

Allocasuarina lehmanniana

(Miq.) L.A.S.Johnson

DUNE SHEOAK

Flowering period: September–October.

Description: Open shrub, 1–4 m high, often growing one or more main stems to various heights. Leaves reduced to scales along the noded branchlets (sometimes referred to as ‘needles’). Often occur as male and female plants with the female flowers in the axils of the branchlets, red with soft, spine-like stigmas and the male flowers brown and in terminal catkins. The female flowers mature into cylindrical, brown to grey fruits each capable of holding up to 50 small black seeds with a single membranous wing thought to aid in wind-assisted seed dispersal.

Pollination: Wind pollinated.

Distribution: Shark Bay to Perth and south to Albany. Species favours protected areas on dunes or sand over limestone along the Perth coast where the species is widespread.

Propagation: Readily propagated from seed.

Uses in restoration: Useful for planting into wind protected areas in the lee of larger protective shrubs or in swales. A resprouting species that provides interest in dune restoration programs; however, the species provides limited food resources in terms of pollen or nectar for insects and birds.

Notes: A member of the sheoak genus, *A. lehmanniana* is unusual in being a low spreading shrub in the juvenile stage followed by production of erect stems as the plant matures. An indicator of mature, biodiverse dune vegetation.



Habit



Female flowers



Fruit



Distribution