

## Acacia buxifolia Box-leaf Wattle



**Growth rate:** Moderate. **Height:** to 3 m **Width:** to 1m

**Natural habitat:** East of the Olympic Highway. Dry sclerophyll forest, woodland and heath. Often on rocky outcrops and slopes.

**Habit:** Erect shrub with thick blue-grey foliage and golden-yellow flower balls from Jul-Nov. Prune hard once desired height reached and after flowering to keep bushiness. Will grow rapidly for a few years then growth slows as canopy and trunk develop.

### Growing tips

Tolerates frosts and dryness

\*Well drained soils

\*Ideal for sunny positions

**Seed collection:** Early Dec to mid Jan. **Propagation:** From scarified seed and cuttings.

**Regeneration:** From seed, particularly after fire.

**Land protection:** Useful in controlling erosion, soil-binding fibrous roots. Improves soil fertility by "fixing" nitrogen. Excellent low-level cover in windbreaks.

### Wildlife

**Birds: seed-eaters:** Red-tailed, gang-gang, sulphur-crested cockatoos, crimson and yellow rosellas, red wattlebirds, fairy wrens, bronze winged pigeons, king parrots.

**Insectivorous birds:** brown thornbill.

**Pollinators:** silvereyes, honeyeaters and thornbills. Birds known to act as pollinators with pollen on plumage.

**Insects:** producing glands found on the edge of phyllodes during flowering attract ants, wasps and native bees. Most insects that visit or live in wattles do not pollinate the flowers. Oil rich attached to seed designed to attracts ants which aid in seed dispersal.

**Squirrel gliders:** feed on sap, gum nectar, pollen during winter.

**Shelter/nesting:** small birds, native moths, butterflies and other insects

## Bursaria spinosa ssp lasiophylla Hairy Bursaria



**Growth rate:** moderate to Slow. **Growth: Height** Up to 2.5m. **Width:** to 1.5m

**Habitat:** Dry sclerophyll open forest, woodland and shrubland.

**Habit:** Long lived, hardy, evergreen, multi-stemmed shrub. Green leaves are hairy on underside. White to cream fragrant flowers mainly summer. Prickly foliage.

### Growing tips

- Well drained soils
- Tolerates frost drought and wind
- Sunny or lightly shaded position
- Prune to promote more bushy habit

**Seed collection:** Late Jan to early May, when ripe fruit rattle.

**Propagation:** From seed

**Regeneration:** From seed over winter. Seed dispersed by wind.

**Land protection:** Useful for controlling gully erosion as fibrous roots bind soil. A coloniser. Excellent low-level cover in windbreaks.

**Wildlife:** offers high value, reliable resources during hot, dry summers

**Insect-eaters:** Willie wagtails, flycatchers wattle birds, bee-eaters pardalotes whistlers.

**Nectar-feeders:** Honeyeaters, fairy wrens and finches.

**Insects/pollinators:** bees, beneficial wasps, beetles and native flies. Dull copper butterfly larvae feed exclusively on leaves. Notoncus ants protect the larvae while they graze. Notoncus ant nests are usually at the base of bursaria species. Various butterflies, eg common brown butterfly and native feed on nectar. Wasps parasitise leaf-eating scarab insects/ pasture grubs.

**Shelter/nesting:** Thorny foliage excellent refuge/nest sites- silver eyes, thornbills, wrens, finches.

## Callistemon sieberi

## River Bottlebrush



**Growth rate:** Slow **Height:** to 7m **Width:** to 2m

**Natural habitat:** Along watercourses, dried, rocky riverbeds and gullies. Serves as a natural riparian habitat.

**Habit:** Shrub with dense protective foliage. Cream-pink flowers, mostly Nov-Jan. Rich in nectar and pollen. Although slow growing it is long lived.

### Growing tips

- Hardy, adaptable shrub. Prefers moist soil
- Tolerant to dry periods, frost, seasonal waterlogging, poor drainage
  - Prune severely to prevent straggly growth
- Remove old flowerheads to promote flowering and bushiness.

**Seed collection:** Dec-Jan

**Propagation:** From seed using the Bog method. Cuttings from firm young growth.

**Land protection:** Useful for stabilising streambanks due to soil-binding fibrous roots. Useful low-level cover in windbreaks. Branches produce roots when in contact with moist soil.

