

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers, seed cases, and leafy branches.
Photographer Jackie Miles, cultivated tree, NSW



Trunk. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer
Murray Fagg, Mullumbimby Heritage Garden,
Mullumbimby, NSW



Tree. Unknown photographer, Royal Botanic Gardens
Sydney.

Common name

Silky oak, Southern silky oak

Family

Proteaceae

Where found

Forest, gardens, roadsides, and along steams. Mainly Sydney area to Nowra. Occasionally elsewhere.

Naturally occurs in **forest** north of the Coffs Harbour district.

Notes

Introduced tree to 40 m high, often **deciduous** or partly deciduous. Bark grey to dark greyish brown, longitudinally fissured or ridged. Young stems densely hairy with rusty T-shaped hairs (needs a hand lens or a macro app on your phone/tablet to see), soon becoming hairless. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 10–34 cm long, 90–150 mm wide, **compound**, with 11–31 leaflets; leaflets undivided or **dissected** or doubly dissected, **ultimate segments** 0.5–5 cm long, 2–10 mm wide, upper surface hairless and glossy green, lower surface exposed, pale green, **silky**. Flowers with 4 '**petals**' joined together in pairs, '**petals**' yellow-orange or rarely reddish, hairless outside, hairless inside. **Gynoecium** 21–29 mm long; **style** yellow-orange or rarely reddish, hairless. Flower clusters pointing up, often branched, 12–16 cm long, one-sided, toothbrush like. Flowering: September–December.

In the absence of specific information, seeds of all species of *Grevillea* have been keyed as having one **wing**.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lv=sp&name=Grevillea~robusta>
(accessed 19 January, 2021)

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