

Black She-Oak

Allocasuarina littoralis



Family: Casuarinaceae

Evergreen, nitrogen-fixing tree to 10 m



Distribution: Widespread. Coastal and inland areas of Queensland, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, and Tasmania.

Description: Fast-growing hardy tree. Bark is furrowed, branches resemble bird's feathers. Flowers in winter. Male flowers are dark brown flower spikes, female flowers are red. Small fruiting cones are produced in clusters on the female plants. NB: Closely resembles the River She-oak, *Casuarina cunninghamii*.

Propagation: seeds start to germinate in about 7 days if grown at 25°C with no pre-treatment required.

Habitat: Woodland and sometimes in tall heath, and it grows in sandy and other poor soils. Common on well-drained soils on hills and mountain slopes. Tolerates salt-laden coastal winds, frost, flooding and drought.

Uses: excellent fuel wood, also used for turnery, tool handles, yokes, furniture, farm buildings and roof shingles. A good windbreak tree. Pollen has value for apiculture. A critical food source for the endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo.