



# *KOWHAI*

*(Sophora chathamica)*

**Sub  
Canopy  
8m**



### **Description:**

- Found near the coast from North Cape down as far as the Coromandel in the east and Kawhia in the west.
- Leaflets have short stalks and often overlap near the base.
- *S. chathamica* can hybridise with *S. microphylla* which as its name suggests has smaller leaves

### **Fruit & Flowers:**

- Kowhai is Maori for yellow
- Full of nectar the flowers appear in the spring and are pollinated by birds. A favourite of tuis and bell birds.
- The fruit are brown segmented pods with one seed per segment.
- The seed itself is hard and waxy. It can float, however to encourage germination gardeners often need to nick the seed coat

### **Pests / Diseases:**

- There is a moth whose caterpillar will eat leaves but not to the detriment of the tree