

{ CARE SHEET }

BUSH GARDEN
NURSERY PTY LTD



Growing Lilly Pillys...

LILLY PILLYS, once established in the ground, are quite drought tolerant but being from rainforest areas they will respond to any extra water in dry periods. If you intend to grow the plant for some time in a pot you should **WATER IT DAILY** in summer. Ask your nursery person about the best potting mix for moisture retention or consider using water crystals or other forms of water saving materials. Remember that growing plants in pots is an artificial situation and you need to supply all the water the plant requires to grow and look its best. Modern pine bark based growing media can become water repellent and shrink away from the side of the pot slightly if allowed to dry out too much. If this occurs you will need to rewet it by either dunking the plant in a tub or if this is not possible water the plant slowly and repeatedly until the moisture can penetrate the mix. When the mix is in this dry state the first water will simply run down between the pot and the mix not wetting the root ball. This applies to all plants grown in pots.

If grown in the ground mulch well and consider an irrigation system to help conserve water and save you money. If you are clipping your plants regularly the clippings can be applied back as mulch. The small leaves break down and provide a cheap and continuous supply of water conserving mulch.

LILLY PILLYS don't mind fertiliser and regular applications especially from spring to autumn when the plant is actively growing will encourage fast lush growth.. Ask your nursery person for a fertiliser with a high nitrogen (N) content. Nitrogen is responsible for the lush foliar growth. Liquid fertilisers are a good supplement for the plant but should not be the only fertiliser applied as they leach from the plant very quickly and do not provide long term nutrition which is essential for **LILLY PILLYS**.

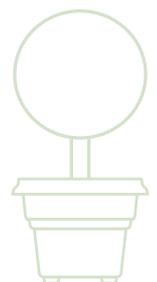
Some **LILLY PILLYS** like ,many Eucalyptus and Acacias; can be attacked by Psyllids (pronounced sil-lid). These are small flying "native" insects that lay their eggs on the underside of the leaves. The young wingless nymphs, commonly orange coloured construct a covering (or lerp) and feed on the leaf tissue causing a pimpling of the leaf surface. This will cause some disfigurement of the leaves of the plant but will not do it any permanent damage.

This insect damage can be simply pruned off which will also encourage new growth and an even denser plant. Leave clippings from the bush as mulch on the ground for at least 3 weeks to allow natural parasites to complete their development and return to the shrubs where they lay eggs that parasitize other psyllid nymphs. Chemicals that control sap sucking insects (eg. *Rogor*, *Folimat* *Confidor*) can be used to kill the nymphs. These sprays will also kill scales another common problem for **LILLY PILLYS**. Spraying with oils can help prevent the scale or psyllids from attacking the leaves. These oils are more environmentally friendly but need to be sprayed regularly and can cause damage to the plant if sprayed during the heat of the day so spray in the late afternoon. A point to remember is that plants that are maintained well with regular water and fertiliser and therefore actively growing are generally not as badly effected and recover quicker from any insect attack. Plants left to dry out in pots are usually the most vulnerable to insect attack leaf drop and dead patches in the foliage.

LILLY PILLYS can be used to make a fantastic hedge or shaped for a classic topiary. You can prune your **LILLY PILLYS** at any time of the year but little and often is easier on the plant and yourself.

SOME GREAT LILLY PILLYS TO ADD TO YOUR GARDEN

- Syzygium "AUSSIE BOOMER" PBR the fastest hedge to 2m
- Syzygium "LULU" PBR hedge to 3m with colourful new growth
- Syzygium "AUSSIE COMPACT" hedge to 5m bushy to ground
- Syzygium francissii "Compact from" hedge to 2-3m colourful new growth
- Syzygium "TINY TREV" PBR hedge to 1-2 m
- Acmena "HOT FLUSH" PBR hedge to 2-3m or great cone topiary



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