

Brush Cherry

Eugenia myrtifolia

Syzygium paniculatum



Syzygium paniculatum popularly known as the magenta lilly pilly or magenta cherry is a species of flowering plant in the myrtle family Myrtaceae. *Syzygium paniculatum* is commonly confused with *Syzygium australe*. The plant is native to New South Wales, Australia, occurring along a narrow, linear, coastal strip in five separate geographical areas: Jervis Bay, Coalcliff, Botany Bay, Central Coast and Seal Rocks. Popular common names of the plant are **Australian brush-cherry, brush cherry, Australian water-pear, magenta cherry, magenta lilly pilly, scrub cherry, scrub cherry, creek lilly-pilly, creek satinash and watergum**. The name of the genus is the combination of the Greek terms “sys” which means together, and “zygon” means yoke, with reference to the joined petals of some species. The Latin name of the species, *paniculatum* means in the shape of a panicle, refers to the type of inflorescence.

Culinary uses

- Crisp and very juicy, the aromatic rose-purple fruits are often eaten to quench the thirst.
- The pleasantly sour fruit are also eaten fresh or cooked.
- The fruit can be used to make jams and jellies

Other Facts

- Plants are used for hedging in frost-free areas of California.
- They are widely used for hedging and to provide shelter from the wind in frost-free areas of California and Florida.
- Outside Australia, brush cherry is used as a subject for bonsai.
- This species has been adopted by Coffs Harbor City Council as the City's floral symbol.

