

SPECIES	Leptospermum polygalifolium
COMMON NAME	Tantoon, Yellow Tea Tree
ORIGIN	South coast of New South Wales to Cape York in far north Queensland
DESIGN USE	Specimen planting and in conjunction with other plants in group plantings



HEIGHT

A shrub, often 0.5–3m in height or a slender to stout trunked tree to 7m or more.

HABIT

It is hardy and can be relied on to produce a good display of flowers each year. *Leptospermum polygalifolium* is generally long-lived but can become a bit straggly with age as some of the lower branches are shed.

FORM

An evergreen shrub growing to 3m by 3m while the bark usually being close and firm but soft, thick and flaky in some forms.

FLOWERS

White but may be greenish, off-white to pale pink 10–15 mm diameter.

FLOWERING PERIOD

August to January.

FRUIT

Fruit 5 - 10 mm diameter, valves opening to exceed rim and reduce the depth of the base.

VARIATIONS

subsp montanum (glabrous leaves, silky-hairy and bronze coloured)

subsp cismontanum (obtuse leaves, dull grey-green)

subsp howense (flat leaves and stiff in texture with lower side not conspicuously different in colour)

subsp tropicum (narrow leaves)

BARK / TRUNK

a slender to stout trunked tree to 7 metres or more, the bark usually being close and firm but soft, thick and flaky in some forms. The young stems, at first, have a close pubescence but usually become glabrous, with a conspicuous flange near the node and spreading and tending to curve around the stem.

CLIMATIC TOLERANCES

It's suitable for most soils requiring water during dry periods and suited to a wide range of climates including tropical and cool zones.

HORTICULTURE

Most adapt well to a variety of soil types. Full sun is preferred but many species will tolerate poor drainage and should be kept uniformly moist. If kept indoors, requires a very bright location for survival.

REFERENCES

<http://asgap.org.au/l-pol.html>

<http://www.pfaf.org/database/plantsphp?Leptospermum+polygalifolium>

<http://www.koalanativeplants.com.au>