

Grevilleas for Central Coast Gardens

Grevilleas are one of the most commonly grown Australian native plants in our gardens today.

With over 250 species and more than 150 cultivars to choose from, there is a grevillea to suit every type of garden. New cultivars are regularly released to the gardening market.

A lot of work has been done with grafting grevilleas, especially the Western Australian and Northern Australian species, so they can be grown in other areas, outside their normal habitat. These grafted plants are available through specialist nurseries and gardening events such as the Plant Lovers Fair at Kariong.

Cultivation

Most grevilleas prefer an open sunny position with a free draining soil. Raise the soil level to provide good drainage for heavier clay soils. Many of the species which naturally occur on clay based soils will grow in sandy soil, but tend to be sparse and open in growth habit.

Watering

Once established, most plants will tolerate dry periods, however, they will benefit from slow deep soaking.

Fertilising

Grevilleas require low phosphorus, slow release fertilizer. This can be applied during spring. Avoid using any fertilizer containing phosphorus as grevilleas, banksias, waratahs and other proteaceous plants cannot tolerate this fertilizer.

Pruning

Most grevilleas respond to regular pruning. This is best started while the plants are still small. Tip pruning at this stage reduces major pruning later. Pruning is best done after flowering.





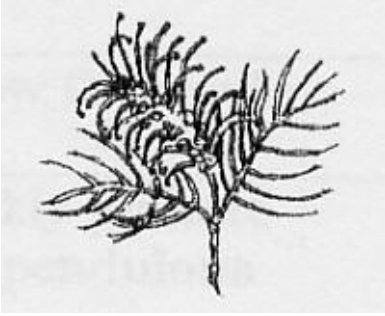
Some of the large flowering hybrids flower for most of the year. Any pruning of these should be carried out during the warmer months.

Growing grevilleas in containers

Many of the smaller growing grevilleas are suitable for growing in containers. Always use a quality potting mix, regular fertilizing and watering to achieve healthy results.

Flower formation

Grevilleas are often grouped together by their flower formations.

<p>Erect clusters- flowers are terminal, to form an upright spider like flower.</p>		<p>Pendent clusters- flowers are either terminal or along branches, but hang down in a spider like formation.</p>	
<p>Toothbrush type- flowers produced terminally along a one sided spike.</p>		<p>Cylindrical spike- flowers are formed around a terminal spike.</p>	
<p>Soft feathery spike- flowers formed in a loose open terminal spike.</p>			

Bird attractors

Many of the grevilleas are excellent bird attractors. However, if we only plant the big showy flowering plants, we will only attract the larger bossy honey eaters. Remember to also grow some of the smaller prickly grevillea species to provide protection for the smaller honey eaters.

Local grevilleas	
Name	Comment
<i>Grevillea buxifolia</i> Grey Spider Flower	1.5 x 1m. Large clusters of grey spidery type flowers are produced throughout the year. <i>G. buxifolia</i> is reliable in cultivation.
<i>Grevillea sericea</i> Pink Spider Flower	1.5 x 1m. An erect shrub. The flowers range in colour from pale pink through to deep pink, and there is also a white flowered form. A dark pink from the Collaroy Plateau is one worth growing.
<i>Grevillea speciosa</i> Red Spider Flower.	1 to 2 x 1 to 1.5m. A shrub that can be tall and upright or low and bushy. Brilliant red spidery flowers are seen throughout the year. A reliable plant if the drainage is good.
<i>Grevillea shiressii</i>	3 x 4m. A rare and unusual Grevillea. The bluish green flowers have a reddish-brown overtone, and are not well displayed.
<i>G. caleyi</i>	3 x 5m. Endangered species. Open spreading shrub with soft hairy leaves. Toothbrush type pinkish grey flowers. Difficult to maintain away from its natural habitat. Now available as a grafted plant.

Ground cover grevilleas	
<i>G. lanigera</i> 'Mt Tamboritha'	Prostrate x 1m. This is a prostrate form of the Woolly Grevillea and is a useful ground cover plant.
<i>G. x gaudichaudii</i>	Prostrate x 4m. Young growth is bronze red. The red terminal toothbrush-like flowers are produced from winter to summer.
<i>G.</i> 'Poorinda Royal Mantle'	Prostrate x 5m. One of the best ground cover, forming a dense cover in most conditions. Bronze new growth. The dark red toothbrush type flowers are produced from late winter to autumn. Excellent bird attractor
<i>G.</i> 'Pink Midget'	A prostrate form of <i>G. sericea</i> , with pink terminal clusters of flowers.
<i>G.</i> 'Austraflora Fanfare'	0.2 x 4m. Low spreading shrub, the young growth is dark reddish and covered with silky hairs. The flowers are formed in terminal toothbrushes are also dark red. Similar to <i>G.</i> 'Poorinda Royal Mantle'.
<i>G. obtusifolia</i>	0.2 x .6m. A small shrub often sending up suckers. The new growth is covered with silky hairs. Flowering in spring, the red and yellow flowers are formed in terminal spidery clusters.

