PLANT FACT SHEET

Leptospermum polygalifolium Salisb.

GENUS *Leptospermum* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

COMMON NAMES Tantoon, Tantoon Tea Tree, Yellow tea-tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - tea

The leaves are used as a tea substitute.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 1-4 m high and spreads 1-1.5 m wide. It is dense and upright. The leaves are narrow and 1-2 cm long by 3 mm wide. The edges of the leaves curve backwards. The tip is pointed. The leaves are bright and crowded together. The flowers are white or green and occur in masses. The petals are open. They are 1.5 cm across. They are produced in the axils of the upper leaves. The fruit is a 5-celled capsule about 1 cm across.

HABITAT

It grows in subtropical and warm temperate locations. It grows along creeks and in rocky areas. It occurs in damp and sandy soils. It is often in heath or open forest. Plants can tolerate frost. It suits hardiness zones 8-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 82 Leptospermum species. Most grow in Australia.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/b55fa445-6947-4572-9d1e-778b8b19574f