

## Prostrate Banksia *Banksia blechnifolia*



### NATIVE PLANT NOTES

#### Description

The Prostrate Banksia is a groundcover growing to 0.7 m high and spreading to 2–3 m. It is great for mass planting to achieve impact and is ideal for growing in rockeries or in an elevated setting where the flowers are displayed over a low retaining wall. The reddish new foliage and fern-like leaves make this a most attractive plant.

#### Flowers

This species is one of the spring-flowering banksias. It comes in a range of colours including red, pink, cream, orange and brown, with velvety flower spikes of up to 160 mm.

#### Growing conditions

Plants are best grown in an open, sunny area on sandy soils or those that have good drainage and are neutral to slightly acid.

#### Watering

Once established, this Banksia should not need watering but watering once a week at the base of the plant will improve flowering. An open mulch will help to conserve moisture.

#### Pruning

To promote flowering remove the old, spent cones.

#### Fertiliser

Apply slow release native blend 8–9 month fertiliser at time of planting and annually as required in spring.

#### Pests and diseases

This plant can be susceptible to scale and dieback (the soil-borne fungus, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*).

#### Miscellaneous

*Banksia blechnifolia* is a non-lignotuberous species, that is, it has no underground rootstock from which regrowth will sprout following fire, physical damage or soil disturbance. It may need to be replaced after 5 to 10 years if the vigour decreases.



#### Further Information

Gardening Advisory Service, a free service provided by Kings Park Volunteer Master Gardeners.  
Phone: (08) 9480 3672 or Email: [garden.advice@bgpa.wa.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto:info@agric.wa.gov.au) or visit [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au).