

Coast Banksia / Honeysuckle Banksia



FAMILY: Proteaceae

HABIT: The shape and size of this tree varies considerably. The rough barked trunks may be twisted and gnarled and the branches contorted or it may have an upright habit.

LEAVES: Narrow, elliptic, 10-20 cm long, dark shiny green above and whitish beneath and borne in whorls towards the ends of the branchlets. Margins are usually entire but may be toothed. Young branchlets are covered with woolly hairs.

FLOWER/FRUIT: Upright cones, are densely packed with individual yellow-golden cylindrical flowers with the main flowering in autumn-early winter. The persistent, dark brown, woody fruiting cones have prominent individual capsules that gradually open to disperse two papery black seeds.

PROPAGATION: Fresh seed.

LOCAL HABITAT: From coastal dunes to mountain forests.

DISTRIBUTION: This particular subspecies of *Banksia integrifolia* occurs from the Central Queensland coast to Brisbane.

GENERAL: Early settlers would impregnate the old cones with tallow and dripping and burn them as candles. The beautiful grained, pinkish timber is suitable for fancy timber work. Flowers are a source of nectar & pollen for numerous native birds, flying foxes, gliders and commercial bees.

REFERENCES: Melzer & Plumb 2007 *Plants of Capricornia*
Alcock & Champion, 1989 *One Hundred and One Trees of Mackay*.