

Old Man Banksia

Banksia serrata

What is it?

Banksia serrata is a tree normally forming a gnarled and stunted trunk with blackened rough bark. Flowers, appearing from December to March, are usually cream-yellow in colour and vary in size, but are approximately 10cm wide and 16cm in length. They are followed by a



large seed cone with protruding follicles, leading to the common name – Old Man Banksia – due to likeness to an old man’s face and mouth as the follicles open. Leaves, as with most members of the genus, are large and stiff with serrated edges. Preferring sandy and well-drained soils, Old Man Banksia does best on the east coast of Australia.

Where does it occur?

Naturally found in open forests, both coastal and mountainous, of Tasmania, Victoria, NSW and Queensland, *Banksia serrata* can also be grown in other areas if similar climate and habitat.

