

One-sided Bottlebrush



Scientific name: *Calothamnus quadrifidus*

Aboriginal name: Kwowdjard (Noongar)



Plant habit



Leaf form



Flower



Fruiting capsules

About ...

Calothamnus quadrifidus, also known as the Common Net Bush, grows naturally in the south-west of Western Australia where it is widely distributed. It commonly grows among granite outcrops, in sand or sandy-gravel, however it adapts well to other soil types such as loam, and even clay. *Calothamnus* is a genus of more than 40 species, all are found in the SW of WA. 'Calothamnus' comes from the ancient Greek kalos, meaning 'beautiful' and thamnus meaning 'a shrub' while quadrifidus means 'divided into four parts' which refers to the number of flower parts. They are a good garden plant due to their long lasting, showy, bird attracting flowers and soft foliage. They can also be used as windbreaks.

The species was named by botanist Robert Brown who collected a specimen from Lucky Bay near Esperance in 1802.

Family	MYRTACEAE
Climate	Temperate
Habitat	Wide variety of soils and habitats
Form	Shrub or small tree Height: 0.5 m – 3 m Width the same
Foliage	Grey-green or green needle-like leaves 30 mm long and 1-2 mm wide Usually hairy
Flower	Makuru to Birak (Winter through to Summer) Clustered in one-sided spikes or 'brushes' Brightly coloured stamens, usually in red, are fused together in bundles, known as staminal claws Usually red but can be white or yellow
Fruit	Each flower produces woody capsules that remain on the plant The seeds are usually not released from the fruits for several years

Aboriginal Uses

- Flowers are sucked for their nectar
- Flowers can also be made into a sweet drink when soaked in water

Developed by SERCUL for use with the *Bush Tucker Education Program*.



Used as food



Used as medicine



Used as resources



Local to SW WA

Caution: Do not prepare bush tucker food without having been shown by Indigenous or experienced persons. Some bush tucker if eaten in large quantities or not prepared correctly can cause illness.