



What Woodland is that?

Sub-community profile: Brown Mallet over Scrub

Scattered along the western and southern edge of the Wheatbelt, you can find *Eucalyptus astringens* (Brown Mallet) over Scrub, forming one of the Wheatbelt woodland sub-communities.

Brown mallet occurs on laterite, red-brown gravelly clay, brown clayey sand, sandy loam, spongolite, on breakaways, hills and valley slopes.

The scrub understorey varies in height and colour, and includes *Melaleuca hamata* or *Melaleuca scalena*, Leafless Ballart (*Exocarpos aphyllus*), Sheoaks (*Allocasuarina spp.*) and *Gastrolobium tricuspidatum*.

There are occasional Salmon gums (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*), Blue Mallet (*Eucalyptus gardneri*), Merrit (*Eucalyptus urna*) and White gum (*Eucalyptus wandoo*).

Brown mallet grow to 18m, being the largest of the mallets. It has smooth, shiny grey-brown bark, often with small curled flakes of dead bark adhering to lower trunk.

Its leaves are glossy green, mature buds stubby to slightly elongated, operculum blunt horn-shaped and flowers are white, cream or yellow, from August to December. (For this and more information see [EUCLID](#); [Brooker & Kleinig](#); [FloraBase](#).)

Brown Mallet was one of the first Australian trees to be grown in plantations, where the bark was used in the leather tanning industry.

Brown Mallet are an important habitat and food plant for several woodland species, including Purple-crowned lorikeets, Pygmy possums, Red Wattlebirds and Clawless Geckos.



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