

CARE:

Don't forget to water your plants daily whilst still in their pots. Plant as soon as possible.

PLANTING AND WATERING:

Make sure that the position selected for the plant is well drained. Do NOT dig into clay. If there is insufficient topsoil it is best to raise the bed by about 30cm. Do not dig out clay and fill with good soil because water may pond in the hole. The use of clay breakers or gypsum will not overcome bad drainage in a hole. To test the drainage pour a bucket of water into the hole and it should drain away within five minutes.

When planting make sure the plant is in a slight mound to allow for settling and to prevent water laying around the trunk of the plant for too long. If the mound is too high water may drain off before draining into the root ball.

Plant in full sun or light shade for best results.

Water crystals are useful for slow release of water to the plant. Pre-soak 2-3 teaspoons of dry water crystals for a few hours or overnight to ensure maximum benefit on initial planting. Some of this can be in close proximity to the root ball and the remainder mixed throughout the backfill. After backfilling slowly apply a bucket of water to the plant.

Follow-up watering should be about twice per week for 2-3 weeks then once per week for about 4 weeks. The plant should then survive with less frequent or nil watering depending on soil type and the weather.

If water stressed, grevilleas have good survival rates, but they may not flower as well.

MULCHING:

Use organic mulches from 50 to 100mm deep. If mulch is too deep light showers of rain will not penetrate. If too shallow it may not be effective.

Mulches help to maintain soil temperatures and slow down evaporation from the soil. They are also effective in reducing weed growth.

Do not use newspapers, weed-mat or plastic sheeting below the mulch.

Prevent mulch from contacting the trunk of the plant as this may cause collar rot. A gap of about 25mm is sufficient.

FERTILISERS AND STIMULANTS:

The use of seaweed products is recommended during planting - these are stimulants, not fertilisers. They can be used in the pre-soaking of the water crystals.

There is often little need to fertilise most soils. There is a greater chance of losing a grevillea with over-fertilising and using the wrong fertiliser. Do not use chicken manure or chicken manure products.

If using slow release fertiliser after plants are established use only products marked as suitable for natives. They have a very low phosphorus or nil phosphorus content. Remove the mulch before applying fertiliser then replace the mulch on top of the pellets. This is to minimise the effect of the hot sun on the pellets accelerating the action of the fertiliser, causing an overdose.

The use of soil wetting products is useful in allowing the water to soak in rather than run off. Reapply every six months.

PRUNING:

Grevilleas may be tip pruned as necessary to maintain an attractive shape OR pruned annually by cutting back by one third.

FOR GRAFTED PLANTS it is essential to remove any growth below the graft to ensure that the root stock does not take over the plant.



Growing Grevilleas



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The following varieties are suitable for growing in south-east Queensland.

PROSTRATE AND LOW GROWING VARIETIES:

Grevillea 'Cooroora Cascade' grows 0.5m x 3m with large yellow brushes in summer and autumn.

Grevillea 'Fanfare' – prostrate, spreading 3-4 metres. Deeply lobed leaves and deep pink toothbrush flowers in spring and summer.

Grevillea leiophylla (Wallum Grevillea) grows up to 50cm x 1m across. Pink spidery flowers in terminal clusters in spring and summer.

Grevillea 'Pink Midget' grows 30cm x 1m across with small pale pink flowers all year.

Grevillea reptans (Pink Spider Flower) grows to about 40cm x 1m. Deep pink spidery flowers from winter to spring.

Grevillea 'Royal Mantle' – prostrate, spreading to 6m. Deep pink toothbrush flowers in winter and spring.

Grevillea 'Ruby Red' - prostrate, spreading to 3m. Red flowers in winter and spring.

SMALL SHRUBS:

Grevillea 'Coconut Ice' grows to 1.5m x 2m, with apricot to pink flowers all year.

Grevillea 'Flamingo' grows 2-3m x 3m with rich pink flowers all year.

Grevillea 'Golden Lyre' grows 2m x 5m with large yellow brushes in summer and autumn.

Grevillea humilis ssp. lucens (Glasshouse Spider Flower) grows 1m x 1m with pink flowers in spidery clusters in spring and summer.

Grevillea 'Molly' grows to 1.5m x 2m, with red flowers all year.

Grevillea 'Peaches and Cream' grows to 1.5m x 2m. with cream flowers which change to pink as they age. Flowers all year.

