

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Silver Banksia

Banksia marginata

FAST FACTS

Tree	
Family:	Proteaceae
	Protea
Size:	5m H x 2m W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained, dry
Flowers:	Spring – Summer
Fruits:	“Banksia Men”
Care:	Not too much water

Attractive, small and neat, **Silver Banksia** (*Banksia marginata*) is an Australian native tree from the Ballarat area that is a favourite with birds and gardeners alike.

Location: Silver Banksia can grow quite tall (5-6m) but don't have wide spreading branches, so a sunny position in a narrow spot or a small garden is perfect.

Leaves: Leaves are dark green with silver-grey undersides and toothed edges.

Flowers: Every year, over spring and well into summer, pale yellow flowers blossom amongst the foliage. They also make great cut flowers.

Bark: As the tree matures, it develops a gnarled, dark grey trunk which will add some great character to your garden.

Attracts: Although the flowers are not particularly showy, the nectar attracts butterflies and native birds, including Ballarat's many small Honeyeaters. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos enjoy feasting on the seeds from the 'banksia men' fruit.

Planting: Silver Banksia are quite tough and will grow really well in your garden if planted within a few days of purchase in a hole not much larger than the pot. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it. It should be fine after that.

Care: Once settled in, Silver Banksia actually don't like too much water so plant them somewhere where fussy plants won't survive.