



INDIGENOUS GARDEN

Callistemon (*Bottlebrush*)

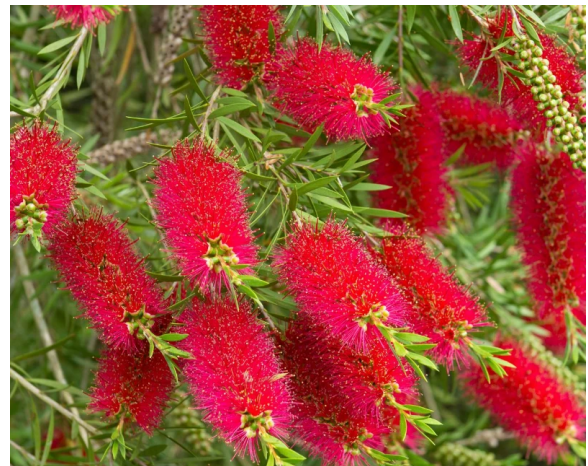
Indigenous use

Callistemon citrinus (Myrtaceae) is a shrub native to Australia. Its flowers have been used as food by Aboriginal Australians. Numerous diseases, such as bacterial, fungal, viral and parasite infections have traditionally been treated with this plant

Description

There are 40 different varieties of *Callistemon* and all but four varieties are endemic Australian species. It is a very hardy Australian shrub or small tree that features a magnificent and highly distinctive flower head. The Bottlebrush is closely related to the paperbark *melaleuca* which have "bottlebrush" shaped flowers.

Their prolific flowers are adored by nectar loving birds and insects and their ability to survive the harshest gardener neglect makes the Bottlebrush a great choice for almost every garden and landscaping project.



Habitat

Most Bottlebrushes occur in the east and south-east of Australia. Bottlebrushes can be found growing from Australia's tropical north to the temperate south. They often grow in damp or wet conditions such as along creek beds or in areas which are prone to floods.