

*Melaleuca quinquenervia*

melaleuca

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**Appearance:** Evergreen tree to 33 m (100 ft) tall, with a slender crown and soft, whitish, many-layered, peeling bark.

**Leaves:** Alternate, simple, grayish green, narrowly lance shaped; to 10 cm (4 in) long and 2 cm (0.75 in) wide, with a smell of camphor when crushed.

**Flowers:** Creamy white “bottle brush” spikes to 16 cm (6 in) long.

**Fruit:** A round, woody capsule, about 3 mm (0.12 in) wide, in clusters surrounding young stems, each capsule holding 200–300 tiny seeds.

**Ecological threat:**

Grows extremely fast, producing dense stands that displace native plants, diminish animal habitat, and provide little food for wildlife. Has become abundant in pine flatwoods, sawgrass marshes, and cypress swamps of south Florida. FLEPPC Category I



**Distribution:** C, SW, SE

**Field Notations**

MELAQVIN/MEQU

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>