

## *Melaleuca viminalis*

**Botanical name:** *Melaleuca viminalis*

**Common name:** Weeping bottlebrush, or creek bottlebrush

### **Morphological characters:**

*Melaleuca viminalis* is a large shrub or small tree growing to 35 metres (100 ft) tall with hard, fibrous, furrowed bark, a number of trunks and usually pendulous branches. Its leaves are arranged alternately and are 25–138 millimetres (1–5 in) long, 3–27 millimetres (0.1–1 in) wide, more or less flat, very narrow elliptical to narrow egg-shaped with the narrower end towards the base and the other end tapering to a sharp point. The leaves have a mid-vein, 9-27 lateral veins and large number of conspicuous oil glands. The flowers are bright red and are arranged in spikes on and around the ends of branches which continue to grow after flowering. The spikes are 35–50 millimetres (1–2 in) in diameter and 40–100 millimetres (2–4 in) long with 15 to 50 individual flowers. The petals are 3.4–5.9 millimetres (0.1–0.2 in) long and fall off as the flower ages and the stamens are arranged in five bundles around the flower. The bundles are sometimes obscure but each contains 9 to 14 stamens. Flowering occurs from September to December and often sporadically throughout the year. Flowering is followed by fruits which are woody capsules, 3.8–4.8 millimetres (0.1–0.2 in) long and 5–6 millimetres (0.20–0.24 in) in diameter



### **Growing season and type:**

1. There are a number of widely grown cultivars of *C.viminalis*. One of the most popular in cultivation is *Callistemon* 'Captain Cook'.
2. *C.*"Captain Cook" is a dense, bushy shrub 1.5 to 2 m tall by a similar spread.
3. It has narrow leaves 50-60 mm long and produces masses of red brushes in mid to late spring (October to November).
4. Flowers may also appear in late summer and autumn.



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1. Flower of *Melaleuca viminalis*
2. Leaves of *Melaleuca viminalis*
3. *Melaleuca viminalis* tree