



# Casuarina equisetifolia

Filao

Family : Casuarinaceae

Known as Filao, the *Casuarina equisetifolia* is a name given in reference to the Casoar, a bird whose plumage is compared to the drooping port of the filao.

This tree has a false air of conifer. Its slender branches have grey-green, evergreen, hanging leaves that resemble horsetail leaves.

Its dense wood has earned it the name of ironwood.

Its very discreet flowering gives way to brown fruits in the shape of clubs that contain small winged seeds.

The Filao is a pioneer tree that colonizes poor soils thanks to its union with nitrogen fixing bacteria and fertilizes them.



## Ecology

- Soil binding plant
- Windbreak

## Traditional uses

- Symbol of speech when planted near a columnar pine
- Used in certain mourning rituals in the north of Grande Terre
- Sought-after wood for building boats, furniture and objects, also used as firewood

## Pharmacopoeia

- Bark with astringent properties (tightens tissues, heals wounds) is for heating

## Virtues



CENTRE  
D'INITIATION À  
L'ENVIRONNEMENT

