Davidson’s Plum, *Davidsonia pruriens*, is one of the few Australian native trees widely cultivated, not only as an ornamental tree, but also for its edible dark blue plum-like fruits with sour, dark red flesh that are produced in April. The flowers and fruit are really curious, and referred to as cauliflorous, as they are produced directly from the tree trunk or from thick branches, rather than from smaller, more slender branches. The flowers are unusual, in that they don’t have petals, rather conspicuous pink sepals and eye-catching stamens.

Davidson’s Plum is a native of tropical rainforests of north-eastern Queensland where it grows from sea level to up to 1000 m altitude, from Cardwell to Cooktown. Altogether there are three *Davidsonia* species. The other two, *D. jerseyana* and *D. johnsonii* both occur in south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern NSW. *Davidsonia* belongs in the plant family Cunoniaceae, so is related to our Sydney Christmas Bush (*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*) and Coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*).
In recent years, D. pruriens has moved from being a wild harvested to a plantation crop, and production estimates have risen from 10 tonnes in 2012 to 15 tonnes in 2016, with one boutique yoghurt maker alone using 2.6 tonnes in one year.

Map modified from Australian Native Plants Society Australia: http://anpsa.org.au/d-pru.html

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