

# Coastal banksia

## *Banksia integrifolia*

### Family

Proteaceae (protea)

### Where is it originally from?

Australia

### What does it look like?

Erect, fast-growing, evergreen tree (<8 m tall). Long, narrow leaves (<15 cm long by 2.5cm wide) with dark green upper surfaces and silvery and felted undersides are grouped in whorls of 3-5. Margins of the leaves of seedlings and saplings are coarsely toothed, while adult leaves have entire margins. Erect cylindrical pale yellow to yellow spikes (9-12 cm long) appear from March to August, made up of several hundred flowers (10-15mm long) that are densely packed in a spiral around a woody axis, and produce large amounts of nectar. These develop into hard fruiting cones covered with woody valves, each containing a single black seed. In warm dry weather the valves open and release seeds. Fruiting cones may stay on the tree a long time after seeding.

### Are there any similar species?

White flowering bottlebrushes can look similar

### Why is it weedy?

Tolerant of a wide range of habitats and conditions, including salty soils and estuaries. Drought and frost tolerant, preferring sunny, dry areas with poor soils. Fast-growing, rapidly maturing and producing a lot of seeds that are released as soon as they ripen in late summer.

### How does it spread?

Spreads locally by seed fall and wind dispersal up to at least 300m from seeding trees.

### What damage does it do?

Forms dense thickets that crowd out native plants.

### Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Preferred habitat is within 50km of the coast, ranging from coastal dunes to sub alpine tussock grasslands. Threatens well-drained sites especially sand dunes.

### What can I do to get rid of it?

1. Pull small seedlings (difficult to pull larger ones).
2. Cut and stump paint: picloram gel.

### What can I do to stop it coming back?

Check site regularly for seedlings and remove.



[www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)



Photo: Carolyn Lewis



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