



*Resendiz Brothers*  
The Protea Connoisseurs



# Proteaceae

Proteaceae are among the oldest families of flowers on Earth, dating back 300 million years. Greek legend tells us they were named after Proteus, the son of Poseidon, a sea god who had the power to know all things past, present, and future. Proteus was defiant and to deter those seeking his insights, he would change his shape. Protea was named after him because it presents itself in an astounding variety of shapes, sizes, hues, and textures to make up more than 1,400 varieties. With its mythological associations to change and transformation it's not surprising that in the language of flowers, Protea symbolizes diversity and courage.





# Protea in California

Beginning in the early 1960's, flower farmers propagated Proteaceae seeds, developing the first commercial planting and nursery in 1964 just north of Escondido, California. The protea industry started expanding relatively quickly during the late 1970's and early 1980's, as more people became aware of this unique crop as an alternative to tree crops such as avocados and citrus, to grow on the steep hillsides of Southern California.







# Botanical Family: Proteaceae

Genera: 60

Species: Over 1,400

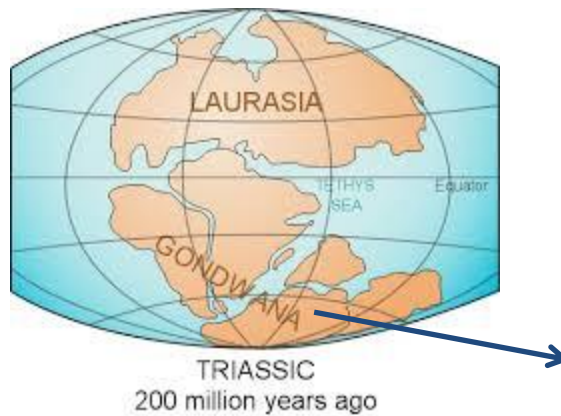
Indigenous to:

- Southern Africa (330 Species)
- Australia (800 Species)
- A few Species in Central Africa, Asia, New Zealand and New Guinea



# Gondwanaland

Proteaceae dates back approximately 130 million years ago to the ancient super-continent of Gondwanaland eventually creating both a South African & Australian Genera







## South African Genera

- Protea
- Leucospermum
- Leucadendron
- Mimetes
- Serruria



## Australian Genera

- Banksia
- Grevillea
- Macadamia
- Dryandra
- Isopogon
- Waratah - Telopea



# Protea

35+ varieties

## Top Producers:

*Pink Ice*

*Red Baron*

*Neriifolia*

*Andrea*

*Brenda*

*Fiesta*

*Pink Duke*

*Eximia*

*Sugarbush*

*Cynaroides*

The best-known member of the Proteaceae family, and the one for which it is named, encompassing over 136 species. The incredible variation in flower size, foliage shape and growth habits of this genus is characteristic of the entire family and is in itself sufficient justification for using the name of the form-changing Greek god, Proteus, by Linnaeus when he classified the family.





# Leucospermum

*25+ varieties*

## Top Producers:

*Flame Giant*

*Sunrise*

*High Gold*

*Yellow Goldie*

*Succession*

*Tango*

*Veldfire*

*Scarlett Ribbon*

*Spider*

Leucospermum are some of the most popular members of the Proteaceae family and easily recognized by their flower-heads with long, conspicuous styles, each one thickened at its apex to form a pollen presenter. Together, the mass of styles look like pins bristling from a pincushion, a similarity that has given rise to the popular name for these Proteas.

They are fast growing and can produce a fabulous display of yellow, orange or red blooms for years. There are currently over 48 species of Leucospermum available throughout the world.





# Leucadendron

*35+ varieties*

## Top Producers:

*Safari Sunset*

*Gold Strike*

*Inca Gold*

*Jester*

*Maui Sunset*

*Salignum*

*Jubilee Crown*

*Pom Pom*

*Red Eye*

*Senorita*

*Ebony*

The fabulous 'silver tree' has given its name to this entire genus of Proteaceae. The tree also reveals the obvious allure of this unique group – the splendor of its foliage. A genus of about 80 species. They are unique among the Proteaceae in that each variety comes in separate sexes, both male and female which accounts for the incredible array of hues and textures we see throughout the year.





