PLANT FACT SHEET

Banksia marginata Cav.

GENUS *Banksia* **FAMILY** Proteaceae

COMMON NAMES Silver Banksia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: flower - nectar

The nectar is sucked from the flowers. It can be washed out into water and used to make a drink.

DESCRIPTION

A dense bushy shrub or small tree. It can grow 1-9 m high. The bark is smooth and greyish brown. The leaves are 3-10 cm long and narrow. They are oblong and silvery underneath. The edges of the leaves can have teeth on younger leaves. The edges of older leaves can be rolled under. The flowers are small. They are yellow. They are crowded into dense spikes 10 cm long and 4 cm across. Cones turn grey with age. The fertile sections form hard brown bulges on the side of cones. The seeds have wings.

HABITAT

A temperate plant. It grows in heath and light forests. It can tolerate frosts. It is resistant to salt spray. It needs good drainage. It can tolerate some shade. Hobart Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 8-10. Tasmania Herbarium. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. Cuttings also strike readily. The seed capsules open after fire.

NOTES

There are about 75 Banksia species. They are mostly in Australia.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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