

## Melaleuca species

Requires a fertile, moisture retentive lime-free soil in full sun. Prefers a soil that does not contain much nitrogen. Plants are shade tolerant and succeed in most soils and aspects except dry conditions when they are grown in Australian gardens.

This species is moderately cold hardy in Australian terms. It tolerates temperatures down to at least -7°C. Fertile seed takes about 12 months to develop on the plant, the woody seed capsules persist for 3 or more years. Any pruning is best done after the plants have flowered with the intention of maintaining a compact habit.

Hybridises freely with other members of this genus.

Plants in this genus are notably resistant to honey fungus.

### Propagation

**Seed** – surface sow in spring or autumn onto a pot of permanently moist soil or in a warm greenhouse. Immerse in 5cm of water and do not water from overhead. Grow on until the seedlings are 0.5cm tall then remove from the water and pot up a week later. Seedlings are liable to damp off when grown this way, so sow the seed thinly. Good ventilation and hygiene are essential for success.