



# *KOWHAI*

*(Sophora tetraptera)*

Sub  
Canopy  
8m



### **Description:**

- Found in a broad range of growing conditions. Coastal to mountainous
- The tree is semi deciduous and the smaller branches droop
- Both the leaves and flowers of *S. tetraptera* are larger than other *Sophora* species

### **Fruit & Flowers:**

- Kowhai is the Maori for yellow
- Full of nectar the brilliantly yellow flowers are a sign of spring. They hang downwards and draw in the tuis and bellbirds
- The dark brown seed pods are as equally distinctive. Up to 20cm long, hanging either singularly or in bunches
- The seed itself is very hard and waxy. While this allows the seed to float and disperse, gardeners often need to nick the seed coat to encourage germination
- A popular garden plant

### **Pests / Diseases:**

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