

Dwarf bottlebrush

Callistemon 'Little John'



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Plant Profile Description

While we prefer to recommend California native plants whenever possible, Dwarf bottlebrush is a popular choice for Mediterranean style gardens that may receive more water than many California native plants prefer. Hummingbirds will visit the blooms for nectar. Depending on the situation, a few California native plants to consider using instead of Little John bottlebrush include Eve Case coffeeberry, white sage, Santa Rosa island buckwheat, brittlebush, chuparosa, and creeping barberry.

Little John bottlebrush is a compact evergreen shrub with pale bluish-green leaves and dark scarlet-red flowers. This is a slow to moderate growing cultivar with a mounding form, slowly growing 4-5 ft. tall and as wide after several years.

This bottlebrush cultivar has become one of the most popular and commonly used compact plants in the Inland Empire. It is sometimes used as a small clipped hedge. It

Plant Type	Flower Season
Shrub	Spring
Foliage Character	Soil Adaptations
Evergreen	Silt
	Loam
Habit	Clay
Mounding	Calcareous soil
Compact	
Growth Rate	Exposure Adaptations
Slow	Wind
Moderate	Heat
	Frost
Size	Aridity
Height: 4 ft. - 5 ft.	All day sun
Width: 10 ft.	
Water Needs	Function
Low to Moderate	Attracts bees
	Wildlife value
Foliage Color	Hedge
Pale green	Hummingbird plant
	Small spaces
Flower Color	Flowering accent plant
Red	Borders

attracts large numbers of honey bees when in bloom.

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Supplemental Water Needs

Little John bottlebrush is highly adapted the Inland Empire where it adapts to normal winter rains and periodic summer irrigation throughout the Inland Empire. Established plants grow well with periodic deep irrigation in the summer. The chart shown below provides a recommended baseline guide to the monthly irrigation schedule and volume of supplemental water needed to maintain healthy growth throughout the average year. It should be noted there are several months indicated by an asterisk (*) when winter rains can provide sufficient moisture and irrigation is not needed. The high and low range of moisture indicates it can grow with varying amounts of water; more supplemental water commonly results in a longer growing season and larger sizes.

Irrigation Schedule and Graph

Low Water Use Plants

Irrigation Schedule 2

	Jan*	Feb*	Mar*	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov*	Dec*
Runs per Month	0x to 2x	0x to 2x	0x to 2x	1x to 2x	1x to 2x	1x to 2x	1x to 2x	1x to 2x	1x to 2x	1x to 2x	0x to 2x	0x to 2x
Inches per Run	1"	1"	1"	1"	1"	1"	1"	1"	1"	1"	1"	1"
Inches per Month	0" to 2"	0" to 2"	0" to 2"	1" to 2"	1" to 2"	1" to 2"	1" to 2"	1" to 2"	1" to 2"	1" to 2"	0" to 2"	0" to 2"

Range of supplemental summer water: 7"-14"

Range of supplemental summer water: 0"-10"

