

Casuarina glauca - Swamp Oak

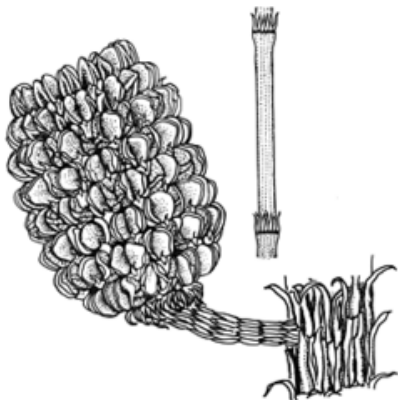
Family:
Casuarinaceae

Distribution:
Mainly coastal New South Wales a very common tree of estuarine areas forming pure stands. In HSC; Community RF1 (5.9 ha), RF2 (2.4 ha), SF1 (4.6 ha) and SO (109.8 ha). Predominantly on quaternary alluvium of the Hawkesbury River in HSC.

Common Name:
Swamp Oak.

Derivation of Name:
Casuarina; is derived from the Malay "Kasuari" or "Cassowary" which refers to the likeness of the plant's thin drooping stems and leaves to the feathers of this great bird. ***glauca***; from the Greek "glaukos" describes the blue-green colour of its foliage.

Conservation Status:
Although much of Swamp Oak's habitat is conserved in HSC, it is still recognised as being under threat due to a considerable reduction in its former range, as such it is listed as an endangered ecological community under state legislation; added to this is the threat of rising sea levels from climate change.



Description:
Tree to 15 m+ high; bark is grey to light brown in colour frequently colonised by patches of lichen. Branchlets are grey green in colour quite thick when compared to other She-Oaks and have between 12-16 leaf teeth per segment. Male and female flowers appear between August and September. Female trees only bear the "cone" like fruit.

Longevity:
Over 100 years, this is potentially increased since the tree has the ability to produce root suckers which in turn grow into new trees or forming clumps.

Horticultural Merit and uses:
Rarely used a horticultural plant because of its habit to self sucker.

Fauna Value:
A nitrogen fixing plant through a mycorrhizal association with actinomycete (bacteria). Fruit is occasionally eaten by threatened Glossy Black Cockatoo. Red-browed Firetail Finches will also feed on the seed.





