

## *Callistemon citrinus*

### Scientific classification

Kingdom	: Plantae
Clade	: Angiosperms
Order	: Myrtales
Family	: Myrtaceae
Subfamily	: Myrtoideae
Tribe	: Melaleuceae
Genus	: <i>Callistemon</i>
Species	: <i>C. citrinus</i>



*Callistemon citrinus*

## Description

*Callistemon* species have commonly been referred to as **bottlebrushes** because of their cylindrical, brush like flowers resembling a traditional bottle brush. Leaves are flat and stiff and growth is also stiff and dense, made more so by pruning which may be done after the spring flowering or in autumn in frost-free climates; an old specimen pruned for years forms a tough shrub with stringy lower bark. An average height would be 3-4 m. The bottle brush can be used for a large hedge trimmed hard, or trained for a small tree by keeping one stem and staking in early years; for this purpose 4 m would be a good height in Canberra.

The woody seed capsules remain closed on the branches for years and open when taken off and placed in a warm place, such as a sunny windowsill. Seed is plentiful and young plants are easily raised this way. Cuttings of semi-ripe wood can be used to increase especially good forms.

### **Medicinal uses:**

They are woody aromatic trees and the different parts of this herb have been used in common remedies for treatment of diarrhoea, dysentery and rheumatism. It is also used as a water accent, anticough, antibronchitis and insecticide in folk **medicine**