

Botanical Name: Casuarina equisetifolia

Common Name: Horsetail beefwood, She-Oak

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an upright, single-trunked plant, with ascending-spreading branches, forming a pyramidal canopy which becomes more irregular with age; the overall appearance resembles that of a pine from a distance

Height 25'-40' (60') Spread 1/3 -2/3 Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun required; grows poorly in shade

Soil nearly any except wet, poorly drained clay locations

Hardiness hardy (zones 12-24): thrives in hot desert areas

Morphology:

Leaves virtually absent; the needlelike "leaves" are actually small, slender, jointed green branchlets, 4"-10" long

Flowers unisexual, inconspicuous, in tiny greenish-brown spikes at the ends of the branchlets; summer-fall

Fruit a tiny, cone-like nut

Propagation: seed, hardwood cuttings

Usage: an excellent, durable tree for use as windscreens, background mass, or erosion control on slopes; has a shallow root system; is a messy tree, thus not very suitable for small-area landscape; a fine plant for water-conserving landscapes

Landscape Care:

Watering an occasional deep soak; the plant becomes very drought resistant and can endure long periods of neglect

Fertilizing none is required

Pruning thin out occasionally and remove dead wood for a more attractive appearance

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions

Origin: Australia Family: Casuarinaceae