G. 'Pink Lady'	0.3 x 1.5m. A low growing shrub with fine prickly foliage. The pale pink flowers are in terminal spidery clusters during winter and spring.
G. 'Bronze Rambler'	0.3 x 4m. Excellent ground covering plant. New growth is bronze to red. Red toothbrush flowers all year. Bird attracting.

	Grevilleas to 2 metres
G. <i>rosmarinifolia</i> 'Nana'	0.5 x 0.5m. A dwarf shrub with fine foliage. The flowers are pink and cream. Bird attracting.
G. 'Cherry Ripe'	0.5 x 0.5m. A small compact shrub with fine foliage. Cherry red flowers during winter and spring. Bird attracting.
G. 'Austraflora Canterbury Gold'	0.6 x 2m A semi prostrate spreading shrub. Bright yellow flowers in pendant clusters through the year.
G. <i>bipinnatifida</i>	1 x 1.5m. A rounded open growing shrub with large prickly pinnate leaves. One of the showiest small grevilleas, with 20cm. pendulous cylindrical flower spikes of pale orange to deep red.
G. <i>baueri</i>	1 x 1.5m. This small growing shrub has many ascending branches, which are covered with soft hairs. The red and cream flowers are formed in short terminal clusters. Bird attracting.
G. 'Ember Glow'	1 x 2m. Bright red terminal flowers. Bird attracting.
G. 'Honeyeater Heaven'	1.3 x 1.3m. A compact small shrub with red and white clusters of flowers.
G. <i>sericea</i>	1.5 x 1m. An erect small to medium shrub. The flowers are in spidery clusters and vary from deep pink to white. The deep pink form from the Collaroy Plateau has the best colour.
G. 'Scarlet Sprite'	1.5 x 1.5m. Bright green narrow leaves, each leaf ending in a sharp point. The bright red flowers are produced in terminal clusters in spring. This grevillea is also known as 'Pryor's Hybrid'.
G. 'Copper Rocket'	1.5 x 1.5m. An erect upright medium growing shrub with copper coloured young growth. The pink flowers are the toothbrush type.

	Grevilleas to 2 metres
G. 'Superb'	1.5 x 1.5m. This cultivar is similar to Robyn Gordon and 'Mason's Hybrid', with flower colour somewhere between the two. Bird attracting.
<i>G. rhyolitica deua</i>	1.5 x 1.5m. Prolific flowering with orange red terminal clusters of flowers. Suitable for under light shade. Bird attracting.
<i>G. lanigera</i> Woolly Grevillea	1.5 x 1.5m. A dense rounded shrub with grey/green leaves. Flowers are terminal clusters of green & cream or pink & cream
G. 'Mason's Hybrid'	1.5 x 2m. Also sold as G. 'Ned Kelly'. The flowers are in loose cylindrical spikes. Flower colour changes with age, from yellow/red to red.
G. 'Bonfire'	1.5 x 2m. Fine dark green foliage. Flowering in spring with terminal spidery clusters of a deep pinky red flowers. Bird attracting.
G. 'Poorinda Tranquillity'	1.5 x 2m. A small shrub with greyish-green foliage. During winter and spring short terminal spikes of pale pink flowers appear.
G. 'Robyn Gordon'	1.5 x 3m. This cultivar has been popular for many years now. The red cylindrical flower spikes appear all year. Bird attracting.
G. 'Coastal Gem'	2 x 1m. Hardy dense prostrate form of <i>G. humilis</i> with small white spider-like flowers for most of the year.
G. 'Pink Gem'	2 x 1m. A hardy dense prostrate form of <i>G. humilis</i> with small pale pink spider-like flowers for most of the year
G. 'Coconut Ice'	2 x 1.5m. Reddish pink flowers throughout the year. Dense upright growth habit.
<i>G. endlicheriana</i>	2 x 1.5m. Rounded shrub with greyish-green narrow leaves. Pale pink or white spidery flowers are clustered along the 1m stems.
G. 'Evelyn's Coronet'	2 x 2m. Rounded shrub. The terminal spider like flowers, which are a greyish pink, are produced in spring and summer.
G. 'Winparra Gem'	2 x 2m. A dense shrub with grey green leaves. Flowering from autumn to spring, the terminally produced spikes are pink ageing to orange. Bird attracting. A hardy shrub for coastal gardens.
<i>G. pinaster</i>	2 x 2m. A small shrub with bluish green narrow foliage. The flowers are in clusters, reddish pink to orange red and flower from autumn through to summer. There are a number of forms available, sometimes sold as <i>G. stenomera</i>
G. 'Fire Sprite'	2 x 3m. Narrow dark green foliage. The flowers are bright red in terminal spikes. Bird attracting.

