

Callistemon - Growing Guide

Growing Callistemon

Commonly known as 'Bottlebrush'

Callistemon are Australian natives that belong to the myrtle family and are associated with leptospermum, eucalyptus and metrosideros. The hardiness of some species is therefore questionable and they can, more properly, be regarded as greenhouse plants.

With us *C. sieberi*, the 'Alpine Bottlebrush', has grown beside Burncoose House for generations. It is 10-12ft high and produces pale yellow flowers on short spikes in May and June. It looks hardy and definitely is. Similarly *C. rigidus*, the 'Stiff Bottlebrush', grows up to 8ft tall with dark red flowers in July to August and is perfectly hardy in frosts of up to -10°C. *C. pallidus*, the 'Yellow Bottlebrush', with its small narrow leaves and cream coloured flowers is also perfectly at home in the garden.



Callistemon sieberi



Callistemon sieberi



Callistemon rigidus



Callistemon pallidus



Callistemon citrinus 'Little John'



Callistemon citrinus 'Little John'



Callistemon citrinus 'Splendens'



Callistemon citrinus 'Splendens'



Callistemon citrinus 'Splendens'



Callistemon citrinus 'Red Cluster'



Callistemon viminalis

Callistemon can get out of hand under glass; *C. rigidus* especially, and this species may well need support. Hard or restrictive pruning will not hurt these plants at all.



Callistemon pruning



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Callistemon seeds

Bottlebrushes produce clusters of tough spherical seeds which hold on the stems for several years. These remain viable and can be sown on the surface in moist compost in spring. Semi-ripe new growth cuttings can however also readily be taken in late summer.

View this video on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/XSzqM9SaXdU?rel=0>

Deadheading / Pruning Callistemon Part li - Video Tip

View this video on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/sgftQ486Exo>

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