

Grevillea robusta

(Proteaceae)

Common name: Silky oak.

Localities: Bellbowrie Bridge, Brisbane River Bank, Kholo Creek, Moggill State Forest, Savages Rd, Upper Brookfield.

Growth form: A medium or large tree with straight trunk and an elongated crown.

Foliage: Fern-like, grey-green, up to 30 cm long.

Flowers and fruit: Flowers in spring, producing masses of yellow-orange flowers, in large racemes.

Habitat: In dry rainforest and common along river banks.

Propagation and Management: Seed germinates readily and may be stored for 2-3 years without loss of viability. Silky oak is tolerant of a wide range of soil types and also tolerates full sun. It is quick growing, especially if it is well watered and adequately fertilised when young.

General: Widely used for re-afforesting degraded pastures and controlling erosion along creek banks. Various nectar-feeding birds and also fruit bats are attracted to the flowers in spring. It is an excellent cabinet timber. The abundant nectar was also a rare opportunity for Aboriginal people to enjoy a sweet taste.

