

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



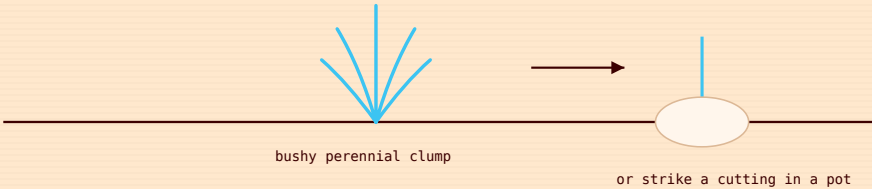
SPACING
2–4m or hedge



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 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.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

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.

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.
PRESERVING See [Dehydrating](#) (drying for long-term storage) or [Freezing Produce](#) (freezing a harvest surplus) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

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