

## Callistemon citrinus var. splendens

*Myrtaceae*

Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania

**Common names:** **English:** Bottlebrush.

**Ecology:** In Australia it is found on low-lying ground including valley bottoms, so will grow on badly drained sites. Now widely planted in the tropics. Common in Central and Western Regions of Uganda.

**Uses:** Firewood, medicine, bee forage, windbreak, ornamental (avenue tree).

**Description:** A small evergreen tree, to 6 m high, with **drooping foliage**. **BARK:** grey, smooth, furrowed with age. **LEAVES:** **narrow, tough, grey-green to 8 cm**, young leaves pink-green, faintly lemon scented when crushed. **FLOWERS:** **vivid crimson bottle-brush-like cylindrical spikes**, a mass of **long red stamens**, nectar attracting sunbirds and bees. Leafy shoots continue to grow beyond the flower "brush". **FRUIT:** **small woody capsules**, persisting many months, contain the tiny seed.

**Propagation:** Seedlings.

**Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: about 44,000. Seed germination is uniform (two weeks),

**treatment:** not necessary.

**storage:** seed stores well (six months).

**Management:** Fast growing on good sites.

**Remarks:** Commonly planted as single ornamental trees in gardens. Another Callistemon variety has erect flowers, not drooping; otherwise they are similar. The bark is commonly used as cough medicine wherever it is planted in Uganda, its removal often damaging the tree.

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