**Wildlife:**

**Birds:**

**Nectar-feeders:** honeyeaters, lorikeets, silver eyes, eastern spinebill.

**Insect-eaters:** Red browed finches, fairywrens, grey fantails, pardalotes.

**Seed-eaters:** yellow rosellas, lorikeets.

**Insect/Pollinators:** native bees, wasps, hoverflies, beetles and butterflies visit flowers for nectar and pollen.

**Mammals:** ring-tailed, feathertail and sugar glider possums may eat flowers and nectar.

**Shelter/nesting:** Small birds utilise the dense foliage to nest and roost. Important stream-side vegetation, for shade and insect source for fish.

## Cassinia longifolia Shiny Cassinia



**Growth rate:** Fast      **Height:** to 2.5m      **Width:** to 2m

**Habitat:** Sclerophyll forest, woodland and heath on sandy or gravelly soils. Noted mainly east of the Olympic Highway, and south of Billabong Creek.

**Habit:** Erect, open shrub with sticky, hairy branchlets. Long, narrow aromatic shiny green leaves, white hairy below. Long prolific flowering Nov-March – dense, white, terminal umbrella-like clusters.

### Growing tips

- Moist, well-drained soil
- Tolerates dry soil, full sun and drought
- Flowers may cause dermatitis
- Remove old flowerheads and prune heavily to promote flowering and dense growth.

**Seed collection:** Early Jan to late Feb.

**Propagation:** From seed or cuttings. Establishes very well when direct seeded.

**Regeneration:** From seed after disturbance.

**Land protection:** Acts as a 'pioneer' plant, quickly establishing in disturbed areas. Popular in bushland regeneration projects. Useful for quick low-level cover in windbreaks.

**Wildlife:** Highly regarded as food source and habitat for pollinators.

**Seed-eating birds:** Red-rumped Parrot, Turquoise Parrot, Yellow Rosella and Eastern Rosella may feed on fresh green seed heads, young shoots and leaves.

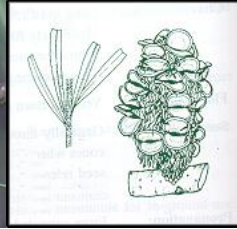
**Insectivorous birds:** fairy wrens, pardalotes, grey fantails, brown thornbills, silvereyes.

**Insects/pollinators:** Significant nectar rich source for insects- bees, butterflies, beetles, ants beetles mate/breed on flowers. Foliage food source for caterpillars.

**Shelter/nesting:** dense foliage shelter for and food for small insect eating birds

## Banksia Marginata

## Silver Banksia



**Growth rate:** fast      **Height:** to 5m      **Width:** to 4m      **Grown as a tree:** to 12m

**Natural habitat:** Dry sclerophyll forest, grassy woodlands. Often in shrubby understorey layers on rocky ridges and sandy loam soil. Castle Creek Conservation reserve

**Habit:** Hardy, compact shrubby understorey or small tree. Fast-growing and long-lived. Profuse, honey-scented, pale yellow flowers from Feb to Jul. Excess phosphorous damages/kills plants. Feed with iron chelate to rectify yellowing leaves with green veins.

### Growing tips

- Well-draining soil in full sun or partial shade
- Tolerates some waterlogging, frost and wind.
- Prune to maintain shape and encourage bushier habit

**Seed collection:** Early Feb to late Apr. Seed released 3-8 weeks after maturity.

**Propagation:** From fresh seed

**Wildlife:** A vital food source offering high energy nectar from Feb-July.

**Nectar-feeding birds:** New Holland Honeyeater, yellow-faced and white-plumed honeyeaters. Lorikeets, Eastern Spinebill and wattlebirds.

**Seed-eating birds:** Cockatoos feed on developing cones. In Particular Yellow-tailed cockatoos though occurrence is not common in Thurgoona area but have been spotted around Hume dam area.

**Insect-eating birds:** Fairy wrens, warblers, grey fantails, spotted pardalotes and silvereyes

**Insects/pollinators:** native bees (pollinators), butterflies, moths wasps attracted to nectar. Ants, beetles forage on flower spikes. Hoverflies often found on flowers.

**Mammals:** valuable food source for nocturnal marsupials (Squirrel gliders and ringtail possums) providing nectar, pollen and insects, especially during winter.

**Shelter/nesting:** The dense foliage and branching structure used for shelter, protection and foraging by small birds. Also provides secure nesting sites.