



2. TREE OF THE MONTH

DUE TO THE FACT THAT WE HAD AN AMAZING VISIT FROM COLLIN GERRANS IN OUR JULY MEETING WITH HIS TEA BUSHES, IT GETS OUR TREE OF THE MONTH.



IT IS PART OF THE MYRTLE FAMILY AND GROWS BETWEEN 1 - 12 FT TALL. FLOWERS HAVE 5 WHITE, PINK OR RED PETALS. THE NAME COMES FROM EARLY AUSTRALIAN SETTLERS WHO USED THE LEAVES TO MAKE A HERBAL TEA.

TEA TREES MAKE BEAUTIFUL BONSAI WITH HUNDREDS OF TINY FLOWERS. THEY LOVE TO BE GROWN IN FULL SUN AND CAN FLOWER FOR MOST OF THE YEAR. WIRING IS BEST DONE WITH VERY YOUNG SEEDLINGS, AS THEY ARE EASY TO BEND.

SURFACE ROOTS DO NOT LIKE TO BE DISTURBED AND THEY ARE VERY QUICK TO FILL UP THE POTS WITH ROOTS.

TEA TREES REQUIRE FREQUENT FERTILIZER (SEAGROW, WORMWEE ETC). IT IS RECOMMENDED TO KEEP THE TREES IN SHALLOW TRAYS OF WATER AS THE TREES DIE EASILY IF LEFT TO DRY OUT. TAPER IS EASILY OBTAINED BY CUTTING OFF THE LEADER AND CHOOSING A NEW LEADER

A TEA BUSH IS NOT TROUBLED BY INSECTS BUT CAN BE KILLED BY SOOTY MILDEW IF NOT TREATED IMMEDIATELY UPON OBSERVATION. BE CAREFUL OF THRUSHES AND WEAVER BIRDS THAT USE YOUNG SHOOTS FOR NESTS AND MAY ALSO STEAL YOUNG SEEDLINGS.



One of Collin's tea bush bonsai



Collin Gerrans busy with his Tea bush Demo