

# THE TYPES OF RAINFORESTS IN N.S.W.

## SUBTROPICAL RAINFOREST

Warm moist habitat on fertile soils with a rainfall of over 1300mm annually.

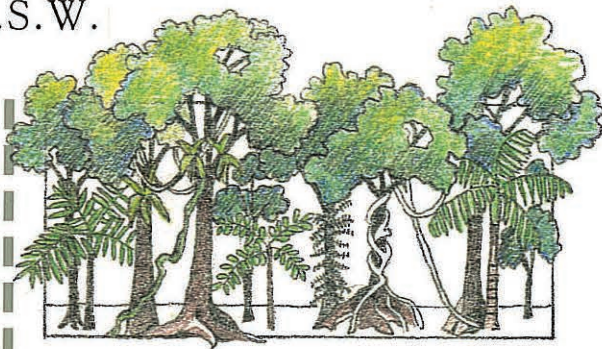
Two or three tree strata forming a multi-layered billowing canopy.

10-60 tree species in canopy.

Tree leaves mostly compound, not toothed, leaves or leaflets over 7.5cm long.

Stranglers, palms, plank buttressing, epiphytes and woody vines prominent.

Large-leaved herbs and ground-ferns common.



EXPOSURE TO SALT LADEN WINDS WOULD CHANGE SUBTROPICAL RAINFOREST TO LITTORAL RAINFOREST.

## LITTORAL RAINFOREST

Warm moist habitats on coastal headlands or on nutrient-enriched deep sands in the lee of coastal dunes.

Generally combining characteristics of subtropical and dry rainforests.

Upper tree canopy often wind-sheared.

Contains an abundance of blunt-leaved tree species tolerant of some salt-spray.

Generally of distinctive species composition, conifers prominent in some stands.



DECREASED RAINFALL WOULD CHANGE SUBTROPICAL RAINFOREST TO DRY RAINFOREST.

## DRY RAINFOREST

Warm habitats on fertile or moderately fertile soils with a rainfall marginal for rainforest, being only 600-1100mm annually with a marked dry spell.

Mostly two tree strata, the upper being of scattered emergents such as hoop pine and lacebark trees, the lower one 6-18m tall and continuous.

10-30 species in lower canopy.

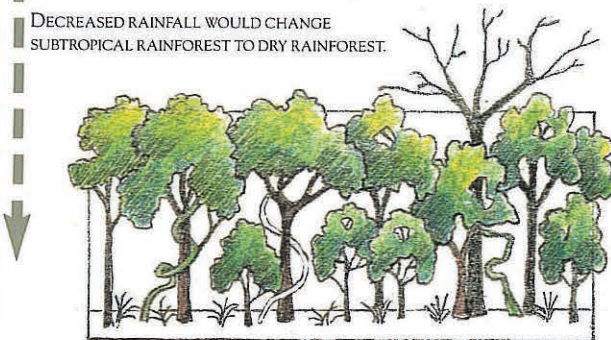
Leaves commonly compound, often thick, hard and under 7.5cm long.

Stranglers and woody vines common.

Palms, plank buttressing and large epiphytes rare.

Shrub layer well developed and prickly.

Herbaceous ground cover sparse.



COOLER TEMPERATURES OR POORER SOILS WOULD CHANGE SUBTROPICAL RAINFOREST TO WARM TEMPERATE RAINFOREST.

## WARM TEMPERATE RAINFOREST

Cool moist habitat on poor often silica-rich soils with a rainfall of over 1300mm annually.

Two tree strata forming an even canopy.

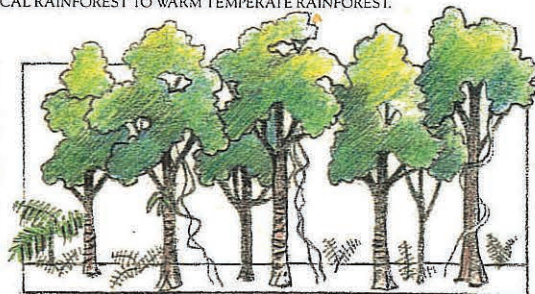
Only 3-15 species in canopy.

Leaves mostly simple and toothed, over 7.5cm long.

Stranglers, palms, plank buttressing and woody vines rare or absent. Tree trunks slender and rather uniform.

Epiphytes common, mainly lichens, not conspicuous.

Ground ferns common.



A COOLER AND MOISTER CLIMATE WOULD CHANGE WARM TEMPERATE RAINFOREST TO COOL TEMPERATE RAINFOREST.

## COOL TEMPERATE RAINFOREST

Cool reliably moist habitat poor to fertile soils with a high rainfall (1750-3000mm annually) and with frequent mists.

One or two tree strata forming an even and uniform canopy.

Only 1-3 species in canopy.

Leaves simple, toothed, under 7.5cm long.

Stranglers, palms, plank buttressing and woody vines rare or absent.

Epiphytes of mosses and lichens forming dense coverings on tree trunks and branches. Large epiphytes rare or absent.

Ground layer of tree ferns and smaller ferns often very common.

