

# 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 occasionaly eaten by threatened Glossy Black Cockatoo. Red-browed Firetail Finches will also feed on the seed.







