

STICKY HOPBUSH

Alternative name: Wild Hops, Hopbush

FAMILY: SAPINDACEAE

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Dodonaea viscosa*



Form and size:

Shrub to small tree, up to 8m

Leaves:

Simple, narrow elliptic 6.5-12.5cm x 1.4-4cm
Sometimes with wavy margins
Somewhat leathery and smooth
Sticky texture
Contain an alkaloid and tannin



Bark:

Greyish brown

Flowers:


Panicles (loose branching cluster of flowers) of tiny yellowish-green unisexual flowers without petals.
Often viscid (sticky)
The plants are dioecious; i.e. the flowers are male or female and usually occur on separate plants.
The pollen is wind dispersed.

Flowering Period:

May to September

Fruit:

Two winged capsules
Fertilised capsules can take up to 11 months to mature with unfertilised capsules maturing faster. Over this time, the capsules will change colour from a green or cream colour through to a brilliant red. These winged capsules are only produced on female or bisexual flowers and are approximately 2 cm in size.

Ecological notes:	Fruit and leaves eaten by the Red-winged Parrot and the Green Rosella. Larval food plant of the Fiery Jewel Butterfly and the Splendid Ghost Moth.
Cultivation:	Very hardy species. Cuttings strike readily. Seed germination can be improved by nicking the seed-coat or briefly immersing it in water that is just off the boil.
Distribution:	<p>Widely spread across Australia. Usually grows in open forest but also found in vine thickets, monsoon forest, beach forest and on rainforest margins. Often on rocky slopes. Often regenerating profusely following bush fires.</p> 
<p>OTHER INFORMATION</p> <p>Disclaimer: Rotary Club of Capricorn Coast can not take any responsibility for any adverse effects from the use of plants. Always seek advice from a professional before ingesting any part of a plant or using a plant medicinally.</p> <p>The Sticky Hopbush is tolerant of strong winds and can be used for dune stabilization and re-vegetation of coastal areas.</p> <p>Timber: The wood is very hard and fine-grained and has been used for tool handles.</p>	

QUIZ TIME

1. How long do the fertilized capsules take to mature
 - a. 5 months
 - b. 11 months

2. True or False: Sticky Hopbush is used for revegetation of Coastal areas?
 - a. False

b. True

3. True or false. Sticky Hopbush readily regrows after a bushfire?

a. True

b. False

ANSWERS:

1. B

2. B

3. A

REFERENCES

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Image 1

Australian National Herbarium. (2015). *Dodonaea viscosa* fruit.

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Image 2

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Image 3

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Image 4

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