

Hakea salicifolia

Family: Proteaceae

Species: *Hakea salicifolia* (Vent.) B.L. Burtt.

Common Names: willow-leaved hakea, willow-leaf hakea, willow hakea, and finger hakea

Synonyms:

Hakea saligna (Andr.) Knight

Embothrium salignum Andrews

Bayer Code: HKASA

Description: Shrub or small tree, 3–8 m high, glabrous except young growth, which is silky. Leaves 5–10 cm long, 5–15 mm wide, leathery, veins obscure, reddish in new foliage, turning to pale, grayish green or dark green. Flowers small, white, in dense axillary scented clusters. Fruits 2–3 cm long, 1–2 cm wide gray, woody with warty protuberances, splitting into two, each with one winged seed.



Figure 1. *Hakea salicifolia* from Blood (2001)

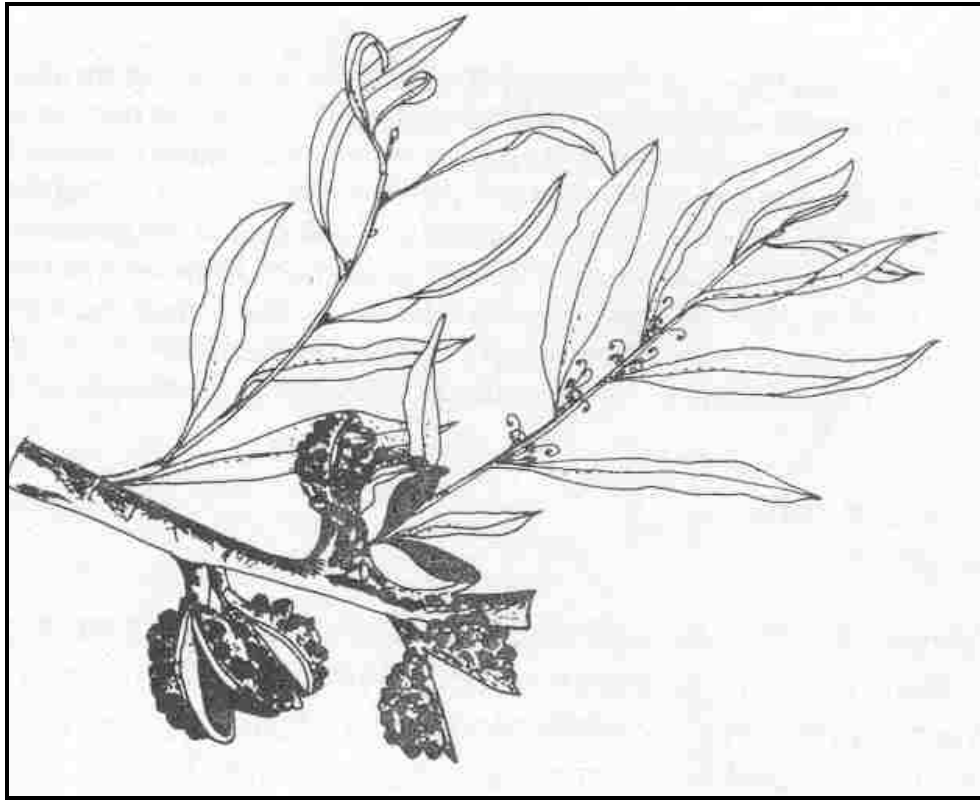


Figure 2. *Hakea salicifolia* fruit with seed from Noad and Birnie (1992)

Distribution: *Hakea salicifolia* is native in Australasia (Australia: Queensland and New South Wales). Naturalized in Australasia (Australia: Victoria, Tasmania; New Zealand), Africa (South Africa, Swaziland), and Europe (Portugal, Spain) (Blood, 2001; Henderson, 2001; Noad and Birnie, 1992; Tutin and Tutin, 1993; Webb et al., 1988; Wells et al., 1986).

Native and Naturalized Distribution of *Hakea salicifolia* (Vent.) B.L. Burtt.

