**Casuarina equisetifolia**

**Ironwood, Australian pine**

*Casuarina equisetifolia* L.

Family: Casuarinaceae

**Description:** Tree to 60 ft tall. Long, slender, drooping branches, hairy. “Leaves” are needles, dull green, segmented into sheaths, sheath margins with 7–9 teeth. Fruit a woody cone less than 1 inch long. “She-oak,” a little-used name in Hawai‘i, derived from the noise the wind makes blowing through these trees(59). Some of the many legends associated with this plant throughout the South Pacific are re-told by Neal(59). The hard wood is used as beaters for pounding bark to make tapa and as war clubs. The bark is used in tanning and dying and as medicine. [*C. glauca* Siebold ex Spreng., saltmarsh ironwood, longleaf ironwood, or scaly bark beefwood, very similar in appearance but more prone to sucker and spread vegetatively. Some differences: branches of *C. glauca* not hairy; leaf sheath of *C. glauca* has 9–18 teeth, cones smaller, valves on cone more prominent, male flower spikes shorter. Widely planted in Hawai‘i.] Casuarina based on scientific name of the cassowary because of resemblance of ironwood branches to feathers of the Australian bird; *equisetifolia*, leaves like a horse’s tail; *glauca*, smooth or hairless(5, 59, 70).

**Distribution:** From Australia, now widely distributed in the tropics. Widely planted in Hawai‘i from the seashore to the lower mountain forests, used especially as a coastal windbreak. Introduced on Kaua‘i in 1882, collected on O‘ahu in 1895(59,70).

**Environmental impact:** Fixes nitrogen. Suppresses plant growth under its canopy.

**Management:** Shoots and saplings sensitive to foliar application of triclopyr. Trees sensitive to cut-surface applications of glyphosate, dicamba, and picloram(45) and, based on response of saplings to foliar applications, probably sensitive to cut-surface application of triclopyr.