



INDIGENOUS GARDEN

Melaleuca quinquenervia (Paperbark)

Indigenous use

The Paperbark tree is referred to as a 'womens' business' plant. The soft bark would be used during menstruation and during and after childbirth as bedding. It could also be used to wrap any bleeding injuries, or soaked in water and wrapped around meat before placing in a fire to cook. Sheets of paperbark would also be used like tiles as roofing.

Description

Melaleuca quinquenervia is a medium sized to tall tree, growing from 8 to 25 metres tall. The growth is spreading and it has flowers with white bottlebrushes in late summer to autumn, attracting nectar eating wildlife.



Habitat

Paperbarks grow naturally from Cape York Queensland to Sydney as it withstands both very wet conditions and dryness.