

Scarlet Honey Myrtle *Melaleuca fulgens*



NATIVE PLANT NOTES

Kings Park Master
Gardeners
Telephone: (08) 9480
3672

Description

The word *fulgens* means *shining* or *illustrious*. Certainly this *Melaleuca* has been admired for many years for its beautiful flower spikes. Of open habit, the mature height and width is about 1.5 m by 1.5 m.

Flowers

Flowering time is late spring to early summer. Flowers occur in spikes and are usually scarlet but colour variations of apricot or pinkish-red are also available. Spikes are borne on lateral branches and this seems to be why the flowers are so well displayed.

Growing conditions

Melaleuca fulgens is adaptable to most soils including heavy soils but may show yellowing of the foliage if the soil is alkaline. Choose a sunny spot or part shade. Plant when the soil has cooled down but there is still some warmth remaining in the soil. Late autumn and early winter are the best times.

Watering

Water thoroughly at planting time and in the summer following. If there is a long dry spell during the winter it will also need extra water. Once established it is very tolerant of dry conditions.

Pruning

Prune lightly to shape as it is maturing and after flowering to avoid woodiness and to encourage new growth for subsequent flowering.

Fertiliser

Apply a slow-release native plant fertiliser at the time of planting and then annually if necessary for the soil type.

Pests and diseases

A healthy plant should not have trouble with pests or diseases. If a few mealy bugs appear, brush these carefully with a small fine paint brush (child's type) dipped in a solution of methylated spirits and water.

Miscellaneous information

The Scarlet Honey Myrtle has been grown successfully in large containers.



Further Information

Gardening Advisory Service, a free service provided by Kings Park Volunteer Master Gardeners. Phone: 9480 3672 or Email: garden.advice@bgpa.wa.gov.au.

Pest and Diseases Information Service, Department of Agriculture and Food. Freecall 1800 084 881
Email: info@agric.wa.gov.au or visit www.agric.wa.gov.au.