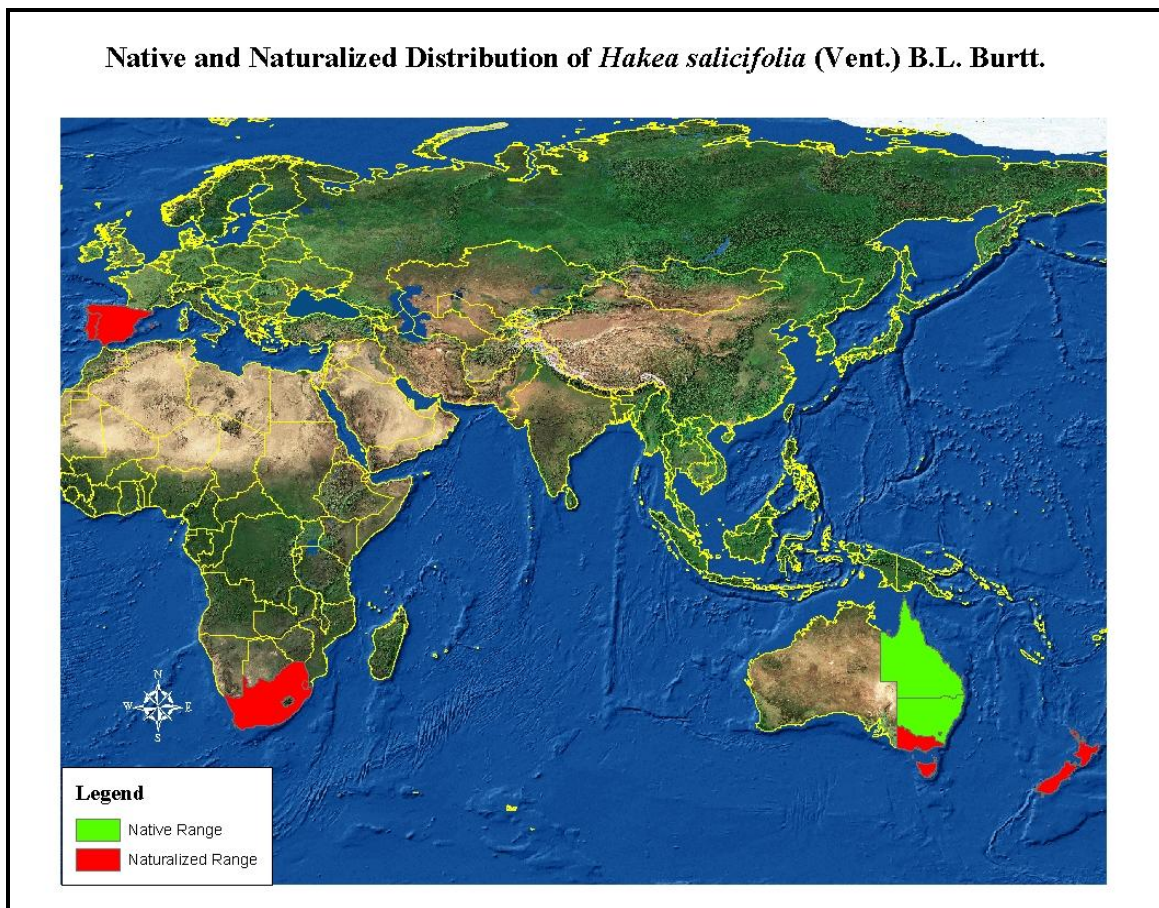


Figure 3. By Glenn Fowler, USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST, 2002 (Fowler, 2002)

Biology and Ecology: *Hakea salicifolia* is a shrub or small tree adapted to a Mediterranean climate. It is capable of surviving hot, dry summers but not restricted to those conditions. It flowers in spring and early summer-August to November in Australia, September to January in South Africa. The seeds are generally retained on the tree until the tree dies, when large numbers of seeds are released. These have an expanded wing, favoring short-range dispersal by wind. Detailed studies by Williams (1992) confirmed that seeds retain their viability for long periods in the unopened fruits but germinate rapidly after fire and can then establish very dense stands. On heavier soils, infestations may die out and be replaced by other vegetation after 50–60 years, but on lighter soils they may persist longer. It is available on at least one Australian website as a drought tolerant bird-attracting native hedge plant.

Possible Pathways to the United States: The main route of entry is likely to be as a result of deliberate importation for use as an ornamental or hedge plant.

Adverse Impact: *Hakea salicifolia* is known as a “garden thug” in Australia (Blood 2001) due to its tendency to get out of hand after being grown as an ornamental. Having been widely introduced elsewhere, it has become naturalized in New Zealand and in the Republic of South Africa and is regarded as a serious threat in both those countries. In New Zealand, it is included in a list of species of environmental concern; in the Republic of South Africa, it is described as a “potential transformer” invading grassland, wooded hillsides, roadsides, and urban spaces and is a proposed “declared invader” (Henderson, 2001). There appears to be good reason to fear this species becoming established and causing comparable problems over substantial areas of the United States.

Literature Cited:

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- Tutin, T. G., and T. G. Tutin. 1993. Flora Europaea. Vol. 1. Psilotaceae to Platanaceae (2nd). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK. 464 pp.
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- Williams, P. A. 1992. *Hakea salicifolia*: biology and role in succession in Abel Tasman National Park, New Zealand. *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand* 22(1):1-18.