

Lemon Myrtle

Backhousia citriodora · Myrtle family, native to Australia

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Evergreen perennial shrub/small tree, native to Australia
MATURITY Usable leaves from year two



SUN
Full sun–part shade, sheltered



WATER
Regular



SOIL PH
5.5–7.0



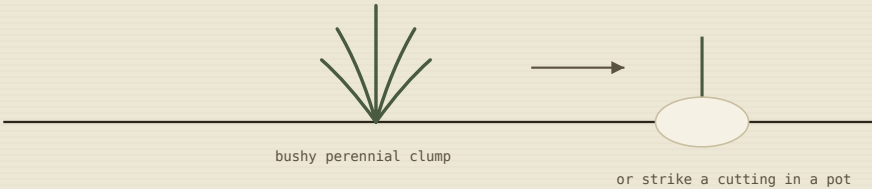
SPACING
2–4m or hedge



DEPTH
as per pot

01 An aromatic native hedge

Lemon myrtle clips well into a dense, fragrant hedge and provides an intensely lemon-scented leaf year-round — a genuinely useful and attractive native for a homestead herb garden.



02 Planting

METHOD	Plant from a nursery pot.
SOIL	Well-drained, moderately fertile.
TIMING	Plant in spring in a sheltered spot.

04 Problems

- **Frost damage** — the main risk while young; shelter in cooler zones.
- **Myrtle rust** — orange spore masses on new growth; remove affected material, improve airflow.
- **Scale insects** — occasional; treat with horticultural oil.
- **Slow establishment** — be patient in the first couple of years.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Other natives	Frost-prone, exposed positions	Not applicable — long-lived perennial shrub.

03 Growing care

- Protect from frost while young — more cold-sensitive than many natives.
- Water regularly while establishing.
- Clip as a hedge, or leave free-form.
- Harvest leaves regularly, which encourages fresh growth.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Leaves are usable year-round once established.
METHOD	Pick leaves as needed.
CURING	Dries very well, retaining strong flavour.
STORAGE	Fresh, fridge a week or so; dried, airtight for a year or more.