Lindley's
Nursery and
Garden Center

New Zealand Tea -Bush*

Leptospermum scoparium



New Zealand Tea -Bush flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Other Names: Manuka, New Zealand Tea-Tree

Description:

This drought tolerant plant makes a great hedge or utility plant on dry sites; attractive foliage and apple-blossom flowers; prune to avoid seed from spreading; flowering stems make nice cutflowers; not to be confused with Melaleuca, Tea-Tree



New Zealand Tea -Bush in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

New Zealand Tea -Bush is covered in stunning pink flowers with white overtones along the branches from late spring to early summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has attractive grayish green evergreen foliage. The small narrow leaves are highly ornamental and remain grayish green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

New Zealand Tea -Bush is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting birds and bees to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

New Zealand Tea -Bush is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

New Zealand Tea -Bush will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. This species is not originally from North America.

New Zealand Tea -Bush makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

** This is a 'special order' plant - contact store for details*