

Grevillea robusta

Kingdom: Plantae
Clade: Angiosperms
Order: Proteales
Family: Proteaceae
Genus: Grevillea
Species: G. robusta



Common Names

English: Silver Oak, Silk Oak
Hindi: Silver Oak
Kannada: Silver Oak
Tamil: Velli Oak
Telugu: Silver Oak

Characteristic Features

Origin: Native to eastern coastal regions of Australia.

Growth: Fast growing tree that can reach up to 30 meters (about 98 feet) tall.

Leaves: Fernlike, pinnately divided, up to 30 centimeters long, dark green on the upper surface, and silvery underneath.

Flowers: Bright orange or yellow orange flowers, blooming in spring and early summer, arranged in racemes and rich in nectar.

Habitat: Thrives in well drained soils and can tolerate various conditions from full sun to partial shade. Commonly found in riparian zones and open forests.

Uses

1. Timber:

Wood Characteristics: Attractive grain, durable, and used for furniture, cabinetry, and ornamental work.

Applications: Valued in woodworking and often used in making highquality furniture, veneers, and decorative items.


2. Ornamental:

Landscaping: Popular as an ornamental tree in gardens, parks, and along streets due to its attractive foliage and flowers.

Aesthetic Value: Adds visual interest and provides shade in urban and suburban environments.

3. Shade Tree:

Plantations: Commonly planted in coffee and tea plantations as a shade tree, providing cover for crops.



Agricultural Benefits: Offers protection from excessive sunlight and wind, improving the growing conditions for shade loving crops.

4. Erosion Control:

Reforestation: Used in reforestation and erosion control projects due to its rapid growth and extensive root system.

Soil Stabilization: Helps prevent soil erosion on slopes and in degraded areas.

5. Ecological Role:

Wildlife Habitat: The flowers attract various pollinators, including birds and insects, contributing to local biodiversity.

Food Source: Provides nectar for birds, especially in regions where it has been introduced.

6. Propagation:

Seed Propagation: Seeds can be sown after soaking in hot water to enhance germination.

Cuttings: Can also be propagated through cuttings, which helps maintain the genetic characteristics of the parent tree.

Cultural Significance

While *Grevillea robusta* is not deeply rooted in cultural traditions, it is appreciated in India and other parts of the world for its aesthetic and practical uses in landscaping, timber production, and agriculture.

