

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Sweet Bursaria

Bursaria spinosa

FAST FACTS

Shrub

Family:	Pittosporaceae
	Pittosporum
Size:	4m H x 2m W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Summer
Fruits:	Brown capsules
Care:	Low maintenance

Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) is an Australian native shrub from around Ballarat.

Location: Bursaria likes a sunny position and will grow into an attractive small tree if the lower branches are removed. It has sharp spines along the stems so keep it at the back of a garden bed and plant smaller shrubs and groundcovers around the trunk to keep animals and children away.

Leaves: Glossy bright green leaves give the garden a lush look over dry summer months.

Flowers: Bursaria in flower is one of our most beautiful and fragrant shrubs. It is covered in clusters of small, cream flowers during mid-summer when much else in the garden is in decline. You will be delighted by the large number of native bees and butterflies which flock to feed on sweet nectar and pollen.

Seed: Small green, hearted-shaped "purses" containing seed turn golden-brown as they ripen and remain on the shrub for several months. Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos, Crimson Rosellas and other seed eating birds feast on the fruit so consider placing a bird-bath nearby.

Planting: Plant in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase and provide a full bucket of water immediately.

Care: It's probably best to remove lower stems from young plants so that the thorny canopy branches develop above head height. Wear gardening gloves and remove the thorny branches to a safe place.

Propagation: Good luck collecting seed from the brown capsules before the birds eat them all.