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prepared by Alan Page

# Banksias of the Greater Blue Mountains

A quick guide to identifying the nine Banksia species found in the Greater Blue Mountains.

Botanical detail comes from PlantNet (NSW Flora online) and extensive observation.

## Styles hooked

### **Heath-leaved Banksia** (*Banksia ericifolia* subsp. *ericifolia*).

A tall dense shrub to small tree. Rosemary-like leaves.

### **Hairpin Banksia** (*Banksia spinulosa*)

A small multi-stemmed shrub usually less than 2 metres in height. Its recurved 2mm wide leaves identify it. The leaves tend to be clustered at the end of branches and point upwards like fingers on a hand.



hooked styles

### ***Banksia cunninghamii***

A single stemmed tree up to 6m in height. Its 5mm wide leaves radiate from its branches, and are reasonably flat and are toothed towards the end. *Banksia cunninghamii* does not regrow from fire, which explains its single stem.

## Styles not hooked; leaves in regular whorls

### **Swamp Banksia** (*Banksia paludosa* subsp. *paludosa*)

It is similar to the Newnes Plateau Banksia below, but its leaves

- only have "teeth" towards their tip;
- have lateral veins that aren't as straight;
- taper towards the branch, and
- have a main rib vein that isn't as hairy.



leaves in whorls

### **Newnes Plateau Banksia** (*Banksia penicillata*)

See the Swamp Banksia description above. . Uncommon

### **White Mountain Banksia** (*Banksia integrifolia* subsp. *monticola*)

A tall leggy tree to 25m that grows in forests on soils derived from igneous rocks - such as on basalt at Mt. Wilson. It has a small light yellow cone. Uncommon

## Styles not hooked; leaves scattered along stems

### **Fern-leaved Banksia** (*Banksia oblongifolia*)

It's a 2-3m high multi-stemmed shrub. Straight styles and scattered leaves plus the rusty hairy under surface of its 7cm long leaves and branchlets identifies it.



straight styles

### **Silver Banksia** (*Banksia marginata*)

It has long narrow untoothed leaves with a blunt tip, which often have a mucro (a small projection).

### **Old Man Banksia** (*Banksia serrata*)

Growing up to 16m in height, it is easily recognised by its gnarled trunk and its shiny serrated leaves and velvety tactile new leaves.