

# LIVING WITH GLOSSY BLACKS:

## SHE-OAKS IN A RURAL LANDSCAPE

Glossy Black-Cockatoos have a very restricted diet feeding only on the cones of she-oaks. Their favored food trees are the forest she-oak and the black she-oak.

This fact sheet will give you information about how she-oaks can benefit you as well as providing feed trees for the Glossy Black-Cockatoo which is listed as vulnerable under the *Nature conservation act 1992*.



*She-oaks chewed by Glossy Black-Cockatoos*

### SHE-OAK SPECIES FOR FEED TREES

FOREST SHE-OAK *Allocasuarina torulosa*  
BLACK SHE-OAK *Allocasuarina littoralis*

### USE OF SHE-OAKS IN A RURAL LANDSCAPE

Windbreak/shadeline  
Pollen  
Habitat/wildlife  
Rehabilitation  
Education  
Gully erosion control  
Ornamental/Street Tree  
Shelter Tree  
Weed Control  
Street Tree

### EDUCATION, backyards and bird watching

She-oaks are a great native, bird attracting plant for your backyard. They have woody, barrel-shaped cones containing winged seeds, which are enjoyed by not only Glossy Black-Cockatoos but also Red-browed Finches love to eat. She-oaks are favoured as nesting trees by Willie Wagtails, Pee Wees and Butchers.

With so many birds enjoying she-oaks, it is a great opportunity for bird watching.

She-oak is a popular timber among wood turners as the timber has a rich texture and is hard wood. Also She-oak burns very hot leaving very little ash and as a result is regarded as an excellent firewood. She-oak can be used for timber and firewood in a sustainable manner leaving old growth for nesting and the protection of the identified feed trees. It is important to observe Glossy Black-Cockatoo behavior so you can leave their main feed trees and replant she-oaks that you remove.

They are also often used to stabilise soils in erosion prone areas, or on sand dunes because of its ability to grow and develop extensive root systems in very poor or sandy soils, and to completely cover the ground with its "needles".



**BRISBOCA**

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## WINDBREAK/SHADELINE

When windbreaks are well designed they can increase the productivity of a farm by providing shelter for both animals and crops. This is particularly important during extreme weather conditions. Although windbreaks take off farming land a good network will compensate for this decrease by an increase in the net productivity. It is best to use local native species for a windbreak as they are proven to grow well in your area. She-oaks are a recommended species of small tree for a effective wind break. In addition to protecting your livestock or crops a good windbreak network can also assist in reducing soil erosion, dry land salinity and will add to wildlife habitat.

## TIMBER

Forest she-oak *Allocasuarina torulosa* wood is prized by woodturners and woodworkers as a rare and exotic timber. The grain is reddish pink to brown and has a strong rose like scent. The timber is often used in joinery, wood turnings, veneer, knife handles and other specialist items. Forest she-oak, also known as Rose oak, has the largest contraction along the grain (12%) of any Australian wood and need to be dried carefully to get full value as a useful timber.

## POLLEN

She-oak or casuarina is a family of Australian native trees that produces large quantities of wind-blown pollen. Bees actively collect this

pollen (Clemson, p.159-162). She-oak pollen has a crude protein of 11% to 17%. She-oak have both male and female trees. The male trees at particular times of the year will produce large quantities of wind-blown pollen. When this occurs, these male trees change to a rusty red colour. She-oaks do not produce nectar, as such will not supply energy for the bees. However, the pollen produced by these trees can be handy in increasing hive populations.

## NITROGEN FIXERS

All She-oaks are nitrogen fixers. The nodules on their roots house bacteria that converts gaseous nitrogen (from the air) to nitrate which acts as fertilizer. Planting dense stands of She-oaks also assists in managing reserves or bush areas as the thick layer of leaves/needles inhibits weed growth.

Photographs supplied by Glossy Black Conservancy.

For more information please contact the conservancy.

Email: [GBC@biodiversity.tv](mailto:GBC@biodiversity.tv)  
Web: [www.glossyblack.org.au](http://www.glossyblack.org.au)