Callistemon citrinus var. splendens *Myrtaceae*

Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania

**Common names: English:** Bottlebrush.

Ecology: In Australia it is found on low-lying ground including valley bottoms, so will grow on badly drained sites. Now widely planted in the tropics. Common in Central and Western Regions of Uganda.

**Uses:** Firewood, medicine, bee forage, windbreak, ornamental.

**Description:** A small evergreen tree, to 6 m high, with **drooping foliage.** BARK: grey, smooth, furrowed with age. LEAVES: **narrow, tough, grey-green to 8 cm,** young leaves pink-green, faintly lemon scented when crushed. FLOWERS: **vivid crimson bottle- brush-like cylindrical spikes,** a mass of **long red stamens,** nectar attracting sunbirds and bees. Leafy shoots continue to grow beyond the flower "brush". FRUIT: **small woody capsules,** persisting many months, contain the tiny seed.

**Propagation:** Seedlings

**Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: about 44,000. Seed germination is uniform (two weeks).

**treatment:** not necessary. **storage:** seed stores well (six months).

**Management:** Fast growing on good sites.

**Remarks:** Commonly planted as single ornamental trees in gardens. Another Callistemon variety has erect flowers, not drooping; otherwise they are similar. The bark is commonly used as cough medicine wherever it is planted in Uganda, its removal often damaging the tree.