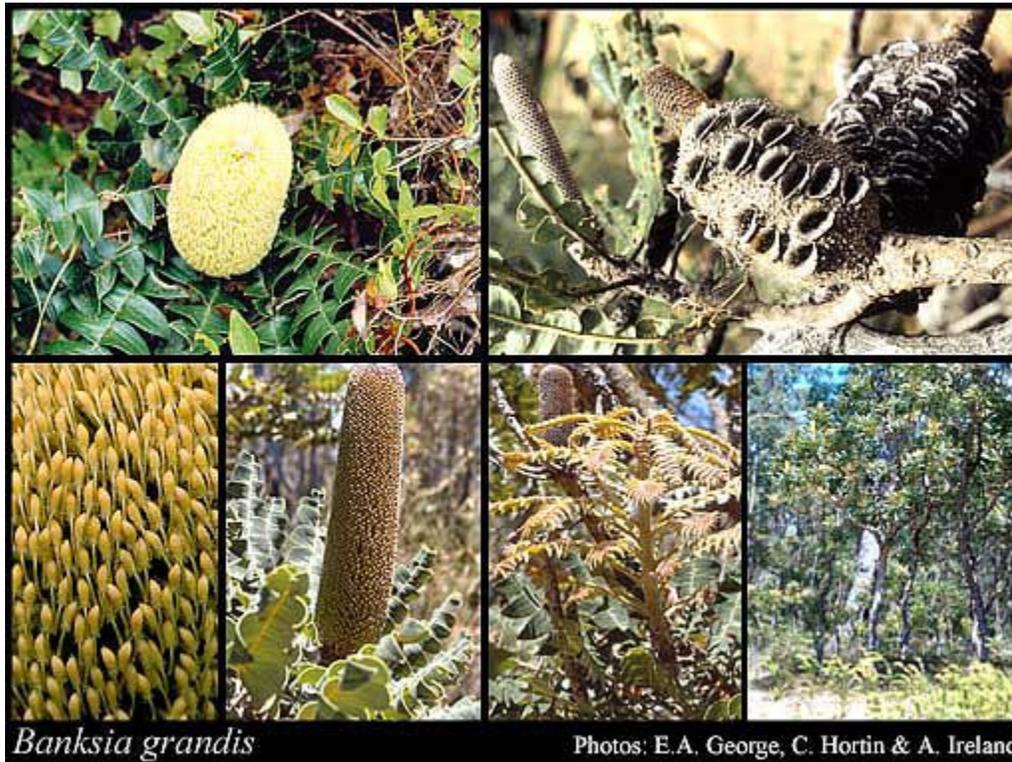
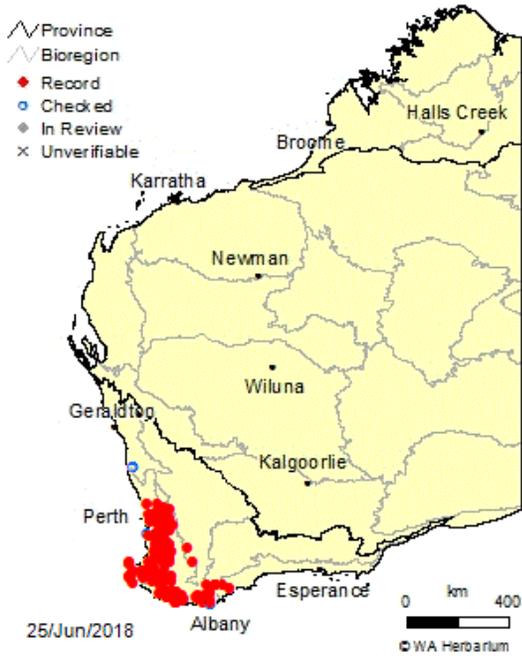


## Bull Banksia *Banksia grandis*

*Banksia grandis*, commonly known as **Bull Banksia**, **Giant Banksia** or **Mangite**, is a common and distinctive tree in [South West Western Australia](#). The [Noongar](#) peoples know the tree as **Biara**, **Boongura** or **Peera**. Conservation Code: [Not threatened](#)

*Banksia grandis*



Trees, 2-7 m high; branchlets glabrous or hairy. Leaves petiolate, alternate, 140-310 mm mm long, 70-135 mm wide, hairy; petiole 10-25 mm long; lamina flat, once divided, pinnately divided, divided to the midrib, with 10-12 lobes on each side, the margins flat. Inflorescences tomentose (with matted or tangled, soft, woolly hairs), yellow; innermost bracts 15-20 mm long, hairy. Perianth 28-30 mm long, glabrous, without awns; pistil 34-42 mm long, curved, style glabrous. Follicles hairy, tomentose (with matted or tangled, soft, woolly hairs), elliptic, 17-25 mm long. Flowers in January, September, October, November or December. Occurs in the South-west (SW) Botanical Province(s), in the Geraldton Sandplains (GS), Swan Coastal Plain (SWA), Avon Wheatbelt (AW), Jarrah Forest (JF), Warren (WAR) or Esperance Plains (ESP) IBRA subregion(s).



Because the trunk and branches of the Giant Banksia are generally very small the main appeal of for wood workers lies in the woody seed cones it produces after flowering. The flower spikes grow to 35cm or even 40cm in length and about 8cm in diameter and the resultant seed cone has become very popular amongst woodturners from around the world. Cones sell in the USA for \$20US each.

Turning these cones is not difficult but requires a bit of preparation to ensure they stay mounted to the lathe. They sand reasonably well, and the most common finish is spray lacquer to cover the voids left when the seeds dispersed. Some turners are experimenting with filling these voids with acrylic, but this can look a bit tacky.

Cindy Drozda, a very talented turner from the USA, has experimented with turning the pods mounted across the lathe and has achieved some interesting affects.



*Banksia grandis*, despite its obvious horticultural features is not often seen in cultivation. It is generally slow growing and may take many years to flower from seed. However, the dramatic, large leaves are so attractive that it could be grown purely as a foliage plant. It is best suited to areas with a dry summer and can be difficult to maintain in humid areas. It requires sandy, well drained soils in full sun or partial shade. It is moderately frost hardy. It is reported to grow well in a large container

Bull Banksia is very sensitive to [dieback](#) and is difficult to grow in regions of summer humidity. It requires a well drained sandy soil. Seeds do not require any treatment, and take 22 to 42 days to germinate.

## References

- Boland, D. J. (1984). *Forest Trees of Australia (Fourth edition revised and enlarged)*. Collingwood, Victoria, Australia: CSIRO Publishing. [ISBN 0-643-05423-5](#).
- George, Alex S. (1981). "[The Genus Banksia L.f. \(Proteaceae\)](#)". *Nuytsia*. **3** (3): 239-473.
- [George, A. S.](#) (1999). "Banksia". In Wilson, Annette (ed.). *Flora of Australia: Volume 17B: Proteaceae 3: Hakea to Dryandra*. CSIRO Publishing / Australian Biological Resources Study. pp. 175-251. [ISBN 0-643-06454-0](#).
- Powell, Robert (1990). *Leaf and Branch: Trees and Tall Shrubs of Perth*. Perth, Western Australia: Department of Conservation and Land Management.
- Taylor, Anne; [Hopper, Stephen](#) (1988). *The Banksia Atlas (Australian Flora and Fauna Series Number 8)*. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service. [ISBN 0-644-07124-9](#).
- Sweedman, Luke; Merritt, David (2006). *Australian seeds: a guide to their collection, identification and biology*. CSIRO Publishing. p. 203. [ISBN 0-643-09298-6](#).