

Woody Pear



Scientific name: *Xylomelum occidentale*

Aboriginal name: Danja, Dumbung (Noongar)



Flowers and foliage



Fruit



Plant habit

About ...

The Western Woody Pear is native to Western Australia and is found in the south-west, near the coast from Yanchep to Augusta. The Eastern Woody Pear, *Xylomelum pyriforme* is native to the eastern states of Australia.

The Woody Pear was first described by Robert Brown in 1830. *Xylomelum* is from the Greek words *xylon*, meaning wood, and *melon*, meaning apple or fruit generally. *Occidentale* is from the Latin word *occidentalis*, meaning western.

The fruit of the Woody Pear are pear shaped, hence the name of the plant, and require fire to open, or for the tree to die.

Woody Pears are rarely cultivated, as it can take up to 20 years for them to bear fruit but the fruits are picked for the cut flower industry.

Family	PROTEACEAE
Climate	Temperate
Habitat	White and grey sand in coastal or near-coastal areas
Form	Shrub to small twisted tree 2 - 8 m height Dark, flaky bark
Foliage	Oak-like leaves Elliptical when the plant is mature and serrated when young
Flower	Long, up to 8 cm, creamy-white spiky flowers In clumps at the end of branchlets Birak to early Bunuru (December to February)
Fruit	Pear shaped with large woody seeds, two-winged seeds 9 cm long

Aboriginal Uses



- Infusions of the leaves and bark were drunk to relieve pain.
- Seeds from the fruit were roasted and eaten.

Developed by SERCUL for use with the *Bush Tucker Education Program*.



Used as food



Used as medicine



Used as resources



Local to SW WA

Caution: Do not prepare bush tucker food without having been shown by Indigenous or experienced persons. Some bush tucker if eaten in large quantities or not prepared correctly can cause illness.

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