

Environmental Weed of the Month – **Silky Oak** (*Grevillea robusta*)

Silky Oak

Grevillea robusta

Common Names

Southern Silky Oak, Silk Oak,
Silky Oak, Silver Oak,
Australian Silver Oak

Family

Proteaceae

Origin

Australia

Description

A large tree that can grow to 30m in height with grey/brown, furrowed bark. Leaves are 15-30cm in length, fern-like in shape and grey/green in colour. Silky Oaks can easily go unnoticed until flowering occurs in Spring. The tree is semi-deciduous and drops all its leaves before producing large masses of orange flowers at the end of branches. The 'flowers' are actually clusters of small orange flowers supported on long red stalks. Fruit are 2cm in length with a slender spike or 'style'. Seeds have a papery wing around a brown central seed body.

How do they spread?

By winged seed.

Why are they an issue?



Widely distributed and well adapted to our climate, these trees can easily invade and compete with the native forest for water, nutrients and sunlight.

Where are they likely to occur?

Island wide

How can I control it?

1. Hand weed seedlings
2. Cut and paint stump of mature trees, or stem inject with 1 part Glyphosate to 1 part water.



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ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICER

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