

NORFOLK ISLAND HIBISCUS

Lagunaria patersonii

TREE

Family Malvaceae

Origin NSW, QLD and Norfolk Island

Description An evergreen tree that grows to a height of 10m with a spread of 3m. The tree prefers light, well-drained soils in open and sunny positions. The species is drought resistant, frost tender ¹ and salt resistant. In sheltered locations the tree has a columnar shape, but it develops a contorted wind-controlled shape in windswept coastal locations ¹⁰.

Stems/Leaves The erect stem is dark grey, with rough bark and a densely textured crown. The leaves are greyish green in colour, oval in shape, with entire margins, 10cm long and of a leathery texture ¹.

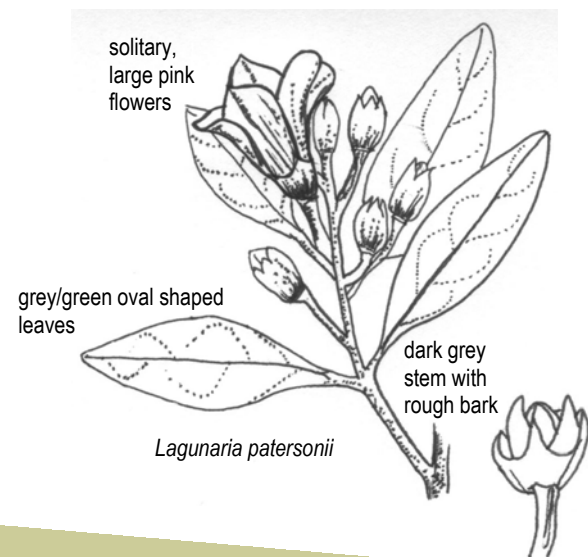
Flowers The solitary large pink, hibiscus-like flowers are terminal and 5cm across. The flowers appear from summer to autumn ¹. The waxy flowers are succeeded by fuzzy brown capsules that are retained on the tree for some months. The capsules are filled with white 'fibre-glass' like hairs that are irritant ¹⁰.

Fruit/Seed The seedpods are greyish in colour and contain bright orange seeds ¹.

Notes

The genus was named in honour of Andres de Laguna, a Spanish botanist, and the species in honour of a Colonel Paterson who first sent the seeds of the species to England ¹⁰.

Also known as the 'White Oak' and the 'Pyramid Tree'.



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