

# Acacia paradoxa

## COMMON NAME

kangaroo acacia

## FAMILY

Fabaceae

## AUTHORITY

Acacia paradoxa DC.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## HABITAT

Open sites usually of low fertility near the coast.

## FEATURES

Small shrub to 3m high. Twigs furrowed, moderately hairy. Leaves reduced to phyllodes. Phyllodes alternate, glabrous or sparsely hairy, ovate asymmetrical up to 18 x 8 mm. Stipules are usually hardened to form a spine. Inflorescence consists of many golden yellow flowers held in solitary globose heads. Seed pods are straight or curved and up to 50 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

This species is easily identified by the combination of small, broad phyllodes and the singular golden yellow globose flower heads. It also has obvious spines.

## FLOWERING

July, August, September, October

## FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Yellow

## YEAR NATURALISED

1911

## ORIGIN

W. and E. Australia

## ETYMOLOGY

**acacia:** Derived from Greek 'akazo' to sharpen, meaning point; spine or thorn.

**paradoxa:** From Greek 'paradoxos' = unexpected, strange, marvellous



Spirits Bay, Te Pahi. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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**Reason For Introduction**

Ornamental

**Life Cycle Comments**

Extremely hardy

**Reproduction**

Large quantities of seed produced. Seed probably remains viable for a long period. Not known to sucker.

**Dispersal**

Spread by people as an ornamental hedge plant. Spreads locally by wind and gravity.

**Tolerances**

Withstands drought, has the ability to persist in low fertility sand and sandstone country. Tolerates salt and frosts.

**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/acacia-paradoxa/>