



THE GLORIOUS AND ADAPTABLE FIREWHEEL TREE

GENUS STENOCARPUS SINUATIS

The firewheel tree, *Stenocarpus sinuatus* is a handsome rainforest tree whose natural habitat is the coastal rainforests from northern New South Wales to northern Queensland and Papua New Guinea. It is an upright tree to 100 feet in the wild but normally only reaches about 30 feet in cultivation. The attractive dark green glossy leaves can vary from entire to deeply pinnately lobed (divided), and it is often grown as an indoor plant when young. The red flowers appear in the early summer and last well into autumn and are arranged in wheel-like umbels approximately 4 inches in diameter, giving it its name. Flowers are usually borne on older wood inside the outer foliage, so that it is much more attractive close up.

The firewheel has been in cultivation as an outdoor tree for many years in various countries around the world, and has demonstrated some cold tolerance but it is not accepted as hardy below freezing point.

It is a member of the proteacea family and like all proteacea is very adept at tapping trace elements from the soil so it is best only lightly fertilised with a low phosphate organic fertiliser. Although it can be cultivated from cuttings the more normal method is from seed, which is easy, requiring no pretreatment. in baskets in tubs, or just in the ground.

Firewheel træet, *Stenocarpus sinuatus*, er et smukt træ der stammer fra regnskoven i sydøst asien. Det er et oprejst træ der kan blive op til 35 meter højt. Som dyrket træ bliver det dog sjældent mere end 5-10 meter højt. De smukke røde blomster kommer frem i starten af sommeren, og bliver ved med at blomstre et godt stykke hen i efteråret. Træet er delvist hårdfør, men tåler ikke streng frost. Kan også dyrkes i krukke hvor det så ikke bliver så stort.