

Botanical Name: Callistemon rigidus

Common Name: Stiff bottlebrush

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Family Myrtaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape Upright, irregular to oval-shaped small tree with somewhat
sparse branching and less graceful than other Callistemon species

Height to 20 ft. Spread 10 to 15 ft. Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun preferred

Soil tolerates most any soil; suffers from chlorosis in heavy soil

Hardiness hardy (Zones 8,9, 12-24)

Morphology:

Leaves stiff, narrowly elliptical, grayish green to 1-1/2" long,
1/8" across; young foliage coated with a downy pubescence

Flowers terminal spikes of many-stamened, crimson red flowers; stamens
to 1" long, spikes to 6" long; flowers most heavily spring and summer

Fruit small woody capsule which is persistent for several years

Propagation: seed, semi-hardwood cuttings

Usage: a graceful, small-sized accent tree for its flower display
and loose form; suitable as espalier or informal large hedge; excellent for
sub-tropical, informal landscapes; Spanish-style architecture, or use with
native plants in water-conserving landscapes

Landscape Care:

Watering moderate watering preferred; can tolerate drought once estab-
lished; good drainage is essential

Fertilizing treat for iron chlorosis in heavy soils

Pruning thin and head up selectively; light pruning only

Pests/Diseases relatively pest free

Other heavy pruning will result in dieback - don't over-prune

Origin: Australia