

Casuarina equisetifolia L.



Scientific Name	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i> L.
Common Names	Australian pine, Whistling pine, Beef tree, കടവ്വട്
Family	Casuarinaceae
Description	It is a she-oak species of the genus <i>Casuarina</i> . It is an evergreen tree. The foliage consists of slender, much branched. Unlike most other species of <i>Casuarina</i> (which are dioecious) it is monoecious, with male and female flowers produced on the same tree. The fruit is an oval woody structure each containing a single seed with a small wing .Like some other species of the genus <i>Casuarina</i> , <i>C. equisetifolia</i> is able to fix atmospheric nitrogen.
Distribution and habitat	It is found from Myanmar and Vietnam throughout Malaysia east to French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Vanuatu, and south into Australia the northern parts of Northern Territory, north and east Queensland, and north-eastern New South Wales, where it extends as far south as Laurelton.
Uses	<i>Casuarina</i> is widely used as a bonsai subject, particularly in Southeast Asia and parts of the Caribbean. The wood of this tree is used for shingles, fencing, and is said to make excellent hot burning firewood. Among the islands of Hawaii, <i>Casuarina</i> is also grown for erosion prevention, and in general as wind-breaking elements .The <i>Casuarina</i> leaves are usually used for ornamental purposes in the urban region .Other than ornamental purposes, the <i>Casuarina</i> was also explored for its potential in remediation of textile dye wastewater. <i>Casuarina</i> leaves were found to be useful as absorbent material for the removal of textile dyes The <i>Casuarina</i> bark was reported to be able to remove methylene blue. The carbon derived from the cones of <i>Casuarina</i> was found to be a good absorbent for the landfill leachate, while another laboratory also reported good absorbent for copper ions from an aqueous solution. <i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i> has been used traditionally for treating inflammation, cancer and other diseases, but its efficacy has not been scientifically examined in treating arthritis; the bark extract showed anti-arthritic activity.
Flowering and fruiting time	It flowers twice a year beginning 3 to 5 years after germination. It flowers in February to April and September to October, with fruits

	ripening in June and July.
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