PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Leptospermum scoparium* J. & G. Forster

**GENUS** *Leptospermum* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Manuka, Broom tea-tree, Tea-tree

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Manna, Leaves - tea

The fresh leaves are used for tea.

## DESCRIPTION

A prickly shrub. It is usually upright and slender. It can grow to 2-4 m high. It spreads 80 cm to 1.2 m wide. The leaves are hard and shiny. They do not have hairs and are sword shaped. They have a sharp point. The flowers are white. They have 5 petals. There is a ring of short stamens at the base of the petals. The fruit is a round capsules. The have 5 lobes on top. They do not have hairs. There are many cultivated varieties.

## HABITAT

It is native to Australia and New Zealand. It grows near the coast in cool temperate places. It can grow in warm temperate and some subtropical places. It grows in places that are waterlogged for part of the year. On Mt Roland. Hobart Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 8-10. Tasmania Herbarium. Arboretum Tasmania.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. They can also be grown from cuttings. Plants release their seed after fire.

## NOTES

The leaves were used for tea by some of Captain Cook's sailors. There are about 82 Leptospermum species. Most grow in Australia. The leaves are also used for medicine.

## PICTURES



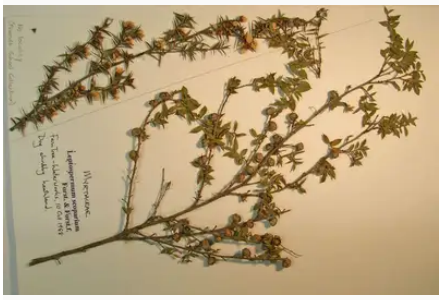
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