

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

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

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

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Fruit

Fruit Type: Capsule

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: 1.5 - 3

Fruit Colors: Black

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Good

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral

Water Requirements: Moderate

Light Requirements: Full, Part

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
