

**Casuarinaceae**  
***Allocasuarina littoralis***  
**black she-oak**



No. 28. ERECT SHE-OAK (*Casuarina suberosa*, Otto et Dietr.)



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**ETYMOLOGY**

(al-o-caz-yoo-a-REE-na) Allo Greek = other, another + casuarina = like a Cassowary species; The species *littoralis* (lit-toh-RAH-lis) means sea shore from *litus* shore.

**LIFEFORM**

Tree 6-15 m x 3 m spread

**OCCURS**

Endemic eastern Australia Cape York Qld to Holsworthy NSW, Vic, Tas

**QLD DISTRICTS**

Burnett, Cook, Daring Downs, Leichhardt, Moreton, North/South Kennedy, Port Curtis, Wide Bay

**HABITAT**

Eucalypt Woodland, Scrub

**LEAVES**

Cladodes, dark green twig-like needles (6-8 teeth) on fine branchlets with true leaves whitish.

**FLOWERS**

Dioecious, Male: fluffy brown terminal spikes resemble catkins; Wind-pollinated; Female: red hairs on stalks along branches.

**FRUIT**

**Flowering Times** March, April, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov  
Cones, 12-18 mm, oblong, grey woody with small blunt valves in even rows containing winged seeds; Called Orts when eaten by Cockatoos;

**Fruiting Times** 20th Dec, Jan

**BARK**

Dark black brown hard closely fissured rough bark sometime chunky; Host orchids/ferns.

**STEMS**

Loosely pyramidal small tree with erect (curving upward) ribbed very fine branchlets

**ETHNOBOTANY**

Medium importance as source of pollen for honeybees (Clemenson 1985) Foliage browsed by livestock during drought; Timber wood deep brown boldly flecked strong, Excellent fuel, widely used in the past for shingles, handles, rough furniture and farm buildings.

**LANDSCAPE**

Ornamental potential usage in landscaping; Planted for windbreaks and revegetation. Florists use cut flowers and dry leaves in flower trade;

**TOLERANTS**

Full sun; Frost tolerant. Fast growing; Fixing nitrogen (from air) to roots.

**WILDLIFE**

Highly susceptible to browsing by animals; Foliage eaten by goats and rabbits

**MISTLETOES**

Host plant for *Amyema congener*.

**INSECTS**

*Coptopterus decoratus*, *Phacodes personatus*, Brown Stick Insect, Casuarina Galls, Twig Girdling Longicorn, *Cylindrococcus spiniferus*, *Actinomycetes* Bacteria in root nodules

**BIRDS**

Glossy Black Cockatoo, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

