

## Dodonaea species

Dodonaea triquetra

Dodonaea viscosa

Dodonaea viscosa purpurea

Dodonaea viscosa purpurea, commonly known as the Purple Hop Bush is a bushy evergreen, bushy shrub growing from 3 to 4m in height and 1.5m in width. It forms a spreading tree with long narrow purple-bronze leaves and small red flowers followed by papery fruit capsules in the Spring and Summer.

It makes an excellent and different hedge or an attractive ornamental.

Drought, coastal salt and frost resistant it likes light open well-drained soils in a sunny position. It is a quick-growing plant that can reach 1m in a year and maturity in three years.

### Propagation

Propagation is easy and straight-forward from seed.

**Pre-treatment** – Hot water treatment will improve germination rate and speed, cover the seeds with about three times as much initially very hot, almost boiling, water and soak them for 24 hours.

**Growing Medium** – Plant the seeds in a sterile, moistened mixture such as 3 parts perlite and one-part peat or vermiculite. Plant the seeds 2 to 3cm deep, although sowing the seed on the top of moistened vermiculite and covering them with a layer of moistened green sphagnum moss is also effective. As soon as the seeds begin to germinate, remove most of the moss layer.

After sowing, place the pots in a covered location and keep the planting medium moist but not damp.

Germination generally takes 2 to 4 weeks.

**Planting Out** – Prick out young seedlings into separate tubes after the second leaf forms and grow on as desired. Protect against slugs and snails.