

Callistemon

Botanical Name: *Callistemon*

Common Name: Bottlebrush

Morphological Characters:

An evergreen small shrub that typically forms a 3 to 5 foot tall by 6 to 8 foot wide rounded mound with narrow 3 inch long bluish gray-green leaves and flowers of blood-red bristle-like stamens that appear throughout the year, but peak bloom time is early summer through fall. Plant in full sun to light shade. It is drought tolerant in coastal gardens but tolerates and performs best with some irrigation. Hardy to 20-25 degrees F and reportedly can rebound after defoliation in temperatures down into the teens. Tolerates seaside conditions. A very attractive smaller Bottlebrush for massing or as a foundation plant or a low hedge and great for attracting bees and hummingbirds into the garden.



Growing season and type:

1. Bottlebrush plants (*Callistemon* spp.) get their name from the spikes of flowers that bloom at the ends of the stems, bearing a strong resemblance to a bottle brush.
2. Grow them as shrubs or small trees that grow up to 15 feet.
3. Most bottlebrush varieties bloom over a long summer season in shades of red or crimson. One exception is *C. sieberi*, which has light yellow flower spikes.



3



1.



2

1. Flower of *Callistemon*
2. Leaf of *Callistemon*
3. Tree of *Callistemon*