

# Melaleuca citrina

## COMMON NAMES

common red bottle brush, crimson bottle brush, lemon bottlebrush, honey myrtle

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Erect much-branched shrub to 5 m or more. Flowers in dense red/crimson 'bottlebrush' heads. Crushed leaves lemon scented (hence the common name 'lemon bottlebrush')

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Melaleuca rigida* has shorter, narrower more coriaceous leaves; its persistent capsules are more woody and dense than in *M. citrina*.

## THREATS

This taxon may be prone to Myrtle Rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) is an invasive fungus which threatens myrtle species - learn more [myrtlerust.org.nz](http://myrtlerust.org.nz)

## GENUS

Melaleuca

## FAMILY

Myrtaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Melaleuca citrina* (Curtis) Dum. Cours.

## SYNONYMS

*Callistemon citrinus*

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FRUITING

Hard persistent capsules

## YEAR NATURALISED

1975

## ORIGIN

Australia

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental. Very widely grown in NZ but few confirmed records of it self-establishing



Street berm shrubs, Mount View Road, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 28/11/2007, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Inflorescences on street berm shrub, Mount View Road, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 28/11/2007, Licence: CC BY-NC.

**PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE**

Seed

**MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY**

Key to the Myrtaceae of New Zealand

**NVS CODE**

MELCIT

**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/melaleuca-citrina/>

**PDF DATE**

25 May 2026