

# *Banksia*: New Proteaceous Cut Flower Crop\*

*Margaret Sedgley*

Department of Horticulture, Viticulture, and Oenology  
 Waite Agricultural Research Institute  
 The University of Adelaide  
 Glen Osmond, South Australia, 5064  
 Australia

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## I. INTRODUCTION

*Banksia* species (Plate I) have been cultivated for the international cut flower market for only 20 to 30 years, but there is increasing interest in areas other than the native home, Australia, with production in Israel, South Africa, Hawaii, and California (Ben-Jaacov 1986; Sedgley 1996). Within Australia, *Banksia* is one of the four most widely planted commercial native genera, but production is based on seedling material and between plant variability is high. *Banksia* species for the fresh cut flower market must fulfill strict commercial criteria, which include terminal blooms and long stem length (Fig. 1.1), and further research is needed



Fig. 1.1. Inflorescence and foliage of *Banksia* 'Waite Orange'. Bar represents 4 cm.