

Melaleuca huegelii

CHENILLE HONEY-MYRTLE

Endl.

Flowering period: November–December.

Description: Medium, dense shrub to 1.5 m with branches to the ground. Leaves small, lance-shaped, 4–5 mm long, 2–3 mm wide with a pointed tip and in a dense arrangement along the stem, often overlapping towards the growing point. Flowers comprising clusters of stamens, 6–8 mm long in dense terminal spikes often covering the branchlets, white, pinkish-purple in the bud stage often with the vegetative growing point exceeding the flower spike. Seeds produced in flattened circular capsules, 3 mm wide, 3 mm tall, in clusters of up to 50 at intervals along the stem with each cluster indicating a flowering cohort. Capsules open in response to fire or senescence of the stem. Seeds fine, dust-like and interspersed with abundant fine, sterile (non-germinative) packing (ovulodes).

Pollination: Open pollinated by a variety of insects including bees and beetles, and visited by ants and other nectar-seeking insects.

Distribution: Favours shallow soils over limestone from Shark Bay to Augusta. In the Perth region common along the coast, particularly in areas with limestone sub-soil or emergent limestone where the plant can sometimes form dense thickets. Occurs on off-shore islands. At Shark Bay an attractive pink-flowered sub-species occurs on limestone breakaways in coastal areas.

Propagation: Readily propagated by seed sown into seed trays in autumn and winter. Seedlings emerge in 4–6 weeks and can be pricked-out and transferred to pots when 10–12 weeks old.

Uses in restoration: Useful in rehabilitation of limestone areas and in stable secondary dunes.

Notes: Ideal small to medium shrub for the home garden and requires a sunny location. Makes an ideal screen or background subject and is popular with native birds and insects.



Habit



Flowers



Fruit



Distribution