



Stiff Bottlebrush



SPECIES NAME: *Callistemon rigidus*
COMMON NAME: Stiff Bottlebrush

Family	MYRTACEAE
Plant type	Shrub
Height	Up to 2m high.
Distinctive features	Leaves are stiff and often rough because of raised oil dots.
Flowers and fruit	Red flowers bloom from spring to summer on the ends of branches. Small round capsules containing seeds remain on branches after flowering.
Bushland habitat	Found in moist sandstone heaths and woodlands; also on clay soils in Cumberland Plain.
Aboriginal use	Flowers soaked in water produce a sweet cordial.
Interaction with fauna	Nectar in flowers attracts birds particularly Honeyeaters and Wattlebirds, possums and butterflies. Foliage provides good habitat for Fairy-wrens.

HORTICULTURAL INFORMATION

Soil	Prefers well drained soil, can tolerate clay soil.
Position	Full sun, can be potted in large tubs - suitable for balconies and courtyards. Frost resistant.
Watering	Twice weekly until established.
Maintenance	Responds well to pruning with bushy growth, best time to prune is after flowering.
Pests	A serious stem disease often disfigures this species causing a witches broom. Roots may also rot if the tree is planted in soil that is constantly wet. Mites may be troublesome in hot, dry locations. Callistemons are also often attacked by Saw Fly which causes 'denuding' of the foliage. This can be controlled by removing the attacked foliage when the pest first appears.

Attracts butterflies, birds
& arboreal mammals



Aboriginal use



Flowering



Suitable for pots



Shrub

