



Coastal Wattle

Acacia longifolia subsp. *sophorae*



Family: Fabaceae

Fast-growing nitrogen-fixing small tree 1 – 4 m



Distribution: Widespread in coastal districts of New South Wales and Victoria.

Description: In exposed situations it is a large, prostrate or decumbent shrub, with its trunk and lower branches usually growing along the ground, reaching up to 3 m in height and spreading to 4 m or more horizontally. Bright yellow flowers occur as elongated spikes from late winter and spring.

Propagation: Pods are often coiled and twisted on opening. Prepare the seeds by soaking in boiling water or by scarification.

Habitat: Grows in heath and sclerophyll forest, on coastal headlands, sand dunes and adjacent alluvial flats. It is used for dune stabilisation on beaches where it will tolerate sea spray and sand blast, providing protection for less hardy plants

Uses: Its uses include fixing nitrogen in the soil and prevention of soil erosion, food (flowers, seeds and seed pods), yellow dye (from the flowers), green dye (pods) and wood.