

Broad-leaved Paperbark

Melaleuca quinquenervia



Family: Myrtaceae

Tree 12 - 25 m with papery bark



Distribution: Widespread north from Botany Bay NSW into Queensland and also in New Guinea.

Description: trunk covered by a white, beige and grey thick papery bark. The grey-green leaves are ovate and the cream or white bottlebrush-like flowers appear from late spring to autumn.

Propagation: Woody capsules will release the fine seed when placed in an open container or paper bag, in a warm position, in 2-3 days. For best results, the capsules should be at least 12 month's old. Also propagate from cuttings.

Habitat: Grows in seasonally inundated plains and swampland.

Uses: Bird attracting, hardy in a range of climates and is particularly useful for poorly drained sites. All species of melaleuca can be used to treat symptoms of colds, flu and sinusitis by inhaling the steam from boiling or burning the leaves. The young leaves can also be crushed in the hands and released oils inhaled deeply to relieve headaches, blocked sinuses, coughs and runny noses. Nectar-rich blossoms can be soaked in water to make a sweet drink. The bark can be used to make containers for food and water storage.