



Coast Banksia

Banksia integrifolia



Photo: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/>



Family: Proteaceae

Tree 5–25 m high.



Distribution: Eastern coast of Australia

Description: Usually has a single stout trunk, which is often twisted and gnarled, with the rough grey bark characteristic of *Banksia*. The leaves are dark green with a white underside, and occur in whorls of three to five. Flowering begins at around four to six years. Pale yellow flowers from January to July, which wither to reveal the seed cone. Seeds are black with a feathery black 'wing'.

Propagation: Seeds do not require any treatment, and take 5 to 6 weeks to germinate.

Habitat: Hardy and versatile, it will grow in clay, sand, acid and even alkaline soils, and it shows good resistance to wind and salt, making it suitable for coastal planting and dune stabilisation.

Uses: It is a seasonally important food for nectar-feeding birds and bees. The wood is used for ornamental turnery and cabinet making.