

## Melastoma affine (Native Lassiandra/Blue Tongue)

Shrub with ovate leaves 6 to 12 cm in length, and 2–4 cm wide, covered in fine hair they have longitudinal veins. Appearing in spring and summer, the flowers occur on the ends of branchlets and are purple with five petals and sepals produce 8mm long purple fruits that split open to expose a reddish to purple flesh with many small seeds. The common name "blue tongue" refers to the edible purplish-black pulp within the fruit capsules which stains the mouth blue. Needs annual pruning.



**Type:** Shrub to 2m  
**Aspect:** Full Sun/Part Shade  
**Soil:** Well-drained/Moist  
**Habitat:** Wet Sclerophyll

### Special features:

- Attracts –
  - Bees
  - Birds
  - Butterflies
- Bush Tucker
- Pioneer Species