

Jacksonia scoparia – Dogwood / Native Broom

Jacksonia scoparia, commonly known as Native Broom or Dogwood, is a shrub or sometimes a small tree to 3m by 1.5m with leafless, pendulous grey-green branches and a weeping habit. For much of the year it is an attractive foliage plant with gently arching grey-green foliage (its distinctive feature is flat, angular or winged branchlets which are entirely leafless except in young growth) but in the Spring and Summer it comes alive with masses of yellow pea-like flowers to 5mm in diameter.

This is a long-living plant that likes well-drained soil in full sun or partial shade in and lighter soils, it can tolerate heavy frost and is drought hardy. It gives good protection to small birds and makes an attractive feature or screen. It has been cultivated for many years and is proven to be a hardy and adaptable species. Foliage makes a useful drought fodder. Growth is helped by a twice-yearly dressing of blood and bone or a general fertiliser.

Although commonly occurring naturally in coastal areas of southern Queensland and northern NSW it has been grown successfully in much cooler frostier climates. It is a hardy and long-lived species in Canberra and north eastern Victoria where it has survived and has survived severe droughts, storms and frost.

Propagation

As with the Pea family generally seed requires soaking in hot water before sowing and each plant must be grown in a separate pot to facilitate transplanting without root damage. The slender young plants may need protection from breakage by staking.

