PLANT FACT SHEET

Grevillea banksii R. Br.

GENUS *Grevillea* **FAMILY** Proteaceae

COMMON NAMES Red Silky Oak, Bank's Grevillea, Dwarf Silky Oak

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: flower - nectar

CAUTION: There are poisonous hairs on the ovaries of the flowers. These can cause a skin rash.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 2.4-9 m high. It can spread to 2 m wide. The small branches and flowers have a soft brown covering over them. Some coastal forms almost lie along the ground. The leaf stalk is 3-5 cm long. The leaf blade is 7-20 cm long and deeply divided. There are 3-11 segments and these are 50-100 mm long by 4-7 mm wide. The edges curve back. They are brown and silky underneath. The flowering racemes are at the ends and 5-13 cm long. They occur either singly or as 2 or 3 in a group. The flowers are red. The fruit is oval but not straight. It is 1.5-2 cm long and hairy. The seeds have narrow wings.

HABITAT

A subtropical species. It grows in warm temperate regions. It is cultivated in S China as an ornamental below 100 m altitude. It needs well drained soils. It suits dry limy soils. It can stand light frost. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. In Townsville Anderson BG.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The seeds grow easily and can remain viable for a couple of years. It produces chemicals which stop plants near it from growing.

NOTES

There are 250 Grevillea species. It can be invasive.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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