

Horny Hop-Bush *Dodonaea ceratocarpa*



Description

The prostrate form of *Dodonaea ceratocarpa* creates a dense ground cover of up to 30 cm high and 4 m wide. Although not suited to foot traffic, it provides a cool look and good weed suppression.

Flowers

The small and insignificant cream-green flowers occur mainly from May to October and are followed by winged fruit, but it is the little deep green, flat leaves, 3–12 mm wide, which are the most attractive feature.

Growing conditions

This plant will thrive in all well-drained soil types, including coastal limestone. It tolerates full sun, likes lightly shaded areas and succeeds in heavy shade where many ground covers fail.

Watering

Water thoroughly at planting time and until established. Although plants will survive dry conditions, a once-a-week watering during dry periods will maintain lush green foliage.

Pruning

Trim lightly after flowering to maintain good dense coverage.

Fertiliser

Apply a slow-release native plant fertiliser when planting and annually as required in the spring months.

Pests and diseases

This species is rarely susceptible to pests or diseases but scale and mealy-bug may cause minor issues.

Miscellaneous information

Early settlers used the winged fruits of some *Dodonaea* species as a substitute for hops when brewing beer and this gave rise to the common name of the genus.



Further Information

Gardening Advisory Service, a free service provided by Kings Park Volunteer Master Gardeners. Phone: 9480 3672 or Email: garden.advice@bgpa.wa.gov.au.

Pest and Diseases Information Service, Department of Agriculture and Food. Freecall 1800 084 881
Email: info@agric.wa.gov.au or visit www.agric.wa.gov.au.