

***Hakea salicifolia* (H. saligna)**

Proteaceae

South-east Australia**COMMON NAMES:** English: Willow-leaved hakea.**DESCRIPTION:** An evergreen bushy shrub or tree to 5 m high.

LEAVES: Alternate, variable, fairly **stiff and leathery**, **long and narrow**, to 15 cm long by 1.5 cm wide, but usually much smaller, tip not sharp, base narrowed to a short stalk. **Young leaves are an attractive orange-yellow** to reddish brown, older ones dark green. **FLOWERS:** Insignificant, creamy white and tiny, in dense clusters on the sides of branches. **FRUIT:** Young fruit dark red or maroon. Mature fruit a woody capsule with beak, to 1.6 cm long, **yellow to red, glossy** with markings, laterally compressed on 2 sides, splitting when dry to set free **1 black seed**, very thin and winged. The seed is wind dispersed.

ECOLOGY: Commonly grown in highland tea-growing areas, 1,600–2,600 m. Needs well-drained soils. Can tolerate some shading but best in open areas. Well adapted to dry and poor soils due to its dense root system, which is efficient in nutrient and water absorption. Rainfall 800–1,500 mm. Agroclimatic Zones II–III.

USES: Shade, ornamental, soil conservation, windbreak, live fence, bee forage.

PROPAGATION: Seedlings.

SEED: 38,000–78,000 seeds per kg; germination rate 70–100%.

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Seed can be stored for long periods.

MANAGEMENT: Seedlings susceptible to 'damping off', therefore too damp conditions should be avoided. Does best in well-drained soils. Fast growing; trimming if grown as a hedge.

REMARKS: This species makes a good hedge as it can withstand heavy pruning. It is often planted as a wind-break. *Hakea* is a genus with over a hundred members, all of Australian origin but with many naturalized elsewhere.

FURTHER READING: Mbuya et al., 1994; Noad and Birnie, 1989.

