

Fact Sheet

Swamp Tea-tree (*Melaleuca irbyana*)

About

Swamp Tea-tree is only found in South-East Queensland and Northern NSW and is listed as a 'critically endangered community' under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Mature trees reach 8-12m in height and have a covering of thick, spongy paperbark. It has fine, weeping branches with small, stalkless leaves creating a thick canopy. In spring and summer, the trees produce small cream flowers which attract native birds and insects.

Swamp Tea-tree has the specialised ability to grow on soils that become waterlogged and are slow-draining. It grows in dense patches, often amongst taller eucalypt and in open forest.

Its foliage and thick leaf litter creates important habitat for birds, reptiles and frogs and the native Tongue Orchid thrives on its lower, shaded branches.



Site significance

The Melaleuca Memorial Walkway at Warrill Park Lawn Cemetery is within a largely intact community of Swamp Tea-tree, one of only a few locations in the region.

The other Melaleuca communities are found at the University of Queensland, Gatton and Purga Nature Reserve, which has the largest protected Swamp Tea-tree ecosystem in Australia.

Restoration and protection

Remaining Swamp Tea-tree communities are protected under Commonwealth and State legislation, ensuring remnant patches are maintained, not fragmented from clearing, and have an opportunity to regenerate.

A management plan and planting guideline has been developed for the Warrill Park Lawn Cemetery to protect this community from threats like invasive weeds and non-native plant species.

Many invasive weed species are tolerant of the understory conditions and can have adverse effects on the Melaleuca community.

Memorial planting guide

No plants may be introduced (planted) within the Melaleuca irbyana without prior approval of Ipswich City Council.

Honouring your loved one with a native will increase biodiversity in the area, encourage native animals and help protect the unique threatened environmental community.

There are over 20 beautiful native plant species that have been selected for memorial planting. These plants are non-invasive and are associated with Swamp Tea-tree forests.

This guide is designed to support honouring loved ones while also maintaining the environmental values of the cemetery, including the rare and protected Swamp Tea-tree *Melaleuca irbyana*.

Many of these plants are already established within the Melaleuca Memorial Walk which is part of the *Melaleuca irbyana* threatened environmental community.



Tongue Orchid on Melaleuca irbyana

If you are interested in planting an additional plant within the Melaleuca Memorial Walk, please speak to the administration staff located at the cemetery or by phone on (07) 5464 3145.