

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Sticky Hop-bush

Dodonaea viscosa

FAST FACTS

Shrub

Family:	Sapindaceae
	Maple
Size:	3m H x 2m W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Inconspicuous
Fruits:	Purple-red winged "hops"
Care:	Low maintenance

Sticky Hop-bush (*Dodonaea viscosa*) is an Australian native shrub from the Ballarat area.

Location: Hop-bush likes a sunny position and will grow into an attractive small tree if the lower branches are removed. If you prefer, leave lower branches to grow naturally as a shrub or train a row of them into a showy hedge.

Leaves: The glossy, green, spoon-shaped leaves are often tinged with a hint of purple or brown especially if grown in a sunny spot.

Fruit: Separate male and female flowers are small, green and inconspicuous, but the fruit that develops on female and bisexual plants is a highlight of this shrub. Fist-sized clusters of unusual winged fruit in various shades of green, red, purple and crimson will remain for several months and

look magnificent amongst the glossy green leaves.

Planting: Hop-bush will grow well if planted in a hole not much larger than its pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a good bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it will be off to a good start.

Care: This is a tough local and requires no special care, but you may like to tip prune after flowering to keep the canopy dense, especially if you prefer to use it as a screening shrub or hedge rather than a small tree.

Propagation: Collect seed from the fruit as they dry over summer.