

Plant of the Week



Grevillea 'Honey Gem'

Hybrid *Grevilleas*



Grevillea 'Robyn Gordon'

We tend to think that bush gardens have gained popularity only in recent years. However, in 1912 Hazlewood Bros Nursery in Epping listed 38 species of Australian native plants in its catalogue. By 1938, this had risen to over 100 native species, including *Grevillea banksii*, *G. alpina*, *G. rosmarinifolia*, *G. speciosa* and *Grevillea robusta*, the Silky Oak. In the late 1950s, there was a massive increase in interest in native plant gardens and 1959 saw the formation of the 'Society for Growing Australian Native Plants', now known as the Australian Native Plants Society.

The interest in native plants led to species never before grown in close proximity suddenly planted side by side, unleashing all sorts of possibilities in terms of new hybrids. Possibly the first hybrid *Grevillea* was ***Grevillea* 'Robyn Gordon'** developed in the late 1950s by plant breeder Dave Gordon at Myall Park Botanic Garden in south-western Queensland, a hybrid between red flowered *Grevillea banksii* from Queensland and orange flowered *Grevillea bipinnatifida* from Western Australia.

The parent plants of many of the tall *Grevillea* hybrids now planted across campus come from Queensland. For example, the white flowered *Grevillea* 'Moonlight' is believed to be a cross between *Grevillea whiteana* and a white flowered form of *Grevillea banksii*. *Grevillea* 'Honey Gem' is a cross between red flowered *Grevillea banksii* and the golden flowered *Grevillea pteridifolia* which is known from WA, NT and Queensland.

Grevillea 'Robyn Gordon': geocities.jp (image)
www.myallparkbotanicgarden.org.au (text)
Grevillea 'Honey Gem': gardenly.tumblr.com
Grevillea 'Moonlight': plantsinternational.com.au
Grevillea banksii (red): botany.hawaii.edu
Grevillea pteridifolia: endemicplants.com
Grevillea banksii (white): yallaroo.com.au



Grevillea 'Moonlight'

Production: A.J. Downing & K.D. Downing 23.08.2010 (唐爱森, 唐科文 - 2010年8月23日)

Downing Herbarium, Department of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University.



Grevillea banksii

Red - White



Grevillea pteridifolia

