

Brush wattle, shrub wattle, acacia

Paraserianthes lophantha, Fabaceae



- small tree, 5-10 m tall
- member of the pea family
- nitrogen fixing
- can grow in a wide range of conditions, but not in shade
- grows very rapidly
- short lived
- frond-like leaves with elongated leaflets (native kowhai is similar, but with round leaflets)
- leaves have silky undersides
- twigs and shoots are densely hairy
- yellow brush-like flowers produce lots of nectar
- long brown seed pods, 8-15 cm
- produces huge quantities of hard, black, bad smelling seed
- seed can survive for several years
- originates from Western Australia



Photos: top and left, A. Stanton; above, N. Henderson, WeedFree Trust.

Control: Seedlings should be pulled out by hand. Care should be taken not to confuse this species with kowhai – remember that kowhai seedlings have round leaflets. Trees should be felled and the stumps painted with herbicide to prevent regrowth. Continuing checks for new seedlings is essential due to the long term viability of seed.