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Bottlebrush

Today on Gardening in a Minute: the bottlebrush.

The bottlebrush is one plant with a very appropriate name. This evergreen has bright red flower spikes that are reminiscent of a bottle washer.

The bottlebrush is often sold as a shrub, but can be trained to grow as a tree up to 25 feet in height or even as an espalier. There is an upright species and one that has a weeping form. The upright type can also make a nice screen or unclipped hedge.

Bottlebrush will thrive in full sun and can adapt to a variety of soils. It's a very drought- and salt-tolerant plant. Suckers on the trunk should be removed periodically if a tree form is desired.

Hummingbirds love bottlebrush flowers, so birdwatchers will be big fans of the plant.

For more information about the bottlebrush and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida's Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.