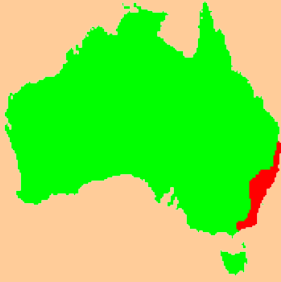


Callistemon citrinus



Family: Myrtaceae

Distribution: New South Wales, Victoria and southern Queensland, usually in wet or swampy conditions.

Common Name: Crimson Bottlebrush

Derivation of Name: *Callistemon*...from Greek *kalos*; beautiful and *stemon*; stamens
citrinus...from Latin *citrinus*; lemon, referring to the scent of the leaves

Conservation Status: Not considered to be at risk in the wild.

General Description:

Callistemon citrinus is the most widely cultivated member of the genus both in Australia and overseas (where it is sometimes known by its older name of *C.lanceolatus*).



Left: Typical colour form of *Callistemon citrinus*

Right: *Callistemon citrinus* 'White Anzac'

Photos: Brian Walters

The species has been responsible for many of the cultivars that are seen in gardens, sometimes as hybrids with other *Callistemon* species. Most of these cultivars have arisen as chance seedlings rather than by deliberate hybridisation. Some of the better known cultivars of *C.citrinus* are "Mauve Mist" (mauve), "Burgundy" (purple-red), "White Anzac", "Endeavour" (red) and "Reeves Pink" (pink).

In general, *C.citrinus* is a medium shrub reaching about 2m by 2m. Some forms may vary from the

typical size (eg. *C.*"White Anzac" is generally a shrub to 1m). It is a hardy plant under a wide range of conditions.

Like most Callistemons, *C.citrinus* (and its various forms) are adaptable to a wide range of soils and climate and may be pruned severely if necessary. Many Callistemons can tolerate less than perfect drainage but usually perform best in gardens with reasonable drainage and regular availability of water. Callistemons respond well to annual fertilising after flowering and are not as sensitive as some other Australian plants to phosphorus.

Propagation is easy from both seed and cuttings. However, propagation of named cultivars must not be carried out from seed because of seedling variation that occurs.