green above and whitish to grey scaled beneath. It has cup or trumpet shaped rose-pink, hibiscus-like flowers in summer followed by rounded seed capsules, enclosed by fine hairs. These capsules give this tree two other common names in its native Australia; Itchy bomb tree and cow itch tree.

The Genus name honours Andrés Laguna (1494-1560), a Spanish botanist and the epithet honours Colonel William Paterson (1755-1810), a Lieutenant Governor of New South Wales, who first sent seeds of this tree back to the UK.

If you can already grow *Metrosideros* in coastal areas you may well be able to grow this plant outside as well. The same rules apply as to *Metrosideros*. It needs a hot, dry, sheltered and sunny location. Once a woody stem has been established it will survive a cold snap more easily.

Still awaiting images.

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