## A Red Hot Hedge

A hedge that looks great all year round must tick a lot of boxes. We expect our hedges to cope with such tough conditions as extreme dryness and heat reflected from paths and driveways.

When used as shelter, they're buffeted by cold, drying winds. Added to that is the neglect — minimal watering, and fertiliser if they're lucky! It's a big ask!

New Callistemon 'Great Balls of Fire' will cope with these adverse conditions. It also provides brilliant seasonal colour, with the vibrant red of its new growth and has a lovely softening effect with its finely textured leaves.

'Great Balls of Fire' has all the attributes of its cousins: Callistemons, aka Australian bottlebrush, are revered for their spectacular flower displays and extreme toughness. They tolerate drought, wind and coastal conditions. But while many callistemon are large and open growing, 'Great Balls of Fire' has a compact habit (1.75m high x 1.5m wide) with dense foliage, making it well suited to low maintenance borders, and containers too. Because it clips so well, 'Great Balls of Fire' is fantastic as topiary and hedging.

For more information, visit www.kiwiqoldnz.com

## **Top Tips**

**'Great Balls of Fire'** will thrive without pampering, but for even better results:

- Trim twice yearly, in late winter and mid-summer, to promote a flush of vivid red new growth.
- Give an occasional deep watering in summer.
- Feed with Osmocote for Australian Natives, in spring and autumn.



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