Acacia melanoxylon

COMMON NAMES
blackwood

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS
Cream, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Shrub or tree, twigs ribbed, glabrous to densely hairy. Leaves reduced to phyllodes, narrowly obovate up to 100 x 20 m, with 3-4 prominent veins. Bi-pinnate juvenile foliage may be present and individual leaves can have intermediate foliage with bipinnate foliage and a well developed phyllode. Inflorescence consists of many pale creamy yellow flowers in globbse heads, held singly or in racemes. Seed pod is glabrous, twisted or spiralled, 8-10 cm long (up to 4 cm diameter) and 5-8mm wide.

SIMILAR TAXA
Can be distinguished form other naturalised sp. by the large phyllodes and the pale creamy yellow flowers in globbose heads.

HABITAT
Waste places, often coastal, especially near plantations.

GENUS
Acacia

FAMILY
Fabaceae

AUTHORITY
Acacia melanoxylon R.Br.

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
August, September, October, November

YEAR NATURALISED
1918

ORIGIN
E. Australia, Tasmania

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
FACU: Facultative Upland
Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).



Acacia. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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ETYMOLOGY

acacia: Derived from Greek ‘akazo’ to sharpen, meaning point; spine or thorn.
melanoxylon: Black wood

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report here.

NVS CODE

ACAMEL

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/acacia-melanoxylon/

PDF DATE

27 May 2026