

## Allocasuarina / Casuarina species

Allocasuarina littoralis  
Allocasuarina torulosa  
Casuarina cunninghamiana  
Casuarina equisetifolia

The Horsetail She-Oak or *Casuarina equisetifolia* is a small tree growing to perhaps 7.5m in its natural environment with a pendulous, drooping, normally open habit. Flowers are inconspicuous but these trees come in male and female forms and in spring the male trees can take on an attractive rusty hue from their pollen. Fruit is a cone to about one inch in length. *C. equisetifolia* is relatively short-lived, surviving only 40-50 years. Its growth is rapid during the first 7 years (1.5-2.5m per year), then gradually declines.

### Propagation

**WHEN TO SOW:** At any time in warm areas but in Spring in frost prone areas after the danger of frost has passed.

**WHERE TO SOW:** Full sun or in a shrubbery in any soil that is well-draining.

**SOWING:** Fill a small to medium pot with any good medium purpose propagation mix. Compress and water then sow two to four seeds per pot, covering lightly. Maintain mixture in a moist but not damp condition. Cover the pot with clear polythene and maintain until germination occurs in approximately 14 days. Place in a warm shady position. Protect from snails and slugs.

**CULTIVATION:** At 6-10 weeks the 10-15cm tall seedlings can be planted into larger containers and maintained for 5-8 months to a height of 50-70cm at which time they can be planted out in the final position.

Germination is usually complete within 2 weeks after planting.