

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower clusters. Photographer Michael Kestl, Czech Republic



Flowering stems. Photographer Don Wood, east of Braidwood



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

## Common name

Peppermint (var. *citrata*, var. *piperita*)

Eau de Cologne Mint, Bergamot Mint (var. *citrata*)

## Family

Lamiaceae

## Where found

Wet **forest**, along streams, in swamps, and other moist and wet sites. Canberra and Queanbeyan. Tablelands and ranges. Coastal north of Mogo. Rarely elsewhere.

## Notes

**Introduced perennial** herb to 0.8 m high, frequently rooting at the **nodes**, often **rhizomatous**. Stems 4-angled, hairless or with a few scattered hairs, often tinged purple or reddish. Leaves aromatic when rubbed, smelling of lemon, eau de cologne, or peppermint. Leaves opposite each other, 1.5–9 cm long, 10–30 mm wide, hairless or with scattered hairs, tips pointed or rarely blunt; margins toothed. Flowers mauve to pink, 5–6 mm long, tubular, with 4 lobes 1–1.5 mm long, vaguely 2-lipped. Flower clusters round to oval, 1.5–6 cm long, dense, many-flowered. Flowering: December–May.

**var. citrata**: Leaves broader, 2–9 cm long; youngest leaves often with a red margin, bases abruptly tapered, or squared off to **cordate**. Leaves somewhat lemon-scented, reminiscent of 'Eau de Cologne'. **Inflorescence** of 1 or more distinct globular clusters, to 2 cm long. **Anthers** protruding beyond the **corolla**.

**var. piperita**: Leaves narrower, to 7 cm long, bases wedge-shaped. Leaf odour pungent, peppermint. Inflorescence cylindrical, **spike**-like, to 6 cm long, with flower clusters becoming separated. Anthers not protruding beyond the corolla.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Mentha-x+piperita> (accessed 25 January, 2021)

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