

Eucalyptus sieberi – Silver Top Ash

Family:
Myrtaceae

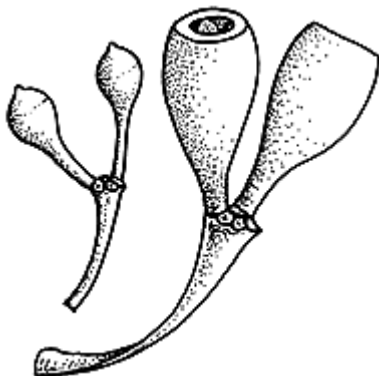
Common Name:
Silvertop Ash

Distribution:
South from eastern Victoria and Tasmania to the northern limit around Morisset preferring high rainfall sites and growing up to 1100m altitude. In HSC uncommonly found on sandy lateritic well drained soils on ridgetops in woodland or open forest. In HSC; Community C (638.4 ha) & E (46.5ha) only. Community E is a locally significant community.

Derivation of Name:
Eucalyptus, Greek, derived from eu "well" and kalyptos "covered", a reference to the caps covering the flowering buds. *sieberi*, Latin, named after the botanist Franz Wilhelm Sieber. The common name is a reference to its similarity to European Ash timber.

Conservation Status:
Vegetation Community E is a rare occurrence in HSC to which *E. sieberi* is the dominant tree. It is poorly represented in Berowra Valley Regional Park, and threatened by urban development and associated factors on ridgetops between Asquith and Berowra Heights.

Description:
A small to medium sized tree with a bushy crown of grey/silver coloured foliage and strongly noticeable red stems. Grows to around 20m in HSC but can get substantially bigger outside of HSC in coastal forests upwards of 45m. The trunk has a persistent dark black stocking of rough bark extending onto the largest limbs, it then changes to smooth pale cream bark shedding in long ribbons. Lanceolate leaves are disjunct, concolorous, greyish green, glossy and drooping usually on a red coloured stem; they range from 9–15 cm long and 1.2–3cm in width. Flowers generally from late winter into mid summer (highly variable, peak in October), flowers are white. Fruit are elongated capsules (wine glass shaped) to 11mm long with valves enclosed below a thick, broad flat rim.



Longevity:
Well in excess of 100 years.

Horticultural Merit and uses:
Uncommon in horticulture. Useful shade tree. Saplings have attractive waxy and red to orange stems. Honey production. Timber production. Tolerates frost and light snow. One of the main species logged in far south east NSW.

Fauna Value:
Susceptible to *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. General food and habitat tree for a wide range of birds and arboreal mammals.





