

Family: *Proteaceae* (Pro-tea-see-ah)

Including: *Proteaceae* of Australia:

Genera: 75

Species: 1,050

Largest genera are *Grevillea*.

Grevillea robusta

(Gray-vill-ee-ah ro-busta)

Common Name: Silkoak Tree



- *Grevillea* is a deciduous medium-sized, fast growing tree that grows in excess of 100 feet
- Bark is fissured, sometimes pustulate, dark grey to dark brown.
- Crown is conical and dense, with branches projecting upward.
- Leaves are alternate, fernlike, pinnate, 11 to 21 pairs of pinnae, 1.5 to 3.5 inches long, and dark green.
- The flowers are yellow to orange, numerous, paired, on long slender stalks
- Fruits are podlike, broad, slightly flattened
- In NE India, bark and leaves used for headaches and dizziness.
- Dye: Yellow and green dye from the leaves; used for dyeing silk.
- Ornamental: Grown for its attractive foliage. Leaves used in flower arrangements.
- Poison: The flower buds, fruit and seeds are cyanogenic. Contact with leaves may cause contact dermatitis due a chemical compound related to the allergen toxicodendron.
- *G. robusta* is on a watch list as a potential invasive species.



Aborigine uses: food; cool drink from roots; drank nectar from flowers; paste used to heal earaches, spear wounds, skin sores and rubbed on women's breasts to induce lactation; adhesive to attach flints to axes & spears.



LOCAL SITES:



SAN DIEGO MISSION



PRESIDIO PARK GROVE



BALBOA PARK