# Banksia

*20+ varieties*

## Top Producers:

*Ashbyii*

*Baxteri*

*Prionotes*

*Praemorsa*

*Victoriae*

*Menziesii*

*Speciosa*

*Candles*

Banksia are a genera of the Australian plant family, comprising of 178 species.. Some varieties have growth habits like ground cover, others like shrubs, and some trees.

Banksia flowers are generally cylindrical and range in size from 4" to 12". Colors range from silvery green through brilliant gold, yellows and orange to violet, deep red and even black tones. The foliage varies greatly from small and piney to long and narrow to large, leathery and with deep serrated teeth. They are in season summer, autumn and winter.





# Grevillea

Grevillea, beautiful flowers, unique filler, fabulous foliage and an amazing plant. This species has amazing growth habits, ranging from flowering groundcover, to beautiful shrubs and hedges, to tall colorful trees. The flowers range in color from white to pink, yellow to red and their size can be small and spider-like or large and bottlebrush-shaped. Foliage can be sharp and needle-like, soft and fern-like, or long branches with colorful jagged edges.

The Australian species of Grevillea consists of approximately 313 different varieties and 200 cultivars, and that number continues to increase. Named for Charles Francis Greville, one of the founders of the Royal Horticulture Society in 1804, this member of the Proteaceae family is now cultivated by flower farmers and gardeners in many parts of the world.





# Mimetes

*Mimetes cucullatus*, often considered the most spectacular genus of the Protea Family. The 12 species of *Mimetes* are endemic to South Africa's Cape Floral Region. The name *Mimetes* is derived from the Greek meaning "to imitate" which refers to the close resemblance of its toothed leaves to some of its other family member, like *Leucospermum* or better known as Pincushion.

Other common names for this species are pineapple bush or red bottlebrush. These names describe the clusters of bright red, yellow and green terminal leaf bracts with a round, hooded appearance and encased white-tufted flowers which are nestled in between the leaves.

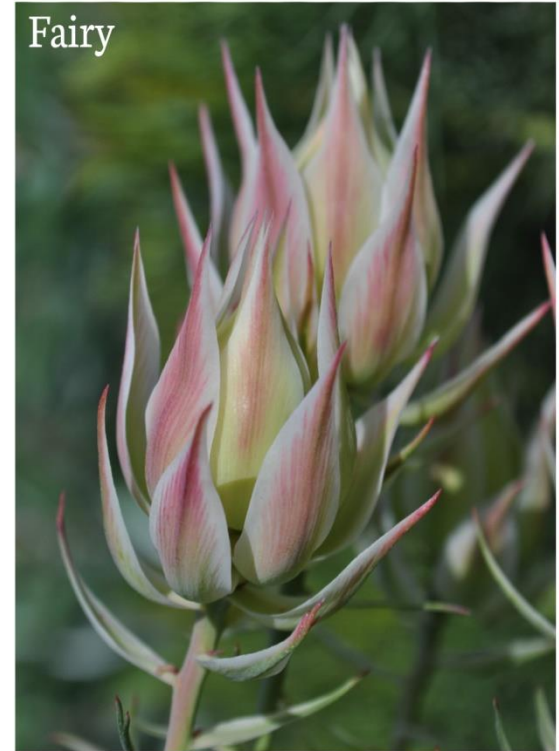




Blushing Bride White



Fairy



This delightful genus of 44 species from South Africa's Cape is a popular member of the Protea family. Serruria flowers in the springtime producing papery white and pink bracts, or floral leaves, surrounding feathery tufts of white to pinkish flowers. Blushing Bride and Sugar 'n' Spice are well-known varieties with their delicate and dainty white, pink and rose flowers.

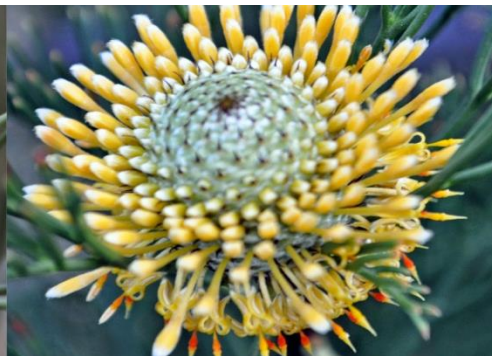
It is thought Serruria "Blushing Bride" received its name in South Africa because of its traditional use in bridal bouquets and through the custom of young men in the Cape Region wearing the flowers in buttonholes when courting. Unfortunately, "Blushing Bride" seems to have been over-exploited as the species was near extinction or even believed to be "lost" for 90 years in the wild until conservation measures in the 1960's and 70's saved it.



