

PLANT field guide

Silver Banksia Banksia marginata

A shrub, flat-lying plant, or tree

Pale yelllow cylindrical spikes form bottle-brush shaped flowers

Similar species:

The Silver Banksia can be differentiated from most other banksias by its serrated leaves, the notch at the end of the leaf tips, and the silvery underside to its leaves.

Coast Banksia (Banksia integrifolia): has larger leaves and flowers and its leaves are whorled around the stem (several coming out from the same point on stem) instead of alternate like on the Silver Banksia.

Mountain Banksia (Banksia canei): found above 600m in the semi-alpine areas of NSW and Victoria, it has some sharp points on its leaves, stouter flowers and larger follicles that remain closed for several years.

When to look:

Flowers appear from Feb to July (Sept and April in Tasmania), and seed cones appear after flowers

Seeds are enclosed in dark brown follicles attached to woody cones

Green leaves are silvery underneath and may have serrated edges

Image courtesy of Friends of Black Hill and Morialta Inc.