

Hakea gibbosa

COMMON NAMES

downy hakea

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Spreading shrub, hairy in most of its parts. Shoots terete, shaggy villous. Leaves simple, terete, 30~80 x .8~1.5mm, villous at first and some hairs remaining, rigid and spiny. Flowers solitary or few in fascicles. Pedicels 3~5mm long, shaggy villous. Perianth white, sparsely hairy, < pedicel. Ovary stipitate; style glabrous; stigma large, oblique. Fruit 3.7~4.3 x 3~3.5cm, rugose, shortly beaked. Seed 30~33 x 10~14mm (incl. wing), black; wing extending down both margins. (- Webb et. al., 1988)

SIMILAR TAXA

Extremely prickly, spreading shrub, hairy in most of its parts. Leaves needle-like and circular in cross section. Has a large woody, beaked seed capsule. Seed winged on both margins. Flowers white, Jun_Aug. can be confused with needlebush (prickly Hakea) - only the shoots of needlebush are hairy.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. A coastal and lowland plant. Plant grows in low fertility sites. The plant is found in scrub and forest margin, shrubland and gumlands (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

GENUS

Hakea

FAMILY

Proteaceae

AUTHORITY

Hakea gibbosa Cav.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

June, July, August

FRUITING

Fruit are always present because follicles persist on trees.

YEAR NATURALISED

1937



Te Paki. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 07/09/2008, Licence: CC BY.



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ORIGIN

NSW

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

The plant is intolerant of shade and frost; slightly tolerant of poor drainage and highly tolerant of drought. Adult plants are resistant to grazing. Fire kills plants but viable seed is released from the follicles. Requires low to medium soil fertility (Atkinson 1997).

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Germination is poor in unburnt sites, the situation in New Zealand is unknown. The plant produces large amounts of seed. A seed bank is probably not formed (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Seed is dispersed by wind and gravity.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

gibbosa: From the Latin gibbosus 'hunch-back, gibbous', refers to an object more swollen in one place than another, with a pouch-like swelling or hump-like.

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

HAKGIB

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hakea-gibbosa/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026