

## AUSTRALIAN PLANTS AS WEEDS IN SOUTH AFRICA

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The recent South African Plant Invaders Atlas newsletter noted that WA's showy banksia (*Banksia speciosa*) has invaded Agulhas National Park and three eastern states banksias (*B. ericifolia*, *B. integrifolia* & *B. serrata*) are also spreading into bushland. Also invading South Africa are garden plants tall kangaroo paw (*Anigozanthos flavidus*), hillock bush (*Melaleuca hypericifolia*) and bottlebrush (*Callistemon*) hybrids. The banksias were originally imported and grown for cut flowers and have spread after fire from abandoned plantings. Is this a portent for



*Banksia speciosa*, often called showy banksia.  
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the future? Many South African Proteaceae (eg proteas and *Leucospermum*) are grown in WA for cut flowers. *Protea repens* has already established two feral populations in Perth Hills.