Grevillea 'Robyn Gordon' grows to 1.5m x 2m, red flowers all year.

Grevillea 'Shirley Howie' grows 1.5m x 1m, mauve-pink flowers all year.

Grevillea 'Splendour' grows 2m x 3m with ruby red flowers most of year.

Grevillea 'Superb' grows to 1.5m x 2m and flowers all year. Apricot flowers, changing to pink.

LARGER SHRUBS:

Grevillea banksii grows 4-5m with large red flowers in spring.

Grevillea 'Bush Lemons' grows to 3m x 3m. Large heads of bright yellow flowers all year.

Grevillea 'Caloundra Gem' grows 3m x 5m. Has pale pink flowers with ivory styles most of year.

Grevillea 'Dorothy Gordon' grows to 3 metres high with flushes of pink to purple flowers throughout the year.

Grevillea 'Firesprite' grows 3m x 5m with red spider flowers in autumn, winter and spring.

Grevillea hodgei (Coochin Hills Grevillea) grows to 4m. Creamy yellow flowers in winter.

Grevillea 'Honey Barbara' grows 3m x 2m. Orange flowers tipped with yellow

Grevillea 'Honey Gem' grows 3-4m x 5m and has honey coloured flowers all year.

Grevillea 'Jester' grows to 3m x 4m with vivid tangerine flowers all year round.

Grevillea 'Kay Williams' grows 3m x 5m with pink flowers and ivory styles all year.

Grevillea 'Majestic' grows 5-6m x 6m. Has spectacular red flowers with cream styles but is not reliable.

Grevillea 'Misty Pink' grows to 3m x 5m. Pink and cream flowers all year.

Grevillea 'Moonlight' grows 5-6m x 6m with cream flowers all year.

Grevillea 'Orange Marmalade' grows 3m x 3m with orange spider flowers and red style, most of year. Good screen.

Grevillea 'Pink Parfait' grows 3m x 3m. Has pink flowers with grey foliage all year.

Grevillea 'Pink Surprise' grows 5-6m x 6m. Has large pink flowers with a short flowering period and not as reliable as other varieties.

Grevillea 'Sandra Gordon' grows 4m x 5m with brilliant yellow toothbrush flowers in winter and spring.

Grevillea 'Sylvia' grows 2-4m x 2-3m, with bright rosy-pink flowers most of the year.

Grevillea 'Yamba Sunshine' will grow to 3m high x 2m. Yellow flowers in autumn, winter and spring.

TREES:

Grevillea baileyana grows to about 8m with creamy-white flowers in late spring and summer. A striking feature is the wonderful glossy green leaves that are gold underneath.

Grevillea hilliana (White Silky Oak) is a rainforest tree growing to about 10m in cultivation. Creamy-white flowers from winter to early summer.

Grevillea robusta, the well-known 'Silky Oak'. A tall tree with ferny foliage and magnificent orange-yellow flowers in spring.

GRAFTED VARIETIES AVAILABLE:

Grevillea 'Billy Bonkers' Grows to 1m x 1.5m with pink flowers all year.

Grevillea bipinnatifida - many selections available from prostrate to 1m x 1m. attractive flowers ranging from orange to red. Parent of many popular hybrids.

Grevillea 'Ivory Whip' grows to 1.5m x 1.5m with cream flowers all year.

Grevillea 'Lollypops' grows to 1.5m x 1.5m with pink flowers all year.

Grevillea 'Jory' grows 1.5m x 2m with red flowers all year.

Grevillea 'Long John' ('Elegance') 3m x 3m with brilliant orange-red flowers all year.

Grevillea wickhamii ssp. cratista – Bungle Bungles Grevillea. Tree to 5m with grey-green holly-like leaves. Pendulous spikes of pink-red flowers from winter to spring.

These grafted varieties are available at specialist nurseries and there are also many other species of grevilleas which are available as grafted plants. Membership of Native Plants Queensland and the Grevillea Study Group will enable you to source many of the more interesting species.

GENERAL CULTIVATION NOTES:

The plants mentioned here are normally available in specialist nurseries, at least. They are considered reliable as long as basic precautions are taken.

Grafted plants are also listed. Grafting is necessary to improve their survival and, as such, they are very good plants.

Most Grevilleas are bird attracters. Some will attract only small honeyeaters, whilst others attract a greater range of birds.

Most plants listed have a long flowering period, with many flowering all year round.