

Hakea prostrata

R.Br.

HARSH HAKEA

Flowering period: August–October.

Description: Erect to spreading or rarely prostrate (in the Perth region) shrub, 0.2–3 m high. Leaves grey-green, 7–12 cm long, up to 5 cm wide with margins often wavy and prickly-toothed. Flowers in dense clusters in the axils of the leaves. Seeds two, winged, produced in a woody fruit up to 3 cm long with prominent beak at one end. Flowers often with a musty-sweet odour.

Pollination: Open pollinated by a variety of insects.

Distribution: Common and widespread through many areas of the south-west from Eneabba to Israelite Bay. In the Perth coastal areas confined to secondary dunes where the species will often co-occur with other shrubby species.

Propagation: Easily grown from seeds sown to at least their depth directly into pots ready for transfer to site. Plants grow rapidly and produce an abundance of cluster roots, particularly on the sides of pots. Cluster roots play an important function in a number of plant families for ensuring adequate uptake of nutrients in low-fertility soils.

Uses in restoration: Plant on stabilised dunes as the species is not tolerant of high winds. On the south coast the species is often prostrate growing to less than 20 cm high to minimise the deleterious impact of high winds.

Notes: A reliable species for the home garden; however, the spiny leaves can be troublesome.



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Habit



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Flowers



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Fruit



Distribution