

## Leptospermum scoparium

### (Tea tree, Manuka)

This large evergreen shrub or small tree has small, prickly, needle-like leaves and many thumbnail-sized blossoms. It is a native of New Zealand where it grows in a wide range of areas; therefore it is unexpectedly adaptable, especially to arid sites and soils. The waxy, five-petaled blooms are small and densely line the branches. Pink, rose, white or red-flowered selections are available as are double-flowered forms, though in the wild the flowers are typically white or rarely pink. Many cultivated varieties have been bred for improved habit, size, flower color and performance. Tea tree grows quickly if given full to partial sun and acid to neutral soil with average to good drainage. It will withstand arid coastal and inland conditions but grows more vigorously if well-watered. In highly arid regions, it is best to provide protection from hot afternoon sun. Use tea tree to flesh out mixed borders and dry gardens. It is excellent for erosion control but not in wildfire hazard zones as it is oil-rich and volatile.



Plant Image

#### Landscape Information

**French Name:** Leptospermum scoparium

**Pronunciation:** lep-toh-SPER-mum sko-PAIR-ee-um

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Origin:** Tasmania, New Zealand

**Heat Zones:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

**Hardiness Zones:** 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

**Uses:** Specimen, Border Plant, Mass Planting, Wildlife, Cut Flowers / Arrangements, Pollution Tolerant / Urban

#### Size/Shape

**Growth Rate:** Fast

**Tree Shape:** oval

**Canopy Symmetry:** Symmetrical

**Canopy Density:** Medium

**Canopy Texture:** Fine

**Height at Maturity:** 1.5 to 3 m

**Spread at Maturity:** 1.5 to 3 meters

**Time to Ultimate Height:** 2 to 5 Years

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Flower Image

## Botanical Description

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### Foliage

**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite

**Leaf Venation:** Pinnate

**Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Blade:** Less than 5

**Leaf Shape:** Linear

**Leaf Margins:** Entire

**Leaf Textures:** Rough

**Leaf Scent:** Pleasant

**Color(growing season):** Green

**Color(changing season):** Green

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### Flower

**Flower Showiness:** True

**Flower Size Range:** 1.5 - 3

**Flower Type:** Solitary

**Flower Sexuality:** Monoecious (Bisexual)

**Flower Scent:** Pleasant

**Flower Color:** White, Pink

**Seasons:** Year Round

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### Trunk

**Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage:** Generally resists breakage

**Number of Trunks:** Multi-Trunked

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### Fruit

**Fruit Type:** Capsule

**Fruit Showiness:** True

**Fruit Size Range:** 1.5 - 3

**Fruit Colors:** Black

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Leaf Image

### Horticulture Management

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#### Tolerance

**Frost Tolerant:** Yes

**Heat Tolerant:** Yes

**Drought Tolerant:** Yes

**Salt Tolerance:** Good

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#### Requirements

**Soil Requirements:** Clay, Loam, Sand

**Soil Ph Requirements:** Acidic, Neutral

**Water Requirements:** Moderate

**Light Requirements:** Full, Part

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#### Management

**Invasive Potential:** No

**Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases:** No

**Pruning Requirement:** Little needed, to develop a strong structure

**Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter:** No

**Surface Rooting:** No

**Life Span:** Less than 25

**Edible Parts:** None

**Plant Propagations:** Seed, Cutting

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