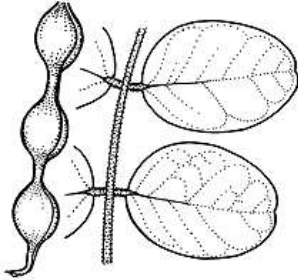


Silver Bush

Sophora tomentose subsp. australis



Family: Fabaceae
Shrub or small tree to 5 m



* *Threatened*
species:
NSW TSCA:
Endangered

Distribution: A coastal species from Taree to Port Macquarie, disappearing in north-eastern coastal NSW due to competition with the weed Bitou Bush.

Description: Ovate to circular leaves, flowers in winter. Has a characteristic string of seed pods that develop after its yellow flowers germinate into seeds. Also called *Necklacepod*.

Propagation: Seed coat needs to be nicked to promote germination. Alternatively pour just-boiled water over seeds and let stand overnight.

Habitat: Occurs on recent sands on frontal coastal dunes. Prefers well drained soil, is fast growing and hardy. Likes a full sun position and is tolerant of dry and saline conditions. Considered an endangered species in NSW due to the clearing of coastal habitat and displacement by invasive species.

Uses: The plant and seeds are considered diuretic, stomachic, sudorific, purgative and febrifuge. The seeds are dangerously *emetocathartic* due to the *cytosine*-like alkaloid that is released. Contains an alkaloid that is identical to *cytosine*, a powerful purgative.