



Scientific Name	<i>Callistemon citrinus</i> (Curtis) Skeels
Common Name	Bottle Brush, Laila Majnu
Family	Myrtaceae
Plant Description	A large tree having branched, tap root with crimson-yellow to red flowers. Stem is woody but upper portions herbaceous, erect, branched, cylindrical and solid. Leaves are Ramal and cauline, simple, alternate, entire, acute, gland dotted, leathery, unicostate reticulate venation, with inframarginal veins. Inflorescence is Pendant spike, 4 to 8 inches long. Flowers are Bracteate, bracts caduceus but sometimes green, leafy and persistent, pedicellate or shortly stalked, complete, hermaphrodite, actinomorphic, pentamerous, epigynous, crimson-yellow to bright red. Calyx composed of 5 sepals,

	<p>gamosepalous, imbricate, persistent, small and green. Corolla composed of 5 petals, polypetalous, obovate, quincuncial, small and coloured. Androecium made up of many stamens, polyandrous, filaments long, basally connate form a staminal sheath, ditheous, dorsifixed, introrse, filaments bright red, giving the same colour to the flower. Gynoecium is bi to tetracarpellary, generally tricarpellary, syncarpous, inferior, number of the locules as many as the carpels, many ovules in each locule, axile placentation, style long and curved, stigma flat. Fruit is a capsule.</p>
<p>Distribution</p>	<p>New South Wales, Victoria and southern Queensland, usually in wet or swampy conditions.</p>
<p>Uses</p>	<p>Callistemon citrinus is a plant that is drought tolerant but performs best with regular irrigation. It is virtually disease free and pest – free. The plant has anti-fungal, anti-bacterial and anti-oxidant properties. It functions as a cough suppressant and diuretic for help with urinary tract issues, incontinence, and bed wetting. The plant is also useful as a specimen tree or hedge in frost free climates and as a container plant or house plant in colder climates.</p>
<p>Flowering and Fruiting Time</p>	<p>This tree becomes an adult specimen between 6 and 8 years of life, although it is already capable of flowering from its juvenile stage. After 4 years, the callistemon citrinus will be able to produce flowers and fruits. Its flowering and fruiting time extends from February to April.</p>