

MELALEUCA PUSTULATA SCRUB

(TASVEG code - SMP)

Conservation status: RARE

What is *Melaleuca pustulata* Scrub?

- This very rare scrub is dominated by *Melaleuca pustulata* (Cranbrook paperbark) which often reaches a height of between 2 and 5 m. It can occur as very dense stands or with occasional emergent blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), black gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*) or Oyster Bay pine (*Callitris rhomboidea*).
- Sallow wattle (*Acacia mucronata*), box micranthum (*Micranthum hexandrum*) and honeysuckle (*Banksia marginata*) occur in the scrub as occasional shrubs while native grasses normally dominate the ground layer.
- This scrub type is restricted to the Central East Coast, often found growing on soils derived from dolerite, between Cherry Tree Hill and Swansea, and inland to the base of the Eastern Tiers.



What is *Melaleuca pustulata*?

- *Melaleuca pustulata* is a Rare species protected by the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. It mainly grows as an understorey shrub in dry woodland, forest, grassland, coastal scrub, riparian habitats or as an occasional 'paddock shrub' in fallow pasture. In rare cases, the species can form dense stands of scrub, especially adjacent to watercourses and on river flats.
- *Melaleuca pustulata* can be distinguished from other paperbarks by its 1-2 cm long narrow leaves that have 'wart-like' glands on the underside.

Where can I see examples of *Melaleuca pustulata* Scrub?

- This community can be found near the Wye, Swan and Cygnet Rivers on the central east coast of Tasmania.

Why is *Melaleuca pustulata* Scrub important and what are its management issues?

- This rare scrub was once widespread on the Cranbrook plains and surrounding low-lying and flat areas. In riparian locations, healthy *Melaleuca pustulata* Scrub increases habitat availability for fauna and improves water quality by reducing runoff.
- Most of the remaining *Melaleuca pustulata* Scrub has been degraded and fragmented by weed invasion (mainly gorse) and land clearing.
- Stock can damage the ground layer of herbs and grasses making the scrub susceptible to weed invasion. In extreme cases, canopy trees can be pushed over or made susceptible to wind throw by weakened root systems caused by grazing stock. Soil erosion can occur where damage is done to riparian patches of *Melaleuca pustulata* scrub.



Photo: Sophie Underwood

Do I have *Melaleuca pustulata* Scrub on my property?

The flow chart will help you to decide if *Melaleuca pustulata* Scrub may be on your property.

Patches should be assessed at a scale of 0.1 ha (0.25 acres) or greater. You may need to take account of the period of time since disturbance (e.g. fire, heavy grazing).



Need help?

Contact the FPA or TFGA

Imagine that each Cranbrook paperbark (*Melaleuca pustulata*) is an 'umbrella'. Do they collectively shade more than 30% of the ground or other shrubs?

YES

NO

Imagine that each eucalypt is an 'umbrella'. Do they collectively shade more than 10% of the ground or other shrubs? (Answer NO if eucalypts are absent)

NO

YES



Use the boxes to record your decisions

You may have
Melaleuca pustulata
Scrub

You don't have
Melaleuca pustulata
Scrub

What does it mean if I have *Melaleuca pustulata* Scrub on my property?

- If you want to **clear and convert** an area of *Melaleuca pustulata* Scrub you will need a forest practices plan. You should seek advice from the Forest Practices Authority. **Please check if you are in doubt.**
- Information on ways to make sure your grazing and fire management are compatible with environmental values can be obtained from the the Forest Practices Authority or Dept Primary Industries Parks Water and Environment.



Need help or more information on threatened native vegetation communities?

Forest Practices Authority: 30 Patrick St, Hobart 7000; phone – 6233 7966; Online - www.fpa.tas.gov.au

DPIPWE: 134 Macquarie St, Hobart 7000; phone – 6233 8538; Online – www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Information and assistance for landholders is also available from the Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association: cnr Cimitiere and Charles St, Launceston 7250; phone – 6332 1800