

SILVER BUSH

Alternate name: Necklace bean, Yellow necklace pod, Sea-coast Laburnum

FAMILY: FABACEAE

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Sophora tomentosa*



Form and size:

A tall shrub with an overall greyish green hue.

Leaves:

Pinnate with 9 to 19 ovate leaflets.
Dense felt-like cover of hairs on both surfaces

Bark:

Grey to brown
Smooth

Flowers:

A branching stem with an open textured crown and very bright showy, lemon yellow pea shaped flowers occurring in terminal sprays which are followed by seed pods.

Flowering Period:

December to July

Fruit:


Pod, long, narrow, pendulous, grey, 15 cm long
Deeply constricted between the seeds.
May to January



May to January

Ecological notes

Fruit and seeds eaten by the Brown Cuckoo Dove.
Larval food plant of the moths *Anisodes turneri* and *Hyalobathra moniosalis*

Cultivation:	Grow from scarified seed.
Distribution:	<p>The Silver Bush can be found from Central Queensland and into Northern NSW. It is on the endangered species listing in NSW. It is found on recent sands on frontal coastal dunes and is threatened by the clearance of vegetation and recreational use of beaches and foredunes.</p>  <p>The map shows the continent of Australia with state and territory boundaries. A series of red dots are plotted along the eastern coastline, starting from the Queensland-NSW border in the north and extending southwards into Northern New South Wales. The word 'AUSTRALIA' is printed in the center of the continent, and 'EAST TIMOR' is labeled to the north.</p>
<p>OTHER INFORMATION</p> <p>Disclaimer: <i>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.</i></p> <p>The plant contains a strong alkaloid that is not only a strong substance which causes vomiting but is also poisonous in large quantities.</p>	

QUIZ TIME

1. What colour are the flowers of the Silver Bush?

- a. red
- b. yellow
- c. blue
- d. white

2. What is causing the endangerment of the Silver Bush?

- a. feral animals
- b. dune erosion
- c. cyclones
- d. the clearing of vegetation and recreational use of beaches and the foredunes

3. What is an alternative name for the Silver Bush?

- a. Necklace Bean
- b. Coffee Bean
- c. Earring Bean
- d. Bracelet Bean

ANSWERS:

- 1. B
- 2. D
- 3. A

REFERENCES

CSIRO. (2020). *Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants*.

Melzer, R., & Plumb, J. (2011). *Plants of Capricornia*. Belgamba.

Williams, P., Kirkpatrick, S., Griffith University. Centre for Coastal Management, & Gold Coast (Qld.). Council. (2009). *Coastal Plant Pocket Guide*. Griffith Centre for Coastal Management.

Image 1

Starr, F. & Starr, K. (2009). *Sophora tomentosa* flower.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Starr_080219-2922_Sophora_tomentosa.jpg

Image 2

Sophora tomentosa tree.

https://live.staticflickr.com/8422/7591722414_a038f17b83_z.jpg

Image 3

Starr, F and Starr, K. (2008). *Sophora tomentosa* seedpods.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Starr_080219-2919_Sophora_tomentosa.jpg

Image 4

The Australasian Virtual Herbarium. (2022). *Sophora tomentosa*.

https://avh.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?taxa=Sophora+tomentosa#tab_mapView