

Acacia sophorae

COMMON NAME

coastal wattle

SYNONYMS

Acacia longifolia var. *sophorae* (Labill.) F. Muell.

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Acacia sophorae (Labill.) R.Br.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

ACASOP

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Occurs on sand dunes

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub up to 1-3 m high, but can be up to 10 m when occurring as dense 'forest' naturalised on dunes. With spreading habit and sharply angled twigs. Leaves reduced to phyllodes. Phyllodes narrowly elliptic to obovate, green and up to 110 x 25 mm with 2 prominent veins. Flowers in dark yellow in cylindrical spikes up to 45 mm long. Ripe seed pods brown and very contorted.

SIMILAR TAXA

This species is very similar to *A. longifolia* (var. *longifolia*) but can be distinguished by the broader phyllodes, and the very contorted pods.

FLOWERING

July, August

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

YEAR NATURALISED

1997

ORIGIN

Australia, East coast

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Coastal sand control; ornamental, shelter

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

There is little resprouting if shrubs are cut close to ground level.

ETYMOLOGY

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



Wanganui. Sep 1994. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Auckland. Apr 2007. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

Reason For Introduction

Mainly as coastal shelter, especially for young plantings Pinus radiata forest on dunes; perhaps ornamental.

Life Cycle Comments

Very fast growing species that thrives in sand dunes. Can have huge impacts in these systems.

Reproduction

Prolific seed is produced in good years, can spread vegetatively if branches touch ground.

Seed

Prolific in good years

Dispersal

Dispersed by people for coastal shelter and an ornamental shrub. Seed is spread locally by wind, sand and gravity, stem layering is also of some importance.

Tolerances

Copes with coastal spray well.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: Ogle, C. (Year at time of access): Acacia sophorae Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/acacia-sophorae/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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