

APSquery
User Guide

APSquery

Version 2012.2.x.x

For Windows NT/XP/Vista/Win-7*

An application to search the APS-SA plant database.

Introduction

APSquery is a Windows NT/XP/Vista/Win-7 application designed to provide a query search system for the Australian Plants Society, SA (Inc.) database of Australian native plants.

Features include:

- * Extensive suite of search key criteria, divided into categories.
- * On-screen view of a Brief Information Page for all plants matching the specified criteria.
- * On-screen view of a Plant Clipboard Page for plants selected from the Brief Information Page.
- * Ability to save information as files, or to print any selection from either plant list.
- * Option preferences are stored in the Windows Registry.
- * Font selection (including colour) is independently defined for the Brief Information, Plant Clipboard, Plant Information and Log/Error Pages.
- * Integrated Plant Information Page of selected plant from Brief Information.
- * Quick Search for a known Genus and species, a Basic criteria selection, or for keywords.
- * Support for photographs, including a filmstrip display in the Preview Page.
- * Links to several external Australian native flora databases, including photographs.

APSquery is designed to provide a ready and simple access to the database. The application is directed towards South Australian users and conditions, but has value for other states. The extensive information available in the database means that the options available for selection seem complex. However, the use of a range of tabbed criteria pages makes the process of selection relatively painless.

There is a comprehensive Help file included within **APSquery** which will assist in finding out about all the functions and options. If you are a first-time user, select "Quick Start Help" on the "Help" menu. A brief introduction will guide you through the use of **APSquery**. If you can't wait, follow the link to the "Getting Started Very Quickly" pages. This includes an example of using **APSquery**.

Note that this application is subject to change, and in particular the database itself is constantly being revised.

***Windows Vista/Win-7 Users**

There appear to be no real problems except that all **APSquery** files must be installed by a user with Administrator access privileges.

APSquery User Guide

System Requirements

Operating System:	Windows-NT, Windows-XP, Windows-Vista, Windows-7
CPU:	Minimum 500MHz Pentium or equivalent, 1GHz+ preferred.
Memory:	Recommended 1024MB or more.
Video:	Min. 800x600 pixels, 16colours. Preferred 1024x768 pixels or better, 64K colours (Runs happily on 1024x600 pixel Netbooks with WinXP or Win7Starter)
HDD Space:	Approximately 12MB after installation, plus 4MB for basic photographs.
Mouse:	Standard 2-button mouse
Sound:	Not used

Note: If non-standard system settings impact on presentation, please advise the application author.

Installing and Uninstalling APSquery

INSTALLING APSquery

APSquery uses a single InnoSetup install application. Follow these steps to install the **APSquery** application and database from USB-stick or CD. If the file has been downloaded from the Internet, ignore step 2 and open the appropriate download folder in Windows Explorer at step 3.

1. If a previous version of **APSquery**, see below for Uninstalling before proceeding to the upgrade installation.
2. If using the complete installation DVD, simply insert it and Auto-launch should start. Follow the prompts, normally selecting the default options. Go to Step 7.
3. If not using an installation DVD, look for APSquerySetup.exe in the Install folder.
4. If installing from the APSquerySetup.zip file, use Windows Explorer to load it into a suitable location (e.g. C:\Temp), then...
5. Unzip APSquerySetup.zip into this folder to create APSquerySetup.exe
6. Double click the file APSquerySetup.exe or click and select "File | Open"
7. For **Windows-XP** installation, recommendation is to simply follow the default settings.
For **Windows Vista, Windows-7**, full administrator access privileges are required.
8. When complete, **APSquery** can be run by selecting "APS" on the Programs Menu and clicking the item "APS Plant Query"

Repeat: For Vista/Win-7, full administrator access privileges are required. This applies to ALL installation steps.

UNINSTALLING APSquery

Should you ever decide to remove **APSquery**, or are updating from a previous version, you will need to invoke the standard Windows process for uninstalling applications. Uninstalling is simple.

For versions prior to V2.0 this is performed through the standard Windows Control Panel as detailed here:

1. Select "Start | Settings | Control Panel"
2. Double Click "Add/Remove Programs" (WinXP) or "Programs and Features" (Vista, Win-7)
3. Double Click "APSquery"
4. Answer "YES" to uninstall.
5. If updating from V1.9x you will need to repeat steps 3,4 to delete the "APSdata" files.

For versions from V2.0 using InnoSetup Installer, simply select Uninstall APSquery from the APS Program Menu. It is permissible to simply overload the prior V2.0 version, but future changes MAY make this method unstable. Play it Safe!

APSquery

User Guide

Really Quick Start

- When **APSquery** has started, click on the Quick Criteria Page and then select Basic Search Criteria Page.
- Select the required criteria from the 8 provided then click on the “Start” button on the Tool Bar.
- This probably gives too many plants, so select from the other Criteria Pages on the same tab level as Quick Page and select more criteria. You will note that the criteria in the Basic Search page have been automatically copied to the other specific Criteria Pages.
- Now, click on the “Start” button on the Tool Bar. This should produce a selection of plants in the Brief Information Page.

