

May 2026

Plant of the month



Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty'



Common Name: Burrendong Beauty
Scientific Name: *Hakea myrtooides x petiolaris*
Family: Proteaceae
Genus: Hakea named after Baron Christian Ludwig von Hake, an 18th-century German patron of Botany.
Cultivar name: Burrendong is named after the Burrendong Arboretum in NSW where it was discovered.

About

Hakea is a genus of about 150 species of plants that are endemic to Australia, first described in 1788 by Joseph Gaertner, a German botanist. NSW currently has about 31 species.

Hakeas can be found in many different environments including the tropics, mountains, the coast and desert areas. The most diversity in the genus occurs in the south of Western Australia.

Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty' was discovered growing at Burrendong Arboretum in the central west of New South Wales in the 1980s. The plant was found to be a hybrid with *H.myrtooides* and *H.petiolaris* as parents. As both parent species were growing in the general vicinity of the hybrid plant at the Arboretum, it is possible that the hybrid arose at Burrendong rather than as a seedling from a batch of seed sent to the Arboretum from Western Australia.

The flowers attract nectar eating birds and insects, whilst the prickly nature of the shrub makes a perfect bird and lizard refuge.

This spectacular plant is best suited to areas of low summer humidity and is likely to be difficult to maintain in humid areas where dieback of foliage is common. It acts as a hardy weed-suppressing ground cover and in its taller form, makes a low windbreak or barrier. Controls foot traffic due to its prickly foliage. Suitable for wider streetscapes, embankments and parks.

Hakeas are considered invasive in Norfolk Island, South Africa, Portugal and New Zealand, showing any plant 'out of place' can have undesired effects on local ecologies.



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Native Habitat

Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty' grows in well-drained clay, loam or sandy soil in full sun to part shade. It is drought tolerant, can grow on rocky slopes, tolerate poor soils and harsh conditions.

Distribution

Native to NSW, it thrives in a variety of environments including the tropics, mountains, coastal and desert areas.

Description

It is a medium sized, evergreen, spreading shrub reaching about 1.5m high by 2 – 3m wide. The leaves are fairly stiff, about 40mm long and elliptical.

Flowers

The flowers are deep pink with white stamens. Flowering is prolific and as the flowers open the cream styles emerge to give a 'pincushion' effect. They can appear as a spider-flower-like cluster, or a rounded ball where flowers emerge around a 360° radius, or as a cylindrical raceme (which strongly resemble those of Grevillea). The flowers occur in autumn and winter.

Fruit

The hybrid sets little seed and rarely produces fruit. Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty' has been grown successfully from cuttings.

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