



INDIGENOUS GARDEN

Backhousia citriodora (Lemon Myrtle)

Indigenous use

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the northern tropical regions have been using *Backhousia citriodora* as a flavouring and healing oil for thousands of years. Lemon Myrtle leaves were added to fish wrapped in paperbark to add a citrus flavour and aroma to the meat. In bush medicine, leaves and oils were used to treat headaches, colds, infections, and a variety of other ailments.

Description

Medium-sized tree (3-20m) originating from coastal rainforest areas. Strikingly pretty white aromatic flowers form in November or December. Fruit is a small capsule with small seeds



Habitat

Lemon myrtle grows naturally in a sub-tropical climate in areas with < 800mm rainfall. The tree prefers a nutrient rich soil of medium to heavy texture in a well-drained, wind-protected sunny position.