PLANT FACT SHEET

Melaleuca viridiflora Sol. ex Gaertner

GENUS *Melaleuca* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

COMMON NAMES Broad-leaved Paperbark, Coarse-leaved paperbark

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Bark - flavouring, Trunk - water, flower - nectar

The bark was wrapped around food while cooking.
The leaves are used as a substitute for tea.

DESCRIPTION

A medium to large tree. It grows 7-18 m high. It spreads 5-8 m wide. Often the branches hang down. The bark is papery. The young branches are grey or bronze with silky hairs. The leaves are broad and oval. The leaf stalks are 0.4-2 cm long. The leaves are green and thick and leathery. They have 3-5 prominent veins. The flowers are in white, yellow-green or red spikes. These are at the ends of branches or in the axils of upper leaves. They are 4-15 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. There are clusters of 1-3 heads. The capsule is 0.25-4 cm long by 0.4-0.6 cm wide and cup shaped.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It can grow from temperate to subtropical regions. It also grows in the tropics. It can grow in semi-arid regions. It needs well drained soil but the soil should be moist. It can grow in full sun or light shade. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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