

Melaleuca bracteata

Black Tea Tree

Family

Myrtaceae

Identifying Features

A useful small tree cultivated widely for its compact shape, numerous small, cream coloured 'bottle brush' flowers and its ability to grow in a variety of conditions.

Height and width in Cultivation

Domed canopy 6m (h) x 3m (w) branching lateral to upward; foliage concentrated at ends of branches.

Street trees

Suitable under wires

Trunk

Cylindrical, butt sometimes flanged and predominately buttressed at the base of large trees

Bark

Dark grey, hard and deeply fissured.

Leaves

The leaves are 3-12 mm long and very narrow.

Flowers

The white flowers occur on a terminal spike, 5-15 mm long, with its stem growing out into a leafy shoot; Flowering in Winter-Spring.

Fruit

The fruit is cup-shaped and 2-3 mm long.

Amenity Value

Dense foliage is a habitat for wildlife

Type of Tree

Evergreen

Natural distribution

Central slopes of north-eastern New South Wales to Cape York, Queensland.

Life Expectancy

- Natural 100yrs
- Urban environment 60 yrs

Soils

Heavy clays and fine alluvials and have a wide range of fertility.

Tolerances

- Shade tolerance - High
- Periods of inundation
- Drought - Moderate
- Soil low oxygen and compacted - Moderate
- Root disturbance Moderate - High
- Frosts - Low

