

Cassia

Environmental Weed

Botanical name: *Senna pendula*



Photos: Ku-ring-gai Council

Description

Also known as Senna and Arsenic Bush. Originating in South American, Cassia is

a perennial sprawling multi-stemmed shrub or tree up to 5m tall. Stems and leaves are hairless.

Compound leaves divide into 3-5 opposite pairs of oval leaflets. Leaflets are dark green with a yellow coloured edge. Bright yellow flowers with 5 petals, clustering at branch ends. Flowers in autumn. Hard black seeds in bean-like pods, 5- 10 cm long, narrow and rounded. Ripening in winter.

Dispersal

The large seed pods are eaten by birds and other animals.

Impact on bushland

It replaces native vegetation and establishes in a wide range of native plant communities, including coastal heath and scrubland, hinddunes and riparian corridors.

Control

Manual:

- Dispose of the large seed pods.
- Cassia is easily dug out, removing all roots.
- Cassia may also be treated using the cut and paint technique.