

Plant of the Week

*Hymenosporum  
flavum*  
Native Frangipanni



The heady perfume of **Native Frangipanni** should give you an inkling as to its relationship to another fragrant shrub, namely the sweetly scented **Native Daphne** (*Pittosporum undulation*) that occurs so commonly around Sydney. Both belong to the plant family **Pittosporaceae**. However, **Native Frangipanni** prefers a warmer climate and even though it has been recorded from the Grose River west of Sydney, it is more common in forests and woodland along the coast and ranges of northern NSW and Queensland. It has been a popular garden plant in Sydney for more than a hundred years, probably partly because it is a slender tree that doesn't grow too tall (10 metres at most) and partly because the fragrance of its flowers at this time of year is totally awesome.

**Native Frangipanni**, by the way, isn't even closely related to **Frangipanni** (*Plumeria rubra*) which belongs in the family **Apocynaceae**.

The name *Hymenosporum* comes from two words, *Hymen* – a **membrane**, and *spora* – seed, a reference to the winged seed. *Flavum* here means **yellow** and refers to the colour of the flowers that start life cream and turn dark apricot orange as they age. Botanists refer to *Hymenosporum flavum* as a **monotypic genus**, in other words, there is **only one species** in the genus.

Map modified from: Australian Native Plant Society, <http://anpsa.org.au/h-fla.html>

Image: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hymenosporum>

Image: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frangipani>

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Sorry, not related!  
Frangipanni – *Plumeria rubra*



*Hymenosporum flavum*  
Native Frangipanni