

Black She-oak



FAMILY: Casuarinaceae

HABIT: A medium sized tree, often with upright, conical shape, fissured bark and slender arching dark green branchlets.

LEAVES: Reduced to scales in whorls of six to eight.

FLOWER/FRUIT: Male and female flowers are on separate trees. Male trees often take on a rusty appearance when covered in minute flowers. Cylindrical cones are about 2.5 cm long containing numerous winged seeds.

PROPAGATION: The best time to collect cones is as they turn from green to brown and one or two valves are just starting to open on the cone. Once picked they are best placed in a calico or brown paper bag and left in a warm spot. The cones will open releasing the seeds.

LOCAL HABITAT: Woodlands from the coastal foothills to the ranges on well drained often poor soils.

DISTRIBUTION: All eastern states and Tasmania.

GENERAL: A fast-growing, salt tolerant tree useful for wind breaks and light shade. It attracts seed eating birds, such as the endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo.

REFERENCES: Alcock & Champion, 1989 *One Hundred and One Trees of Mackay*.