



GuideLines

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Tēnā koutou katoa

(Greetings, hello to you all)

Flora News

By Warren Brewer



As the last few days of autumn slip by and winter beckons, blossom from our brush wattle trees is beginning to feed our honeyeaters. The greenish yellow flowers have a bottle brush-like arrangement. Flowering will continue throughout the

winter months. The tree's leaves have soft and silky feeling when touched.

Brush wattle (*Paraserianthes lophantha*) is a tolerated exotic, native to south west Western Australia. Its presence on Tiritiri Matangi originates from a planting of six trees in the lighthouse shelter belt in the 1940's. Its spread is now contained, by active management, to Wattle Valley.

The genus *Paraserianthes* belongs in the legume family, Fabaceae.

Paraserianthes means "close to or almost serianthes".

Serianthes is a genus of 18 species of trees and shrubs in SE Asia and the Pacific. Fabaceae is based on faba which is Latin for a bean.



Serianthes means “silky flowers”.

Lophantha means “crested flower”, describing the shape and form of the brush wattle flower.



Brush Wattle seeds (legume family)