

Eucalyptus punctata – Grey Gum

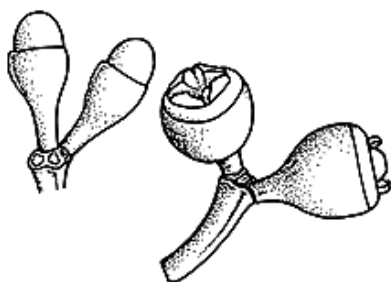
Family:
Myrtaceae

Common Name:
Grey Gum

Distribution:
NSW east coast, ranges and tablelands extending south from the Liverpool Ranges to Nowra. In HSC a widespread tree less so across shale capped ridges and plateaus but extending very widely into sandstone country and along larger tributaries of and including the Hawkesbury River. In HSC; Communities TI (295.0ha), DF (15.5ha), N (7.9ha). Widespread co-dominant in D (4408.7ha), T (283.7ha) and G (657.7ha).
Occasionally L1 (837.7 ha), L2 (14.1 ha), Q1(271.1 ha), R (281.1 ha), SG (0.7 ha), SS (4.7 ha), A (5579.4 ha), F (1289.6 ha), S (62.3 ha), B (93.4ha).

Derivation of Name:
Eucalyptus, Greek, derived from eu "well" and kalyptos "covered", a reference to the caps covering the flowering buds. *punctata*, Latin, dotted, in reference to the appearance of the spotted leaf glands on the leaf surface.

Conservation Status:
A widespread tree in HSC, higher conservation priority in endangered Turpentine Ironbark Forest. Areas within sandstone country are relatively well conserved for this species.



Description:
A medium sized to tall tree with an open crown of grey/green like foliage from a distance. Grows to around 10-25m in HSC dependant upon soil fertility and available moisture, up to 35m outside of HSC area. On poor infertile shallow soils it is a short thin tree lacking the straight trunk that develops on higher fertility soils with more available moisture. The trunk has smooth bark which is shed in irregular patches leaving a multi coloured appearance of grey, orange and light brown patches. Lanceolate leaves are discolorous and thick; they range from 8–15 cm long and 1.5–3cm in width. Flowers through summer (December-February), fruit are woody capsules 5-12mm in length with 4 valves exerted. The disc is medium broad in length and level to slightly ascending.

Longevity:
In excess of 100 years.

Horticultural Merit and uses:
Occasionally utilised in horticulture. Heavy timber is used for general engineering construction poles and was used for railway sleepers.

Fauna Value:
One of the best known food trees of the threatened Koala. When flowering it attracts a wide range of nectar feeding species including flying foxes and a nectar feeding birds. Larger trees develop hollow bearing branches important for a wide range of fauna species.