# Isopogon

Isopogon, another intriguing and unique member of the protea family consists of over 34 species and three varieties. The species found in Western Australia are often referred to as cone flowers, while those in the eastern states are known as drumsticks.

These distinctive looking spring flowers - born as dense cones with the blooms spiraling from and surrounding the central cone, look like petite pinwheels. Similar to many Proteas, Isopogon flower heads are made up of many flowers in shades of purple, yellow and cream that open from the outside in. Its stems are woody and leaves are green, pointed and encircle the flowers at their base.





# Waratah/Teolpea

The name Waratah, an Aboriginal name for “beautiful” comes from the Eora people, the original inhabitants of the Sydney area. The botanical term for this flower is very logical, seeing that the blooms are big and visible from far away - Teloepa which comes from the Greek word “Telepos” literally means “seen from a distance” and these extraordinary flowers can't be missed!

There are 4 main species of Waratah. Each bloom is in fact a cluster of flowers consisting of up to as many as 240 individual flowers depending on the species and the plant can grow up to ten feet tall.





# Growing:

Seeds/Cuttings/Grafting





# Planting Requirements



- Full sun with good air movement
- Adequate water drainage (no clay soils)
- Plant on slopes or slightly elevated mounds
- Frost resistant at around 25-30 F



# Planting Instructions



1. Dig a hole twice the width of the container and one and a half the height. The backfill can be amended with fir bark. Try to keep the soil line the same as it was when the plant was in a container. Mulches are good but must be kept off the trunk of the plant.
2. Build a temporary circular basin of soil around the plant and fill the basin with water. This action provides the plant with its first irrigation in the new environment.
3. Add a top dressing of wood chips or some other organic substance to the soil surrounding the plant to form a mulch. Mulching keeps roots of the plants cool, holds in moisture, and discourages weed growth.
4. Blooms appear from the second year and the plants bloom annually thereafter. Proteas can be staked but prefer to spread naturally.



# Watering

Proteas are often killed by over watering. A deep watering once a week should be sufficient. If watered by hose, place the hose end five or six inches from the trunk. Water at a very slow drip for one to two hours. It is best to establish an irrigation system that waters the plants at or near soil level. The roots of the proteas receive water but the foliage stays dry. Irrigating with sprinklers that spray water far above ground level is usually discouraged, because some members of the Proteaceae family resent having their foliage moistened on a frequent basis.

*“I use a drip system to irrigate my plants. This type of system conserves water by dripping just enough water around each plant to feed only its roots” -Mel Resendiz*







# Pruning

Pruning is important on young plants to keep them full. Pruning is best done during and after flowering. Always make cuts above at least four or five leaves. Never cut into bare stems (no leaves). Always remove old flower heads.

# Fertilization

Proteas are very light feeders. They are especially damaged by too much phosphorous in the fertilizer. Fertilizers with a maximum of four percent phosphorous are suitable. Use a liquid fertilizer and one quarter the recommended rate for shrubs.





# Bouquets & Arrangements

1. Cut ½" from stem, on a slant.
2. Immediately place in fresh water.
3. Re-cut stems and change water every other day.
4. Protea can absorb large amounts of water, so please make sure they have plenty..
5. Place away from heat and direct sunlight.

*Tip: Adding a little sugar to the water will prolong vase life.*

Protea dry well, and then can be used in dried arrangements for many months. To dry them, remove from water when past their peak, then store in a dark dry place until well dried, usually about one month.

















# The Wreath

Whether a wreath is hung in your house or outside, these environments can be dry, and the flowers may not have a source of moisture. You will need to adjust the amount of water your wreath requires based on where you put it. A wreath displayed outside in a cool climate will require misting once a day. A wreath kept outside in a warm climate, or displayed indoors will need frequent watering or misting. You can also lay it in a couple inches of water to allow it to 'drink' from the back where the stems are.

Your wreath should be kept out of direct sunlight and away from heat sources.

After the flowers begin to fade, cease spraying and let the wreath dry naturally. Protea don't die, they dry beautifully.















the  
protea  
store