

## Callistemon 'Captain Cook'



*Callistemon* 'Captain Cook' is a cultivar of the plant genus *Callistemon*, widely grown as an ornamental plant.

The cultivar originated as a seedling of *Callistemon viminalis*. It was noted to have a more dwarf and bushy habit than usual and an abundance of flower buds as a young plant. Originally known and sold as 'Compacta', the name was changed to 'Captain Cook' to mark the 1970 bicentennial of James Cook's voyage to Australia. At a later stage, plants grown from seed were distributed under this name, and the true-to-type variety, which can only be propagated from cuttings became difficult to obtain.

*Callistemon* 'Captain Cook' grows between 1.5–2 metres (4.9–6.6 ft) high. It forms a dense, slightly weeping shrub. Leaves are narrow and 50 to 60 mm long.

A proliferation of red "brushes" are produced in spring, with further flowering sometimes occurring in late summer or autumn.

*Callistemon* 'Captain Cook' is most suited to climates ranging from cool-temperate to semi-tropical.

A sunny position enhances flowering, and it performs best when it can be watered during establishment and in spring. It is adaptable to most soils, but prefers well-composted loam. Pruning after flowering helps to maintain the plant's shape.

The cultivar must be propagated from cuttings to maintain its original characteristics.

**Category:** Flowering shrubs

**Families:** Myrtaceae

**Genus:** *Callistemon*

**Species:** *viminalis* "Captain Cook"

**Geographical Area of Origin:** Oceania

**Climatic Zones:** Sub-tropical, USDA 10 b (Southern Italy and islands)

**Habit:** Shrub

**Leaves:** Evergreen

**Colore Foglie:** Verde 

**Flowering Period:** Marzo / Aprile / Maggio / Giugno / Luglio / Agosto / Settembre / Ottobre



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**Flower:** Ear

**Colore Fiori:** Rosso 

**Favorite soil:** Sub-acid / medium acid / Middle-Dough / Medium soil

**Water needs:** Medium

**Light Exposure:** Medium shade / Half shade / Full light / Full sun

**Form:** Tree / Grown as shrub / bush

**Colore Frutti:** Marrone 