



New Zealand White Tea Tree

Leptospermum scoparium

03-62



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 14-24, H1, H2	Full sun	Well drained, slightly acid	Little or no watering, to moderate watering	Single or doubled showy white flowers	5-10 feet tall

Leptospermum is a genus of about 86 species, distributed throughout Australia and extending to Malaysia and New Zealand. About 83 species occur in Australia, all but two endemic. The common name tea-tree derives from the practice of early settlers of soaking the leaves of several species in boiling water to make a tea substitute. Most *Leptospermum* species make desirable garden plants. Flowers are mostly large, up to 3 cm in diameter, and they are hardy in most soils and aspects. They are easy to propagate from seed or cuttings. Several cultivars have been established in the trade for many years. These have originated mainly from *L. scoparium*, a species that Australia shares with New Zealand. Most of the cultivars have developed from New Zealand stock and have occurred as chance seedlings in nurseries of other countries; that is, the United States, Ireland and the United Kingdom. With concentrated breeding effort, Australian species will produce hybrids far superior to these in terms of vigor and disease resistance. As is well known, most of the *L. scoparium* cultivars are prone to scale and the associated black smut. Many *Leptospermum* species make useful screen plants as most have a tight, compact growth. Species that flower on the new wood may be used as cut flowers.