

Melaleuca styphelioides

Prickly Leaved Paperbark

Family

Myrtaceae

Identifying Features

A lovely large shrub or small tree producing a mass of white/creamy flowers in Spring – Summer. The trunk also provides an interesting feature with thick papery bark.

Height and width in Cultivation

Domed canopy 15m (h) x 10m (w) branching lateral to upward; foliage concentrated at ends of branches.

Street trees

Suitable for use where no overhead wires exist

Trunk

Up to 1m diameter when mature. The trunk is cylindrical and sometimes buttressed at the base of large trees

Bark

Thick cream in colour and papery

Leaves

Leaves alternate, ovate to broad-ovate, mostly 7-15mm long, 2.5-6mm wide, with 15-30 longitudinal veins, apex pungent, glabrous; sessile

Flowers

Spring-Summer; Inflorescences few - to many-flowered dense spikes up to 2 cm long; rachis tomentose. Flowers usually in threes within each leaf-like bract; white. Petals ± circular, 1-2mm long, falling early. Stamens 12-26 per bundle; claw 3-4mm long

Fruit

Ovoid, 2-3mm diam.

Amenity Value

Flowers attracted native birds

Type of Tree

Evergreen

Natural distribution

The species occurs along stream banks or other moist situations, mostly in coastal areas from Nowra in New South Wales and northwards in to Queensland

Life Expectancy

- Natural 100yrs
- urban environment 60yrs

Soils

Growing in Alluvial soils sands and clays

Tolerances

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

