

## Saw Banksia or Old Man Banksia

*Banksia serrata*



Family: Proteaceae

A gnarled tree up to 15 m, but can be much smaller in more exposed areas



**Distribution:** Widespread species in eastern Australia, extending from southern Queensland along the coast to Wilsons Promontory on Victoria's south coast. There is also a population across Bass Strait in northern Tasmania. The plant occurs as far inland as the Great Dividing Range.

**Description:** It has thick cork-like fire-retardant bark, serrated, dark green leaves and large, yellow or greyish-yellow flower spikes. The flower spikes are usually cream in colour and are followed by seed cones with large protruding follicles. May develop a prostrate habit of growth.

**Propagation:** Relatively easy to cultivate in many areas of Australia, though it prefers soils to be sandy rather than clayey and requires good drainage. Propagation from seed is reliable without pre-treatment.

**Habitat:** Throughout its range it is found on well-drained sandy soil, and often on stabilised soil near the coast but just behind the main dune system.

**Uses:** This species is a food source for a number of bird species