



# Information Sheet: Banksias

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Banksias were discovered by and named after renowned botanist Sir Joseph Banks at Botany Bay in 1770. Banksias provide an interesting and beautiful element to the landscape attracting birds and other wildlife to their spectacular, nectar rich flowers. They are also an attractive cut flower and can be made into a sweet refreshing drink when soaked in ice-cold water. In the garden, they are low maintenance and easy to grow. Most species of Banksia will grow on the coast and the dwarf varieties make great tub specimens for sunny balconies.

## Caring for your Banksias:

**Soil Requirements** - Banksias usually prefer sandy, free draining slightly acidic soil with low nutrient levels. They can be grown on heavier soils by treating the clay with some Gypsum or compost to aid drainage. A raised garden bed would be ideal. If you are keeping your Banksias in tubs, choose a sandy potting mix without fertiliser if possible.

**Fertilising** - Banksias do not require much food. In fact, phosphorus which is found in most "all purpose" fertilisers is actually quite toxic to Banksias. If you feel that your Banksias need a boost, apply a **native fertiliser** such as Osmocote for Natives. If the foliage of your Banksias is yellowing, apply some iron chelates or slow release iron to correct this.

## Banksia Varieties

There are many different species and cultivars of Banksia. Wirreanda Nursery keeps a good range in stock which we have listed below to help you choose the right one for your garden situation.

BOTANIC NAME	COMMON NAME	HEIGHT	COMMENTS
Banksia 'Birthday Candles'	Birthday Candles	45cm	Garden or Tub
Banksia 'Honey Pot'	Honey Pot	0.5 - 1m	Garden or Tub
Banksia spinulosa	Hills Banksia	1 - 4m	Variable form
Banksia robur	Swamp Banksia	To 3m	Dramatic foliage
Banksia 'Giant Candles'	Honeyeaters Delight	3 - 4m	Long flower spikes
Banksia ericifolia	Heath Banksia	3 - 4m	Dwarf forms available
Banksia serrata	Old man Banksia	5m	Interesting form
Banksia integrifolia	Coastal Banksia	5 - 8m	Silvery under leaf