

**Myrtaceae**  
***Backhousia myrtifolia***  
grey myrtle



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<b>ETYMOLOGY</b>	(back-HOW-zee-a) After James Backhouse, early quaker missionary among convicts; The species myrtifolia = with leaves like genus <i>Myrtus</i> .
<b>LIFEFORM</b>	Tree 3-7m x 2-4m Spread
<b>STATUS</b>	Well conserved; Common. Associated with <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> or <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>
<b>OCCURS</b>	Cubberla/Witton Qld to Bega, Mt Dromedary, NSW
<b>QLD DISTRICTS</b>	Burnett, Moreton, Port Curtis, Wide Bay
<b>HABITAT</b>	Watercourse, Parabolic dunes, Subtropical Rainforest
<b>LEAVES</b>	Opposite, 3.5-7.5 x 1-3.5 cm, ovate, base rounded, dark green, entire with a fine point, lateral veins conspicuous, intramarginal vein close to margin, raised midvein above & below, oil glands large distinct on 3-6 mm stalks.
<b>FLOWERS</b>	Cream, 2-3 mm petals (Stamens 6 mm Sepals 6-9 mm), petaloid, yellowish. axillary, mostly dichasia with the central flower aborted; 20-35 mm peduncle, bunched at branchlet ends. <b>Flowering Times</b> Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan
<b>FRUIT</b>	Capsules, 6 mm, 4-5 starry sepals with dry calyx lobes; barely larger than the flower, topped by the persistent, spreading sepals. <b>Fruiting Times</b> Dec, Jan
<b>BARK</b>	Finely longitude stripes; Flaky bark has a cinnamon scent.
<b>STEM</b>	Young branchlets (pale-hairy) with spreading hairs.
<b>ETHNOBOTANY</b>	Leaves can be crushed up and rubbed on skin as an insect repellent. Timber was used for tool handles, fishing rods and bows; Leaves spicy odor due to 80% elemicin +methyl cinnamate, caryophyllene oxide, spathulenol and eugenol.
<b>LANDSCAPE USES</b>	Ideal for streetscaping and screen; Branches low to the ground planting in a small garden.
<b>TOLERANCE</b>	Part shade: Likes plenty of moisture Tolerates a light frost.
<b>WILDLIFE</b>	Blossom Bat also Attracts bird-life and pollinators with massed flowers.
<b>INSECTS</b>	Sap-sucking Bugs, <i>Echiomima mythica</i> (Moth)

