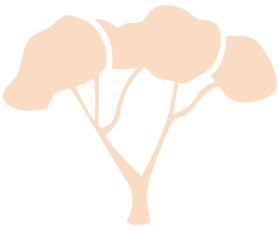




SIGNIFICANT FLORA FACT SHEET

The fact that the tree is still commonly found in the southern arid zone is a testimony to its toughness and longevity.



BULLOCK BUSH, ROSEWOOD

Alectryon oleifolius

Bullock Bush is a common small tree or large shrub which occurs throughout the southern arid zone of South Australia and forms low woodlands in the valleys of the Gawler Ranges and southern Flinders Ranges. Its main method of reproduction appears to be by root suckers after damage or good rains.

It is thought that whole valleys or continuous areas colonised by this tree may originate from just one individual, with each plant genetically identical.

Bullock Bush has very palatable foliage, which is avidly consumed by native, feral and stock herbivores. Although it readily propagates from suckers when trees are damaged or after good rains, few young plants establish unless areas are completely protected from grazing.

The fact that the tree is still commonly found in the southern arid zone is a testimony to its toughness and longevity.

Many of the surviving mature stands are only just above goat and cattle grazing height. Unless and until the canopy is grazed off or broken down, the trees can live for more than one hundred years. Some individuals in photos from the 1940s still look much the same today.

In other areas many or most of the trees have succumbed to grazing, or died from natural causes such as fire, wind or hailstorms.

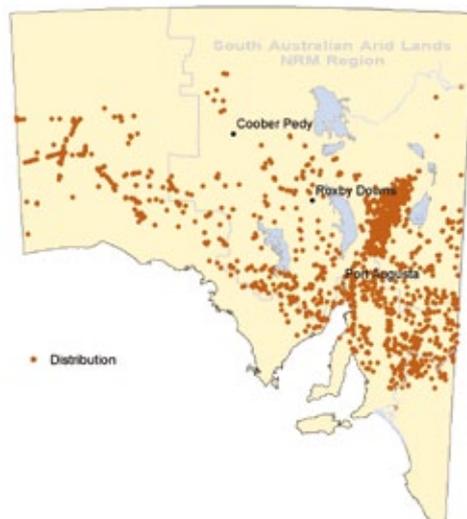
IDENTIFICATION

Bullock Bush is usually a small tree of one to several main stems, which often grows in clonal colonies of several to one hundred or more individual stems.

Leaves are broadly linear or lance-shaped, dull green, with a blunt end and prominent veins. Although they are shed each year, the trees are never bare, as the next season's growth takes place before the older ones are shed.

Flowers are tiny and greenish yellow, in small sprays or racemes (groups). The seed, which develops within a roughly spherical green husk, is shiny black, about 5mm in diameter and attached to the husk with a large bright red seed stalk.

Bark is persistent, rough and fissured. Heartwood is reddish (hence the alternative common name Rosewood) and easy to work being relatively soft. It is non-durable when used outside or in the ground.



Flowering branch
A. Robinson



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DISTRIBUTION

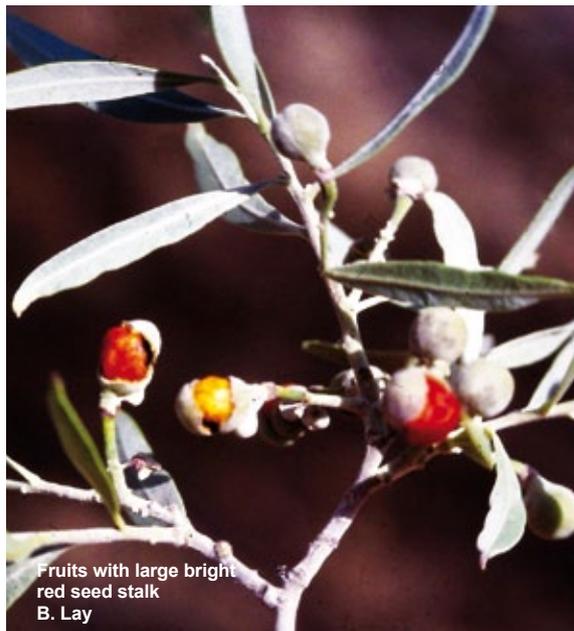
Bullock Bush occurs throughout the sandy and calcareous soils areas of the southern arid zone of South Australia and is particularly abundant in the Gawler Ranges, where it forms dense low woodlands in the granitic soil areas in the southern higher rainfall parts of that district. Scattered trees of this species are common in the south of the Kingoonya district. Outside the Arid Lands region it is common in the Eastern districts (north of the River Murray in South Australia) and it is abundant throughout the western division of New South Wales.

THREATS

By far the most serious threat to Bullock Bush is continuous grazing, with the tree showing growth near the ground and young plants only in some protected areas.

Larger herbivores such as cattle and camels often break down the canopy of smaller trees, inevitably resulting in their death as regrowth is continually grazed off.

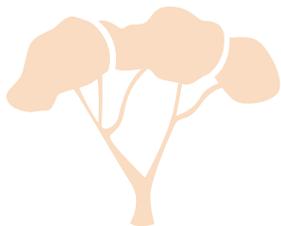
Bullock Bush can survive adequately if the combined impact of feral, native and stock animal grazing is controlled and provided any significant regeneration is protected. Invariably this is likely to be by suckering from exposed or damaged roots. Regeneration from seed is also occasionally observed.



Fruits with large bright red seed stalk
 B. Lay



Flower
 A. Robinson



Grazed mature plants showing high mortality
 B. Lay