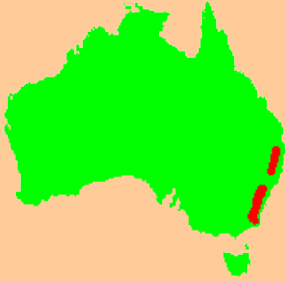


# Callistemon ptyoides



**Family:** Myrtaceae

**Distribution:** Southern Queensland, New South Wales and north-east Victoria, often at higher altitudes

**Common Name:** Alpine bottlebrush

**Derivation of Name:** *Callistemon*...from Greek *kalos*; beautiful and *stemon*; stamens  
*ptyoides*...from Greek, *pitys*, a pine, and *-oides*, similar to, referring to the pine-like foliage.

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

## General Description:

The taxonomy of *Callistemon ptyoides* is a little confusing. The species has been commonly known as *C.sieberi* but research has shown that the latter name should actually be applied to the plant previously known as *C.paludosus*. This has necessitated a new name for the former *C.sieberi* and *C.ptyoides* (which had been used for that plant in the past) has been reinstated.



*Callistemon ptyoides*

Photo: Brian Walters

This species is common in alpine and sub-alpine areas which it is often found in marshy conditions. It is a variable shrub with forms from higher altitudes being compact in habit to about 1 metre in height. At lower altitudes it can reach 3 metres. Leaves are narrow with a sharp point and up to 35 mm long. The brushes are lemon-yellow, about 100 mm long by about 25 mm diameter.

This is an excellent species for cultivation in cold climates and it is commonly grown in England.

Forms from the higher altitudes may, however, not flower well at lower elevation. The plant performs best in medium to heavy soils and can tolerate less than perfect drainage. It responds to annual fertilising after flowering.

Propagation of *C.pityoides* is easy from both seed and cuttings.