

**SPOT THE DIFFERENCE... Gail Slykhuis. Images ... Gail Slykhuis, Peter Brighton**

The similarity between plant species can often lead to incorrect identification and in some cases the subsequent spread of environmental weeds. Many of these weeds have originated from other Australian states and become naturalised in Victoria.

An early winter walk in the Fraser Ave Reserve Anglesea will reveal a scattering of Flinders Range Wattles disguised amongst the local Sweet Wattle. This is not the only camouflaged species that should warrant our attention.

**Sweet Wattle, *Acacia suaveolens*, and Flinders Range Wattle, *Acacia iteaphylla* .**

	Habit	Phyllode Length	Flowers & Pods
<b>Sweet Wattle</b>	Open shrub approx. 2 m high	7-12 cm in length	Flowerheads contain 3-10 pale cream to lemon yellow flowers Pods 2-5 cm long x 1-2 cm wide
<b>Flinders Range Wattle</b>	Bushy pendulous shrub approx. 3m high	5-14 cm in length	Flowerheads contain 12-17 pale lemon to yellow flowers Pods 6-12 cm long x 6-12 mm wide



Leaf and flower comparison: Sweet Wattle on left and Flinders Range Wattle right



Habit of Sweet Wattle



Habit of Flinders Range Wattle

**Bushy Needlewood, *Hakea decurrens* subsp. *physocarpa*, and Silky Hakea,**

***Hakea sericea*.**

The Victorian species, Bushy Needlewood, is not common in our area, whereas Silky Hakea is widely cultivated in Victoria occurring naturally in NSW. *Flora of Victoria* Vol. 3 has several interesting comments with respect to Silky Hakea, 'Recorded as naturalised (following the 1983 wildfires) from cultivation at Anglesea', also 'Early records of *Hakea sericea* in Victoria (eg. J.H. Willis, Handb. Pl. Victoria, 2:51 (1973) refer to the native *H. decurrens*'.

Both species share many characteristics including needle like leaves and flower colour which varies from white to rosy pink. The woody fruit provides an obvious point of difference between the two species, Bushy Needlewood fruit being smaller with a more prominent 'beak'; this beak also has a smoother texture when compared to that of the Silky Hakea.

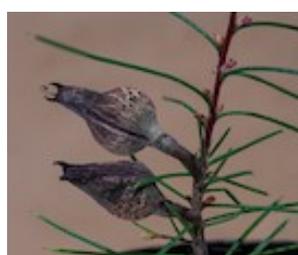
	Fruit
<b>Bushy Needlewood</b>	Fruit obliquely to broadly ovoid 2.1-3.2 cm long x 1.3 -2.5 cm wide Egg-shaped prominent beak which may be sparsely warty or smooth, two horns often eroded.
<b>Silky Hakea</b>	Fruit broadly ovoid to globoid 2-4 cm long x 2-3.2 cm wide Beak usually similar pattern to the body of the fruit, two horns often obscure.



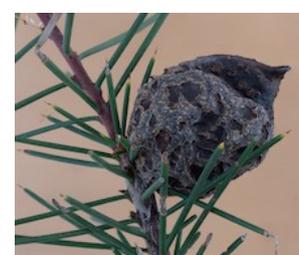
Foliage, fruit and buds of Bushy Needlewood



Silky Hakea



Bushy Needlewood fruit



Silky Hakea fruit

**References:**

*VicFlora*, ANPSA Australian Native Plants Society Australia

Costermans Leon, 2002. *Australia Native Trees and Shrubs of South-Eastern Australia*, Reed New Holland Publishing, Australia.