

Weeping Bottlebrush

GENERAL

Origin	: sub-tropical
Vigour	: fairly fast growing
Humidity	: semi-arid, semi-humid, very humid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out, cuttings
Maintenance	: moderate

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: resistant
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: medium
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (2500 ppm)
Hardiness	: 0°C

SHAPE

Type	: shrub, tree
Height	: 5 m-10 m
Spread	: 3 m-5 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: bright red
Size	: 5 cm - 15 cm
Period	: April - September

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: capsule
Fruit size	: 0.6 cm

This shrub from eastern Australia may be trained as a small tree up to 10 metres high, but will require support until the stem is strong enough to bear the crown. Its weeping branches produce bright-red flowers from spring onwards. It makes a terrific silhouette when grown as a multi-trunked, small tree. The evergreen leaves are up to 10 cm long and flushed with bronze when young turning light-green later on. Full sun and fertile, well-drained soil are the main requirements to promote healthy growth. Some drought is tolerated, while wind and overwatering may harm the plant. Frost damage is likely to occur in Arriyadh, so that the planting location should not be exposed. Some cultivars are available, such as ‘Captain Cook’, which is a dwarf variety. The latter is reproduced by cuttings, while the species may also be propagated by seeds. Its compact size and moderate requirements make the Weeping Bottlebrush an ideal small tree for public parks and private gardens alike. Maintenance is little with occasional trimming to keep an attractive shape. Pruning is best done after flowering, saving the plants’ energy by stopping seed production. Standard trees require some thinning to adapt the crown’s size to the stability of the trunk. Transplanting should be done in spring and watering must be frequent until the plant is established. A dense screen can be created by close planting of Bottle Brushes. It is useful in a street situation, good on lawns and can be grown in containers.

