

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.

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

- **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.

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.
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
Other rainforest natives	Hot, dry, exposed positions	Not applicable — long-lived perennial tree.