

Bottle Brush

Botanical Name: *Callistemon citrinus*

Family: Myrtaceae

Common Name: Barap lei"

Hindi Name: Cheel

Part Used: Bark, leaves, flowers

Callistemon citrinus is an erect, straggly, evergreen shrub, occasionally becoming a small tree, usually growing about 1 - 3 metres tall, occasionally reaching 4.5 metres. *Callistemon* species have commonly been referred to as **bottlebrushes** because of their cylindrical, brush like flowers resembling a traditional bottle brush. They are mostly found in the more temperate regions of Australia, especially along the east coast and typically favour moist conditions so when planted in gardens thrive on regular watering.

The Bottle Brush tree (*Callistemon*) is important for its ecological benefits, ornamental value, and traditional uses. It supports pollinators with its vibrant flowers, stabilizes soil, and purifies air. The tree is also used in folk medicine for various ailments and its wood can be used for fuel or fence posts. Medicinal herbs are moving from fringe to mainstream use with a greater number of people seeking remedies and health approaches free from side effects caused by synthetic chemicals. The different parts of this herb have been used in common remedies for treatment of diarrhoea, dysentery and rheumatism. It is also used as a water accent, anticough, antibronchitis and insecticide in folk medicine .