

FACT SHEET

NATIVE PLANT SPECIES OF NORFOLK ISLAND

Tii

Cordyline oblecta

From the *Asparagaceae* family this species, also known as Ti, Cordyline, Norfolk Cordyline or Norfolk Tii, is native to Norfolk Island and is classified as vulnerable.

Description

A medium sized tree growing up to 20m in height. Trunks are thin and leafless, with their only leaves growing at the top of the trunk. One main trunk can branch out into multiple stems but all grow vertically towards the canopy/sunlight.

Leaves are long (up to 1m), narrow ($\approx 10\text{cm}$) and are connected directly to the main stem in a whorled pattern or rosette. The bright green leaves are tough and fall away from the bottom of the growth section once dead.

Small white flowers emerge on a large inflorescence. These give way to small green berries that ripen to white or bright purple. Each fruit contains multiple small black seeds.

Distribution

Can be found island wide and growing in most habitats where cows are not present.



Photo credit: Leon Perrie



Photo credit: Ilya Formin

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Growing conditions

Grows well in most conditions but prefers some shade.

Propagation

Seeds germinate easily at home. Collect fruit and remove flesh for faster germination. Sow direct into tray and cover with a thin layer of soil. Keep moist. Seeds should germinate in 30-70 days. Will also grow easily from cutting.

Look-alikes

Young Tii plants can sometimes be mistaken for young Dragon Trees (*Dracaena draco*). Other species of *Cordyline* present on Norfolk, called 'Rau-Tii' have broader, more ovate leaves.

Other information

Tii is a very attractive and fast growing tree. A fun way to remember what they look like is to liken them to the Truffula Trees from Dr Suess' 'The Lorax'.

They make a great addition to any garden, yard, nature strip or revegetation project. You can easily prune them with secateurs or by snapping their stems. They will grow additional stems to compensate.



Photo credit: Graham Rigg



Photo credit: Peter de Lange

Further information

For further information about propagation of Norfolk Island native plants and seeds, follow the link to Norfolk Island National Park website below:

<https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/media/nlohxopn/a-guide-to-propagating-norfolk-island-seeds-and-plants-2021.pdf>