

Eucalyptus Fact Sheet

Sugar Gum

Background: Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) is a species indigenous to South Australia that has been planted in Victoria as a woodlot and windbreak tree for over 100 years. Sugar Gum is found naturally in four disjunct localities, namely the southern Flinders Ranges, Kangaroo Island and on the Eyre Peninsula. Sugar Gum is of medium size, attaining heights of up to 35 metres. It is an attractive tree with smooth gum bark in patches of cream, grey and yellow.



Plantation Information: In low rainfall and infertile regions of Victoria, NSW and South Australia few species can match the vigour and size of Sugar Gum. Research on Sugar Gum's wood properties has been undertaken by CSIRO and a number of saw mills in recent times with promising results. Consequently, the value of Sugar Gum timber has increased dramatically in recent years.



Products: Although historically it was planted for windbreaks and firewood, Sugar Gum has become very valuable. Its timber is extremely hard, highly durable and strong. It is useful for utility poles, fence posts, railway sleepers, heavy construction and building stumps. It is increasingly being used for appearance products such as flooring and furniture.

Growing Requirements: Sugar Gum grows on sites that receive between 350 and 900 mm of average annual rainfall. Best development occurs on slopes with sandy clay loam soils and annual rainfall more than 600mm. Sugar Gum is particularly sensitive to frost in the first year after establishment. It is also intolerant of waterlogged sites.

Most Important Feature: Sugar Gum is the most vigorous Eucalyptus species in the 450 – 600 mm annual average rainfall zones.

Statistics:

- Wood density of 1200 kg per m³ (green)
- Wood density of 1090 kg per m³ (at 12% moisture content)
- Durability Class: very durable
- Borer susceptibility: yes



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