

ESSENCE of AUSTRALIA

Top 10 Australian bush tucker and culturally significant plants



Adenanthos sericeus

Albany Woollybush

Western Australia (WA)

This wonderfully tactile large shrub from coastal Western Australia is known for its soft wool-like foliage which produces small red flowers at the end of branches in late spring. It is often used as an Australian alternative to the traditional Christmas tree, particularly in Western Australia.



Banksia integrifolia

Coast Banksia

**Queensland (Qld), Victoria (Vic),
New South Wales (NSW), Tasmania (Tas)**

Aboriginal people extract nectar by brushing a hand against the flower then licking their hands. Flowers are also soaked in water to make a sweet drink which can be fermented. European settlers used the nectar for sore throats and colds.



Calothamnus quadrifidus

One-sided Bottle Brush

WA (south-west)

An oddity which only has its red flowers on one side of the stem. The flowers can be soaked in water to make a sweet drink which can be fermented. The nectar can be sucked directly from the flower tube.



Chrysocephalum apiculatum

Common Everlasting

All states

This plant forms a dense ground cover, like soft silver cushions with golden button flowers that feed the butterflies. European settlers used it to kill intestinal worms in stock.



Eremophila glabra

Tar Bush or Common Emu Bush

All states except Tas

When part of a mixed diet (e.g. oaten chaff) for sheep, this plant can reduce methane production (from farting) while maintaining productivity. The flowers were used in some Aboriginal ceremonies and extracts were used as liniments, medicines and antiseptic.

For more information or high resolution images, please contact

Katie O'Brien, Marketing Co-ordinator (PR)

kobrien@rbg.vic.gov.au

+61 03 9252 2470



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Eucalyptus gunnii

Cider Gum

Tas

Aborigines gouged holes in the trunk which would fill with fermenting sap in spring. European settlers soon learnt to extract sap from cut trunk like maple syrup. The sap was then fermented to make a strong alcoholic cider-like drink. The leaves were used for tanning and produced a light-brown, flexible leather.



Grevillea hybrids

All states

Modern hybrid Grevilleas with large 'combs' of nectar-rich flowers which attract a range of birds, possums, and bats. Many species produce edible nectar. Cultivars used in the Essence of Australia include 'Yellow Moonlight', 'Coastal Sunset', 'Pink Princess' (pictured), and 'Bronze Rambler'.



Poa labillardierei

Common Tussock Grass

Qld, Vic, NSW, Tas

Aboriginal people twisted the stems and leaves to make rope for nets, bags, baskets and mats. It was also used by early settlers as a valuable fodder plant for stock in addition to kangaroos and wallabies.



Syzygium 'Newport'

Newport Brush Cherry

Qld & NSW

One of the many varieties of 'Lilly Pillies' grown in Australia as hedge plants. The fruit of many varieties may be eaten raw or used to make delicious jellies and fruit tarts. It was one of the few edible plants noted during Captain Cook's visit to Australia in 1770 and it was one of the few native plants that the early European settlers ate.



Xanthorrhoea johnsonii

Johnson's Grass Tree

NSW (north-east) & Qld (east)

Resin from the stem and leaf base was traditionally used as a glue to make tools, weapons and other implements. Flowers can be sucked or soaked in water to make a sweet drink which can be fermented. The dried pithy flower stem was used for fire lighting.