If you get no plants, you have selected too many criteria. Try relaxing some of the criteria, either by unchecking some criteria or by adding other alternatives in the same group. If you get too many plants, tighten your requirements by adding more criteria or reducing the alternatives. For example, you may either include or exclude a range of Genus names.

- To clear the information, click the “Clear Brief” button on the Tool Bar while viewing the Brief Information Page.
- When the list is reduced to no more than about 5 to 10 plants, right click on the Brief Information Page and select “Generate Full Plant List” from the Pop-up Menu.
- Now click on the Full Information tab and examine the results. Navigate the Full Information List by using the “Previous Plant” and “Next Plant” buttons in the Tool Bar, or with the vertical scroll bar.
- The entire list, a selection indicated by highlighting, or just one plant from either the Brief Information Page or Full Information Page can be printed, by using the printer button on the Tool Bar.
- The Quick Print button (on the Tool Bar) can print the entire list, a selection indicated by highlighting, or just one plant from either the Brief Information Page or Full Information Page.

Now, use the following **Example** and follow it to its conclusion!

APSquery User Guide

Really Quick Start Example

Select **Quick Searches** then **Basic Search** and from the 8 options select the following criteria for an inland shrub in full sun, in neutral or slightly alkaline sand.

Form: Shrub
Location: Full Sun; Inland
Soil: Sand
Soil pH: Neutral, Alkaline 8

Click the “Start” button on the Tool Bar. This will try to produce a list of over 1000 plants, but will be aborted if the defined match limit is reached, so more criteria need to be specified. To refine the search more criteria will need to be selected.

Click the "Form" Criteria Page tab for a normal search. You will notice that “Shrub” has already been checked. Now click “Open” in the Appearance criteria and click the “Start” button. This will find about 100 plants.

Better, but still too many, so go to the Flower Criteria Page, select “Pink” flowers in “Spring” and repeat the search. This list is now down to about 12 plants, but to complete the search, go to the Position Criteria Page, select “Dry” Soil and “Hardy” in Cultivation.

The list is now like this:

Form: Shrub; Open
Flower: Pink; Spring
Location: Full Sun; Inland
Soil: Sand; Dry
Soil pH: Neutral, Alkaline 8
Cultivation: Hardy

Click the “Start” button once again. Only two plants should match these requirements: #7005 *Correa reflexa* (pink and green) and #6780 *Eremophila calorhabdos* (grey leaf).
(**Note:** This may alter as additions or changes are made to the database.)

Now, learn all about **APSquery** by trying the various options. Use the help file to find out the purpose of each option and function.

In particular, look at the capabilities provided in **Names Criteria**, and **Criteria Option Selection**.

If required, go back to the first page of **Really Quick Start** for revision!

APSquery User Guide

Short Cuts

Many of the commonly used functions in **APSquery** have keyboard short-cuts. These are listed beside the menu item, and most are shown below. For a complete, list go to “Help|Shortcuts” in **APSquery**.

Criteria Navigation	
Ctrl+R	Reset Criteria Selections
Ctrl+N	Next Page
Ctrl+P	Previous Page
Search Control	
Ctrl+F3	Start Search
Ctrl+S	Pause Search
Ctrl+Q	Stop Search
Strings	
Ctrl+F	Find a specified String
F3	Find Next String
Shift+F3	Find Previous String
Movement	
Ctrl+U	Previous (Up) Plant
Ctrl+D	Next (Down) Plant
Plant Clipboard Generation	
F11	Send This Plant Information
Shift+F11	Send Selected Plants Information
Shift+Ctrl+F11	Send All Plants Information

Plant Information	
F12	Generate Plant Information
Ctrl+Alt+U	Previous (Up) Plant
Ctrl+Alt+D	Next (Down) Plant
Information Editing	
Ctrl+A	Select All
Ctrl+C	Copy
Ctrl+X	Cut (not Plant Information)
Ctrl+V	Paste (not Plant Information)
Del	Delete (not Plant Information)
PgUp	Up Page
PgDn	Down Page
Home	Beginning of Line
End	End of Line
Ctrl+PgUp	Top of Page
Ctrl+PgDn	Bottom of Page
Ctrl+Home	Top of Information
Ctrl+End	Bottom of Information
Insert	Insert/Overwrite Toggle
Miscellaneous	
F1	Context-Sensitive Help
Alt+F4	Close APSquery

Contact Details

To contact the author for suggestions or problems, go to the “Help | About” Dialog Box in **APSquery** while you are connected to the Internet, and click on the appropriate e-mail address under “Contact Us”.

This should automatically open your e-mail client ready to prepare an e-mail with addressee and subject already inserted.

This document issued Wednesday, 25th April 2012