

Banksia paludosa



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| Family: | Proteaceae |
| Distribution: | Open forests and woodlands of central and south eastern New South Wales with an outlying population on the north coast near Kempsey. |
| Common Name: | Swamp Banksia |
| Derivation of Name: | <i>Banksia</i> ...after Sir Joseph Banks. <i>paludosa</i> ...from Latin <i>paludosus</i> ; marshy, referring to the habitat of some species. |
| Conservation Status: | Not considered to be at risk in the wild at the species level. |

General Description:

B. paludosa is a small to medium shrub and can be found in sizes ranging from prostrate to 4 metres in height. The leaves are elliptical in shape, deep green on top and silvery below. The flowers occur in narrow spikes which are typically about 100mm long, 70mm wide and pale yellow in colour. The seeds are enclosed in follicles attached to a woody cone and are generally retained within the cone until burnt.





Top: *Banksia paludosa* sunsp. *paludosa* in bud. Bottom: *Banksia paludosa* subsp. *astrolux*

Photos: Brian Walters

Two subspecies of *B. paludosa* are known: subsp. *paludosa* and subsp. *astrolux*. The main difference between the varieties is the lack of a lignotuber in subsp. *astrolux*. That variety may also be taller growing. Subsp. *astrolux* is confined to a small area near the Nattai River in the southern highlands of New South Wales.

Despite its common name few populations of *B. paludosa* occur in swampy areas. They are not demanding in regard to soil types but waterlogged ground should be avoided. *B. paludosa* has proven to be reliable in a wide range of climates and garden conditions and is best in full sun or dappled shade. Some low growing forms are becoming available and these form a very attractive garden plant with well displayed flowers. The adaptability of *B. paludosa* subsp. *astrolux* to cultivation is not known at this stage.

Propagation from seed or cuttings is relatively easy.

A similar species is [*B. oblongifolia*](#) which is found in eastern New South Wales and southern Queensland.