

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem. Photographer Jackie Mles



Flowering stems. Photographer Jackie Mles



Line drawings. f. flowering branch; calyx. T Brosch, National Herbarium of Victoria, ©2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

## Common name

Spearmint

## Family

Lamiaceae

## Where found

Moist sites. Sydney area, tablelands, and Canberra. Occasionally elsewhere.

## Notes

**Introduced perennial** herb to 1 m high, **rhizomatous**, often rooting at the lower **nodes**. Stems 4-angled, hairless or with scattered hairs, often tinged purple. Leaves smelling strongly like spearmint when rubbed, opposite each other, 2–9 cm long, 10–35 mm wide, hairless or with scattered hairs, **veins** on the upper surface sometimes **reticulate** and strongly **impressed**, tips blunt; bases **cordate**; margins toothed or scalloped. Flowers white, pink or lilac, 3–4 mm long, tubular, 2-lipped, with 4 lobes, each 1–2 mm long. Flowers in dense many-flowered **spike**-like clusters 2–6 cm long. Flowers mostly Dec.–Apr.

Was *Mentha x spicata*.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lv=sp&name=Mentha-spicata> (accessed 27 April 2021)

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