

Botanical Name: Grevillea robusta

Common Name: Silk Oak

Type of Plant: dicot:tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an erect, tall, loosely columnar to pyramidal tree; older trees become broad and very picturesque, develop a rough, fissured, gray-brown bark

Height 30-60' (100') Spread 1/3 to 1/2 Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun; thrives in desert heat

Soil prefers deep, well-drained soils; tolerates poorer

Hardiness young trees: some frost; mature trees: hardy zones 8-9,12-24

Morphology:

Leaves 2-pinnatifid; alternate, lobes lanceolate and entire or secondarily lobed; blades are silky beneath; leaves 6-12" long

Flowers orange, in flattened racemes, 2-4" long, along the branch (older wood); petals are lacking; numerous stamens; May-July (April)

Fruit a follicle:1/2-3/4" long, dark brown w/winged seeds

Propagation: seed

Usage: a fast-growing vertical accent; suitable for groves, large-scale landscapes, erosion control; messy; brittle branches; leaf drop, not suitable for small landscapes--best for informal or drought-tolerant plantings

Landscape Care:

Watering an occasional deep soak; grows poorly in heavy irrigated areas; becomes very drought-tolerant after established

Fertilizing little required except if overwatered; check for chlorosis

Pruning stake and develop primary framework when young; thin out

Pests/Diseases root rot is a problem in warm wet soils

Special Conditions

Origin: Australia Family: Proteaceae