

Tree Profile: Lemon-Scented Teatree - *Leptospermum Petersonii*

General information: According to Wikipedia the *Leptospermum petersonii* (or *Leptospermum citratum*), **lemon-scented** tea tree is a tall shrub to small tree, growing to a maximum of 5 meters which is cultivated as an ornamental and for essential oils. It naturally occurs near sclerophyll forest or rainforest, on sandy or rocky escarpments, on the east coast of Australia.

Lemon-scented tea tree is well known as a garden plant, popular for its scent and attractiveness. It is fast growing and can be kept to shrub height by pruning. The ability to be pruned regularly also makes it well-suited for hedges, windbreaks and harvesting for distilled essential oils.

It's also well liked for Bonsai! It has simple leaves, 20 - 40 mm long, with a distinctive lemony aroma. It shows off masses of small white flowers in spring and summer, followed by woody capsules.

Position: Full sun or partial shade - airy for best growth, protect from hot winds! Can be sensitive to frost.

Watering: Keep moist all the time. Lack of water is a dead sentence - they can go from healthy to dead in a matter of hours! **NO wet feet, because of root rot!**

Feeding: Use a fertilizer for acid loving plants, like Miracid with a diluted solution - their roots burn easily!

Repotting: Late winter, spring or early summer, use free draining mix! Avoid root pruning as long as possible, **don't untangle** the roots! As per our 'Guru' CJ from WA (presentation at AABC Conference 2011 WA) - shave off a slice from the bottom each year, only reduce root ball over time!

Pruning & Wiring: Keep pinching new shoots back to shape the tree, buds back well on bare and old wood. Repotting, pruning and wiring **must be done at different times**, or the tree will be over-stressed! Responds well to wiring and branches set quickly - don't go below horizontal to be true to the natural growing habit of the tree!

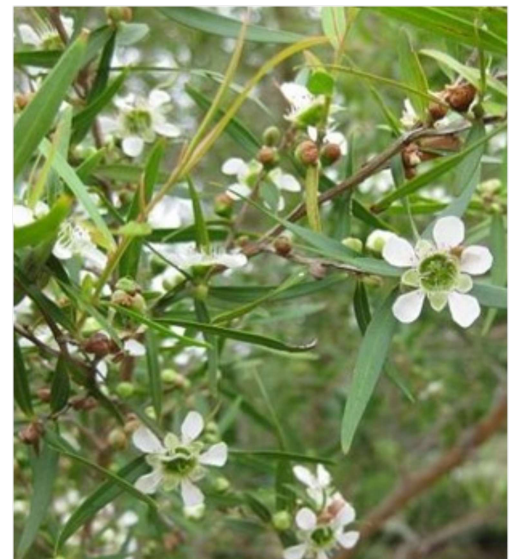
Propagation: Semi-hardwood cuttings in the growing season using Rootex or similar hormone. Will root in a few weeks!

Pests and diseases: We haven't experienced any pests, but be mindful of root rot!

Styles: Most styles including - Informal Upright, Slanting, Semi-cascade and Shohin and Mame.

Another one suitable for bonsai is

Leptospermum liversidgei, also commonly known as **lemon-scented tea tree**, **olive tea tree**, or **lemon tea tree**, is a shrub to 4 m found naturally growing in wet coastal heath in Eastern Australia.



YVBS 2019 Show

The Committee is proceeding with the planning for the 2019 YVBS Bonsai Show. Our target is for 15th and 16th June at the Wandin North Public Hall, the same venue as our very successful 2018 Show. Further details will be confirmed as soon as possible.

In the meantime, please put these dates in your diary, and start planning which trees you intend submitting for display at the Show. There is still plenty of time to get your trees in peak condition, but plan your actions early. Don't hesitate to ask for advice from our more experienced members if required.

Remember, this is YOUR Show and is intended to showcase our overall efforts in creating bonsai to the local community. Trees at all levels of development will be included in the Show - this can be of benefit to the casual visitor, as it demonstrates the procedure in creating a bonsai. We hope that all members will submit at least one tree for the Show.

There will also be a sales area at the Show, like last year, so start sorting out your collection to see if there is anything that you can bear to part with - to make room for additional purchases of course!