



Graptophyllum spinigerum — family: ACANTHACEAE

GRAPTOPHYLLUM – NATIVE HOLLY

Understorey rainforest shrub .5 to 2 metres
Small white flowers late spring/early summer
Fruits are small brown club-shaped capsules

Cultivation: Hardy, drought-resistant plant; does best in semi-shade in a medium loamy soil.

This is a well branched shrub with slender stems tending to grow in a layered fashion. It occurs in rainforests from NT and southwards to S.E. Qld. Also occurs in New Guinea.



The flowers are produced in small clusters along the upper side of the branches. Leaves are dark and glossy and slender spines occur in pairs at the nodes. The safety of its bushy growth and spines make this an attractive species for small birds. Can be grown from seed or cuttings. Annual pruning will encourage bushier growth.



Also a species which attracts native bee species such as the Carpenter Bee, Blue-banded Bee and native stingless bees.