



PLANT FACT SHEET

Grevillea robusta A.Cunn. ex R. Br.

GENUS *Grevillea* FAMILY Proteaceae

COMMON NAMES Silky oak

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: flower - nectar

The nectar of the flowers are used to make sweet drinks. The nectar can be sucked directly from the flowers. Caution: It can cause skin rashes and the plants can contain cyanide.

DESCRIPTION

A small to large evergreen tree. It grows to 30 m high. It can spread to 4-10 m wide. It is cone shaped. The branches have a brown rusty covering. The leaf stalk is 1.5-7 cm long. The leaves are feather like. There are 7-15 segments and these segments are sword like and 15 mm wide. The leaf blade is 15-25 cm long by 7-15 cm wide. The edges can be curved back. They are silvery on the underside. The flowers occur as masses of long golden yellow blooms. The flower stalk is slender and 1-1.4 cm long. The fruit are boat shaped and 1.5 cm long by 7 mm wide. There are 2 seeds. The seeds are black. They have wings.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. It can grow in temperate and tropical places. It is native to E Australia. It is moderately frost hardy. It can grow in fairly dry conditions. It needs well drained soil. It can grow in full sun or light shade. In China it is cultivated as an ornamental along roadsides at low altitudes. In India it is used as a shade in coffee at elevations of 1200-2300 m altitude. It cannot tolerate lime and does best in acid soils. Once fully established it can tolerate temperatures down to 10°C. It suits hardiness zones 8-12. National Arboretum Canberra.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seed. They can also be grown from cuttings and grafting.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing. It can take 10 years until flowering.

NOTES

There are 250 *Grevillea* species. It can be invasive.

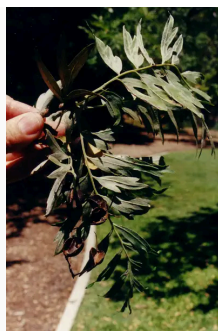
PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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