

Eucalyptus Fact Sheet

Spotted Gum

Background: Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*) is indigenous to central and near coastal areas of NSW and Queensland. In Victoria its distribution is restricted to an 80-hectare site on the Mottle Range, north west of Orbost. It is a very attractive tree, commonly planted in streetscapes and roadsides. In the native forest, Spotted Gum is one of the most important commercial eucalypts in eastern Australia.

Plantation Information: In low rainfall areas of southern and eastern Australia Spotted Gum is widely planted for high value timber products. It is highly drought resistant and generally displays good form. Spotted Gum is particularly stable during sawing enabling high product recovery from logs and suitability to a range of products. Spotted Gum plantations have high aesthetic appeal.



Products: Spotted Gum timber is heavy, hard and strong. It is used for flooring, ship and boat building, all types of structural applications, tool handles, posts and poles. It is popular for sleepers, posts and heavy construction. It is a leading species for preservative treated pole production in NSW and Queensland.

Growing Requirements: Spotted Gum is tolerant of a wide range of soils. It is most common in valleys and lower slope sites on moist, moderately heavy textured, but well drained soils. Best plantation growth is found in areas that receive a mean annual rainfall above 600mm. The main drawback for this species is its high susceptibility to frost damage on trees up to, and in some cases exceeding, 5 years of age.

Most Important Feature: Research conducted by CSIRO demonstrates Spotted Gum to be the most promising species for hardwood products and growth in the 550-750mm rainfall zone.

Statistics:

- Wood density of 1200 kg per m³ (green)
- Wood density of 1000 kg per m³ (at 12% moisture content)
- Strength F17-F34 (at 12% moisture content)
- Durability Class: durable
- Borer susceptibility: yes



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