

Ashby's Banksia (dwarf form) *Banksia ashbyi* subsp. *boreoscaia*



Description

This dwarf form of *Banksia ashbyi* can reach a height of 1.5 m and a width of 1.5 m, forming a dense, low rounded shrub with showy blooms above the foliage.

Flowers

It flowers in winter to spring and provides nectar for native fauna. The flower spikes are especially spectacular as they are an intense orange, 15 cm in length by 10 cm diameter.

Growing conditions

Ashby's Banksia tolerates most soils providing there is good drainage. Choose a sunny spot and plant in autumn.

Watering

Once established after its first year in the ground it is very hardy and should need no summer watering.

Pruning

Banksias usually respond well to careful pruning. Prune early to create a multi-branched shrub. If you do not want to collect seed, harvesting the flower stems for cut flower display or removing spent flower spikes will stimulate the following season's flowering.

Fertiliser

Apply a slow-release native plant fertiliser at time of planting and annually as required in the spring months.

Pests and diseases

This plant is vulnerable to borers in major stems and small growing tips. It is also susceptible to dieback (the soil-borne fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and other *Phytophthora* species), so good drainage is essential.

Miscellaneous information

Many roots are close to the surface and it is therefore advisable to avoid disturbance of soil near the plant.



Further Information

Gardening Advisory Service, a free service provided by Kings Park Volunteer Master Gardeners. Phone: 9480 3672 or Email: garden.advice@bgpa.wa.gov.au.

Pest and Diseases Information Service, Department of Agriculture and Food. Freecall 1800 084 881 Email: info@agric.wa.gov.au or visit www.agric.wa.gov.au.