	Grevilleas to 2 metres
G. 'Boongala Spinebill'	2 x 4m. A dense spreading shrub with arching branches. Young growth red. Flowers form a terminal toothbrush spike. Bird attracting.

	Grevilleas over 2 metres
G. 'Poorinda Peter'	2.5 x 4m. The dark green leaves are deeply lobed. Reddish purple flowers in a toothbrush spike during spring and summer.
G. 'Misty Pink'	3 x 2m. Erect shrub. The pale pink and cream flowers are terminal, in erect cylindrical spikes up to 15cm. and produced all year.
G. 'Elegance'	3 x 2m. A medium sized shrub with narrow foliage. Large dark pink terminal clusters of flowers during winter.
G. 'Coastal Glow'	3 x 3m. A medium sized vigorous shrub. The toothbrush type terminal flowers are pink and produced throughout the year.
G. 'Majestic'	3 x 3m A large rounded, long-flowering shrub. The flower colour is a combination of red and cream. Very showy. Used as a cut flower.
G. banksii Red Silky Oak	3 x 3m. Bright red flowers in terminal cylindrical spikes up to 10 cm. long. Needs regular pruning to maintain shape. Bird attracting. <i>G. banksii</i> has been used as one of the parents in a number of cultivars.
G. 'Flamingo'	3 x 3m. The leaves are large and deeply divided. Grey-green in colour. Large pink flower heads are in cylindrical spikes. Bird attracting.
G. 'Golden Yul-lo'	3 x 3 m. Large deeply divided leaves. The flowers are bright yellow in cylindrical terminal spikes produced throughout the year. Bird attracting. Suitable to be used as a cut flower.
G. 'Pink Surprise'	3 x 3m. A medium size shrub with large ferny leaves. Bright pink and cream flowers in cylindrical terminal spikes throughout the year. Used for cut flowers. Needs protection from strong winds. Bird attracting.
<i>G. longistyla</i>	3 x 3m. A medium size shrub with bright green fine lacy foliage. The orange red flowers are in erect cylindrical terminal spikes, and produced in spring. Bird attracting.
<i>G. olivaceae</i>	3 x 3m. The young branches are covered in short white hairs and stand out against the olive green leaves. Flowers are red in spidery clusters. Flowering is from winter to early summer.
G. 'Canberra Gem'	3 x 4m. A medium sized shrub with spreading branches. Young growth covered in dense silky hairs. The narrow leaves end in a sharp point. Flowers pinkish-red produced in terminal clusters. A hardy and adaptable shrub.
G. 'White Wings'	3 x 4m. Large spreading dense shrub, the leaves are greyish green and prickly. Small white spidery scented flowers in terminal clusters, are produced throughout the year.
G. 'Orange Marmalade'	3.5 x 3.5m. Large shrub with deep green leaves and bronze new growth. The bright orange spidery flowers appear in winter. Bird attracting.

	Grevilleas over 2 metres
<i>G. shiressii</i>	3 x 4m. A rare species occurring here on the Central Coast. The flowers are mostly green and are hidden within the plant.
<i>G. 'Sylvia'</i>	4 x 2m. Upright growing shrub with grey-green foliage. The deep red flowers are in a cylindrical, terminal spike and produced through out the year.
<i>G. 'Moonlight'</i>	4 x 3m. Upright growing shrub. The flower spikes are cylindrical and terminal, The soft cream colour stands out against the green foliage.
<i>G. venusta</i>	4 x 4m. A fast growing rounded shrub. The flowers are bright green and yellow with a black style and are in loose cylindrical spikes.
<i>G. aspeleniifolia</i>	4 x 4m. A medium size shrub with spreading branches that can become horizontal with age. The flowers are deep red in a terminal toothbrush formation. Hardy in most conditions. Bird attracting.
<i>G. 'Honey Gem'</i>	5 x 4m Large leaves which are deeply lobed, dark green above silver reverse. The flowers cylindrical and bright orange which drip with sweet nectar. Bird attracting.
<i>G. baileyana</i>	10 x 8m. A medium size rainforest tree with a dense bushy crown. The young growth is a rusty-brown or golden-brown. Mature leaves are dark green on top with the reverse golden-brown. Very showy in windy weather. The flowers are fragrant, white and in a terminal spike.
<i>G. robusta</i> Silky Oak	30 x 6m. Suitable only for large gardens and parks. Masses of orange flowers in toothbrush formations. Bird attracting.

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