

# Eucalyptus Fact Sheet

## Southern Mahogany

**Background:** Southern Mahogany (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) is indigenous to coastal South-eastern Australia from Bairnsdale in Victoria to north of Newcastle in NSW. It is closely related to Sydney Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*) with which it occasionally hybridises.

**Plantation Information:** Southern Mahogany is a medium to tall tree reaching heights of 40 metres on preferred sites. It has thick, dark, short-fibred bark on the trunk and the base of large branches. The upper canopy contains an attractive contrast of smooth grey gum bark. Southern Mahogany has the tendency to develop heavy branches when open grown however this is overcome with pruning and high early stocking in a plantation environment. Limited research has been undertaken on this species however trials in Gippsland suggest that it is capable of rapid growth in its preferred environment.



**Products:** The timber is red to light red in colour and is hard, strong and durable. The timber is used in cabinetry, furniture, flooring and veneer applications as well as general construction and firewood purposes. It is also popular for sleepers, posts and heavy construction. The wood can be difficult to dry.

**Growing Requirements:** Southern Mahogany tolerates a wide range of soil types and demonstrates good growth rates over a range of sites. Southern Mahogany can tolerate poorly drained heavy clay sites, and is renowned for its tolerance of saline winds associated with coastal environments. Rainfall requirements can be as low as 500mm per year however best growth is on sites experiencing greater than 800mm per year. Tolerance of frost is high.

**Most Important Feature:** Eucalyptus trials in Gippsland found Southern Mahogany to have the highest growth performance on poorer sites, with deep sands and average annual rainfall of less than 700mm.

### Statistics:

- Wood density of 1100 kg per m<sup>3</sup> (green)
- Wood density of 900 kg per m<sup>3</sup> (at 12% moisture content)
- Strength F14-F27 (at 12% moisture content)
- Durability Class: durable
- Borer susceptibility: yes

