

Focus on

MELALEUCA QUINQUINERVIA (Broad Leafed Paperbark)



Melaleuca quinquinervia is one of the most versatile and useful species that you can plant. It occurs naturally in coastal areas from Sydney and north to Queensland. It is a very fast growing tree and many references cite heights of 20m or more with massive trunks but the reality is that these specimens are up to 100 years old and are the exceptions rather than the rules. In its natural habitat, this species dominates the landscape and saplings occur very close to each other and competition for light forces them higher than they would in open situations.

Flowers on Melaleuca quinquinervia are cream to very pale yellow in colour and create a distinct display from mid-summer through to autumn, providing a valuable source of late season nectar for a wide range of insect and bird species, such as the scaly-breasted and rainbow lorikeets.

It is well known for its capability to withstand both flood and drought conditions. It will grow in any soil type and under any conditions ranging from waterlogged to hard, dry sites by adjusting its growth rate to suit the conditions.

USES:

Therapeutic –

- M. quinquinervia honey is a natural probiotic as well as providing microbial healing properties for cuts and abrasions.
- A brew can be made from the bruised young aromatic leaves to treat colds, headaches and general sickness.
- Extracted oil is used for arthritis and rheumatism relief or as an inhalant for colds and rhinitis.
- The oil is also applied externally for burns, cramps, colic, earache, headache, pain, skin disease, and toothache.
- Softened bark is applied to boils as a “drawing poultice”.
- The leaves are a great source of oils to produce effective insect repellants including mosquitos, fleas and lice.



Craft - Seed capsules and Paperbark are used for Bark Paintings

Revegetation – Provides good erosion control

Windbreak – Long lived and versatile windbreak or shelter species for wet or dry sites.

Fauna support – Provides nesting materials and nectar for birds. The bark also provides insectivores with a source of nutrition. The scented flower also produces a light to dark amber honey depending on the district. It is strongly flavoured and candies readily

Other – Wood is resistant to termite attack and is used as a timber tree for flooring, cabinetry and fence posts destined for wet areas.



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