

# The Wollemi Pine



**The Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens displays one of the largest collections of Wollemi Pines in a public garden in Queensland.**

The Wollemi Pine is a majestic conifer that grows up to 40 metres high in the wild with a trunk diameter of over one metre. It has unusual pendulous foliage with light apple green new tips in spring and early summer contrasting against the older dark green foliage.

Another unique feature is its pattern of branching with the mature foliage having two ranks of leaves along the branches. The bark is also distinct even from related species, looking very much like bubbling chocolate. The Wollemi Pine's closest living relatives are the Norfolk Island Pine, Bunya Pine and Hoop Pine.

## Quick Facts

**Claim to fame:** One of the world's oldest and rarest trees

**Scientific name:**  
*Wollemia nobilis*

**Family:** Araucariaceae

**Relatives:**  
Kauri, Norfolk Island, Hoop, Bunya and Monkey Puzzle pines

**First discovered:**  
In 1994, 200km west of Sydney in a rainforest gorge within the 500,000 hectare Wollemi National Park in the Blue Mountains by David Noble, a NSW National Parks and Wildlife Officer and avid bushwalker.

**Age:** The Wollemi Pine belongs to the 200 million year old Araucariaceae family

**Oldest Known fossil:**  
90 million years

**Wild population:**  
Less than 100 mature trees

**Characteristics:**  
Conifer with attractive, unusual dark green foliage, bubbly bark and sprouts multiple trunks



**Growth habit:**  
Fast growing in light, favours acid soils, and temperatures from -5 to 45C (23 to 113F). Trials in the USA and Japan have indicated that it will survive temperatures as cold as -12C (5F)

**Size:**  
The largest wild Wollemi Pine in the rainforest gorge is 40m tall with a main trunk of 1.2m wide

**Conservation:** Royalties from sales of the Wollemi Pine to support conservation of the Wollemi Pine and other rare and endangered plant species

**Reference:** Wollemi Australia  
[www.wollemipine.com](http://www.wollemipine.com)