

Australian Seed

Australian Natives

Exotics

Herbs

Flowers

Vegetables



Banksia Germination.

The propagating media should be free draining but also retain moisture. A commercial seed raising mix is suited. Soil should be maintained at between 20 and 25°C, which is the optimum range for germinating Banksia seed for best and quickest results.

The propagating area should be well ventilated, as an adequate oxygen supply is important in triggering reactions within the seeds to stimulate germination.

The mix must be kept moist but not wet at all times during the germination process.

The sowing method itself is straightforward:

Select suitable cleaned or brand new container/s, which should be relatively deep, so that water can drain through the media and not sit at the top to waterlog the seeds. The containers can be narrow, deep tubes into which single seeds can be sown or larger pots or trays into which a number of seeds can be sown.

1. Fill the container/s with the media and firm down, leaving room at the top for water catchment.
2. Water the media to field capacity. Sow the seed, firm down and just cover with a layer of fine media or vermiculite, and then thoroughly water them in with a fine spray, so as not to dislodge them.
3. Place container/s, where optimum temperature and moisture conditions can be provided in a controlled environment. Alternatively, they can be placed in a warm, sheltered position such as in a cold frame, and kept moist.
4. Germination times after sowing vary with species and germinating conditions, but expect results to show within three to six weeks.

Pre-germination of seed by sowing into a closed container containing moist vermiculite or a similar material is also a useful method of germinating seeds, particularly for winter sowing when outdoor temperatures may be unsuitable. Germination usually occurs in 2-3 weeks using this method and when the root has reached about a centimeter or so in length, the seedling can be placed into a small pot of seed raising mix.

After-Care

Damping-off of the seeds can be a major problem if not controlled. The fungal spores are dispersed by splashed water, so water the seedlings from below instead of above by means of a capillary watering system. One suitable method is to place the seed trays or pots on a bed of sand and apply water to the sand only. The water is then taken up by the media through the drain holes of the trays/pots by capillary action.