

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANT

IDENTIFICATION SHEET

Family Myrtaceae

Genus <i>Melaleuca</i>	Common Names
Species <i>quinquenervia</i>	Broad Leafed Paperbark

Origin Coastal wetlands, riverine swamps, watercourses, lake margins from Botany Bay, New South Wales to Far North Queensland. Also New Guinea and New Caledonia.

Growth Habit	<i>Tree / Shrub / S.W.P</i> Tree	<i>Other</i>
	<i>Evergreen</i> Yes	<i>Deciduous</i> No
	<i>Height</i> Usually to 12m can grow to 25m in favourable conditions	<i>Width</i> 5m – 10m



Leaves	Type	Arrangement	Shape	Margin	Colour
	Simple	Alternate	Lanceolate - elliptic	Entire	Yellow/Green
Leaflets	Type	Arrangement	Shape	Margin	Colour
Florets	Perfume	Shape/Type	Inflorescence	Season	Colour
	Mash potato like.	Actinomorphic	Many flowered Spike	Autumn	Cream sometimes greenish
Fruit Type	Capsule		Leaf Surface	Mostly hairy with appressed hairs	
Climate & Aspect	Humid Temperate, Humid Subtropical, Humid Tropical. Full sun to part shade.				
Environmental Tolerances	Tolerates seasonal inundation for many months. Copes with light to moderate salinity. Will cope with extended dry periods and will regrow after fire. Tolerant of acidic soils and low in oxygen. Copes well with salt laden winds.				
Soil Requirements	Sandy through to heavy clay.				
Cultural Uses	Long known in cultivation. Used as a street tree in Brisbane. Major food source for birds, mammals, insects and bee forage. Used extensively as a wetland revegetation species e.g. Tinchi Tamba Wetlands on the Pine River. Keystone species in wetlands.				

<p>Other Distinguishing Features</p>	<p>One of the true paper barks. Greyish white flaky bark can be removed in long thick strips and certainly used this way by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for dilli bags and art work etc. Acts as protective insulation to fire and waterlogging. Bark often carries signs of burning from fire.</p>
<p>Propagation</p>	<p>This species can be propagated by either seed or cuttings and strike readily from both. This is best done during the growing seasons - for sub tropical areas August to March. Seeds can be collected from mature seed capsules during July for propagation in August onwards. Cuttings are best taken when it is evident that the tree is producing new shoots and growing strongly after winter. It is important that seed/cuttings are collected from healthy trees.</p> <p>Seeds A single seed capsule may contain up to 300 seeds and their viability remains close to 70% after 4 years. They are very small and care must be taken when planting. To extract from the ripe pods just simply tap them into a white bowl or cloth. Use a mix of 3 parts peat to 1 part perlite in either germination trays or nursery tubes. In germination trays sprinkle seed onto the mix and lightly cover with mix burying the seed to 1 and half times its size. Take extreme care when watering in and with subsequent watering ensuring a light mist is applied so the seeds will not be disturbed. Keep the mix moist but not wet and never let it dry out. 3-4 weeks after germination prick out the smaller weaker seedlings and at two months transfer the strongest growing seedlings to nursery tubes. You may sow seed directly into tubes but care must be taken to ensure only a few seeds are planted in each tube and the weakest seedlings are pricked out after 3-4 weeks from germination. Seedlings are ready for planting out when the first roots are seen growing from the drainage holes at the base of the tube.</p> <p>Cuttings can be grown using the same mix in nursery tubes. Semi-ripe cuttings are best and in this I mean taken from new wood behind the growing tip showing some bark formation. Take 8-10cm cuttings pruning to a top and bottom node leaving only two leaves at the top growing node. Dip the basal node into rooting hormone No.1 or unboiled honey and using a dibbler (small stick or pencil end) make a hole in the mix and insert the cutting to a depth of 2-3cm and press the mix around the cutting. Remember to water in using a misting nozzle and keep the mix moist but not wet – do not let it dry out. Cuttings are ready for planting when the first roots appear growing from the drainage holes.</p> <p>For both seeds and cuttings place trays/pots ideally on free draining benches under 50% shade cloth to protect them from fierce summer sun, strong winds and heavy rain.</p> <p>A liquid feed of an organically derived fertiliser eg. Charlie Carp can be applied every two weeks for faster stronger growth. However remember as these trees are being grown for revegetation plots where they receive little or no after planting care sufficient nutrient exists in the mix for their needs.</p>