PLANT FACT SHEET

Melaleuca citrina (Curtis) Dum.Cours.

GENUS *Melaleuca* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

COMMON NAMES Lemon-scented Bottlebrush

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: flower - nectar, Leaves - tea

DESCRIPTION

An erect shrub or small tree. It grows 2-6 m high. The branches are rigid. The leaves are broadly sword shaped. They are 3-7 cm long and 8 mm wide. They have a prominent midrib ending in a small point. The bruised leaves have a lemon scent. The flowers are deep red and in dense spikes. These are 6-10 cm long and 6 cm wide. The fruit is a woody capsule 7 mm across. It is rounded but slightly flattened at the top.

HABITAT

It is common in coastal districts. It is usually in swampy situations and along streams. It can grow in moderate to poor soils as long as they are well-drained. It needs full sun. It can stand some coastal exposure. It is moderately salt tolerant. It can stand temperatures down to near 0°C. It suits hardiness zones 8-11. Adelaide Botanical Gardens. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

They can be grown from seed or tip cuttings. It can also be grown by air-layering.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

NOTES

There are about 25-30 Callistemon species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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