PLANT FACT SHEET

Leptospermum petersonii F. M. Bailey

GENUS *Leptospermum* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

COMMON NAMES Lemon scented tea-tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - tea

Fresh leaves are used as a tea substitute.

DESCRIPTION

A large shrub or small tree. It grows 2-5 m high. It spreads 1.5-2.5 m wide. The trunk is usually erect. The bark is grey-brown and flaky. The young branches are often red. The leaves are 2-4.5 cm long by 0.2-0.5 cm wide. They taper to a broad base. The leaves are pale green and have a lemon smell. The new leaves are shiny coppery green. The flowers are white. They are 1-1.5 cm across. They have short stalks. The fruit is a capsule 0.6 cm across. It has 5 cells.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to E Australia. It grows in temperate and subtropical regions. It needs well drained soil. It can grow in full sun or light shade. It can stand light frosts. It usually grows on sandy soils beside streams. It can be on rocky cliffs. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 82 Leptospermum species. Most grow in Australia.
NB Confused with Leptospermum citratum;

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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