

Bangalay eucalyptus

Eucalyptus botryoides Sm.

Myrtle family (Myrtaceae)

Post-Cook introduction

Characterized by very rough and thick deeply furrowed bark and by several bell-shaped seed capsules clustered at end of short stalk at leaf base. The bark is similar to that of robusta eucalyptus, *E. robusta*, Hawaii's most common eucalypt, but more finely fissured and grayer in color.

A large tree 80–150 ft (24–45 m) high and 2–3 ft (0.6–0.9 m) in trunk diameter in closed forests. Crown open, spreading, irregular. Bark gray or brown, very rough and thick, deeply furrowed into long narrow ridges and becoming slightly shaggy; on smaller branches smooth, green to light brown or salmon pink. Twigs slender, angled, greenish yellow.

Leaves alternate, with flattened greenish yellow leaf-stalks of $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (13–15 mm). Blades lance-shaped, 4–6 inches (10–15 cm) long and 1–2½ inches (2.5–6 cm) wide, curved, tapering to long point, short-pointed at base, moderately thick and leathery, with fine straight parallel side veins, slightly shiny green above, dull light green beneath, horizontal. Juvenile leaves opposite for 3–4 pairs, then alternate, stalked, lance-shaped, 2–3.5 inches (5–9 cm) long and 1–1¼ inches (2.5–3 cm) wide, thin and wavy, green, paler beneath.

Flower clusters (umbels) less than 1 inch (2.5 cm) long on short flattened stalk of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (1 cm) at leaf base. Flowers 6–10, stalkless, more than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (13 mm) across the many spreading white stamens nearly $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (10 mm) long. Buds cylindrical, $\frac{3}{8}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (10–13 mm) long and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm) wide, lid half-round or blunt, often with small rounded point.

Seed capsules 5–7 clustered, stalkless, bellshaped or cylindrical, about $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (10 mm) long and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm) wide, light brown, with sunken disk and 3–5 short valves at rim level.

Sapwood is cream-colored and heartwood reddish brown. The wood is medium to coarse textured with interlocked grain and color variation in the growth rings providing a prominent figure on flat-sawn faces. It is very heavy (sp. gr. 0.9) with a large shrinkage in drying, very strong if from the outer part of logs, otherwise very brash. The wood has been used only for fenceposts in

Hawaii. Its density, coloration, and probable poor seasoning characteristics suggest that would be marginal for other uses than fuelwood and fenceposts.

The bulk of the bangalay eucalyptus in Hawaii is on Maui where, in several large stands belonging to Haleakala Ranch Co., there are more than 1.5 million board feet, mostly in trees more than 20 inches (51 cm) in diameter that were planted before 1920. It has been planted sparingly on the other islands.

Special area

Waiakea

Range

Southeastern Australia in narrow coastal strip near sea level. Usually scattered.

Other common names

southern-mahogany, bangalay (Australia)

In Australia, planted for shade and windbreaks; hardy near shores.



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Twig with flowers and fruits, 1 X (Mueller).