

The Murdoch University Banksia Garden

Introduction

The floral symbol of Murdoch University is the firewood banksia, *Banksia menziesii*. A stylized version of the flower spike of this plant appears in the University logo.

The Murdoch University Banksia Garden was established in 1995 to mark the 20th anniversary of the opening of the University. It was designed to exhibit the full range of Australian banksia species, although some were unavailable at the time. In the late nineties the Banksia Garden was fragmented in order to provide space for new buildings. The remaining garden was upgraded in 2012 when some new paths and seating were installed and additional species were planted. The Banksia Garden now contains about 30 species of banksias.

Currently there are 79 true species of banksia (not including the former genus *Dryandra*) and all but one are endemic to Australia. The genus *Banksia* was named after Sir Joseph Banks (1743 – 1820) who was the first European to collect specimens of these plants (in 1770). The banksias of Western Australia are unique and are not found anywhere else in Australia or the world, except for the tropical banksia (*Banksia dentata*) which occurs across northern Australia and in Papua New Guinea. Several WA banksias are now listed as rare or threatened. The biodiverse banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain, where many of these species occur, are now listed as a threatened ecological community by the Commonwealth Government. This enhances the conservation significance of the Murdoch University Banksia Garden. This garden contains good examples of the six local banksias that are found on the Swan Coastal Plain (*Banksia attenuata*, *Banksia menziesii*, *Banksia littoralis*, *Banksia ilicifolia*, *Banksia prionotes* and *Banksia grandis*)

The Murdoch University Banksia Garden contains a range of local, regional and eastern Australian species. They flower throughout the year and provide a rich food source for honeyeaters and black cockatoos. There are also some quendas living in the undergrowth in the Garden.

Several species have spectacular flower spikes, including *Banksia menziesii*, *Banksia ashbyi*, *Banksia sceptrum*, *Banksia speciosa*, *Banksia prionotes* and *Banksia hookeriana*. There is a good collection of prostrate banksias planted next to the footpaths, including *Banksia blechnifolia*, *Banksia repens*, *Banksia petiolaris* and *Banksia gardneri*.

The flowering guide on the reverse side of this page may help you to identify the species as you stroll through the Banksia Garden. An app is available which you may use with your mobile phone to provide more information about the various species.

What's Flowering in the Murdoch University Banksia Garden?

Flowering period	yellow	gold	orange	White to orange	Other	Prostrate forms
spring	attenuata ilicifolia praemorsa sceptrum	grandis	ashbyi	hookeriana	baueri (grey) lanata (cream/brown)	blechnifolia chamaephyton gardneri petiolaris repens
summer	attenuata baxteri elderiana leptophylla media pilostylis sceptrum speciosa	benthamiana	ashbyi	burdettii victoriae	lanata (cream/brown)	
autumn	aemula ilicifolia integrifolia littoralis media speciosa	candolleana		prionotes victoriae	menziesii (pink and yellow)	
winter	aemula epica grossa integrifolia littoralis media praemorsa	candolleana	ashbyi ericifolia		baueri (grey) menziesii (pink and yellow)	brevidentata hiemalis