

River-redgum eucalyptus

Eucalyptus camaldulensis Dehn.

Myrtle family (Myrtaceae)

Post-Cook introduction

This tree is frequently planted in windbreaks in Hawaii; it is characterized by its whitish and brown, smoothish bark and short crooked trunk. The half-round seed capsules about ¼ inch (6 mm) long and wide, have 3–4 prominent triangular valves raised and curved inward.

A large tree 80–120 ft (24–36 m) high. Trunk usually short and crooked among trees in Hawaii, 2–3 ft (0.6–0.9 m) in diameter. Crown open, spreading when planted in windbreaks. Bark mostly smoothish, light gray or buff, peeling in long strips or irregular flakes and exposing whitish inner layers. Twigs very slender, angled.

Leaves alternate, with leafstalks of ½–1 inch (13–25 mm). Blades narrowly lance-shaped to lanceshaped, 2½–12 inches (5–30 cm) long and ¾–¾ inch (1–2 cm) wide, often curved, tapering to long point, short-pointed at base, thin or slightly thickened, with many fine straight side veins and vein inside margin, dull pale green on both surfaces or occasionally grayish, drooping. Juvenile leaves opposite for 3–4 pairs, then alternate, stalked, ovate to broadly lance-shaped, gray green.

Flower clusters (umbels) about 1 inch (2.5 cm) long, on slender stalk of ¼–¾ inch (6–19 mm) at leaf base. Flowers 5–10, each on slender stalk of ¼–½ inch (6–12 mm), ½–⅝ inch (13–15 mm) across the many spreading white stamens. Buds ¼–½ inch (6–13 mm) long and ⅜ inch (5 mm) wide, with half-round base and longer conical lid with long narrow or blunt beak.

Seed capsules clustered on slender stalk, halfround or egg-shaped, about ¼ inch (6 mm) long and wide, light brown, with wide raised disk and 3–4 prominent triangular valves ⅜ inch (1.5 mm) long, raised and curved inward.

Wood red, fine-textured and interlocked or wavy grained. Gum veins and pockets common in wood grown in Australia. Heavy (sp. gr. 0.65), hard and durable, and resistant to termites. Not difficult to saw, but tends to warp in drying. In Hawaii used only for fenceposts because of the generally poor form. In Australia, it is used extensively for structural timbers where strength and durability are required, also for railroad cross-ties. There it

is the only timber tree present in the interior. Thus, the wood is used for construction despite its density and difficulties of working.

It is classed as a good honey plant in Australia. It flowers throughout the year.

Introduced to Hawaii in the 1880s and first planted at Ulupalakua on Maui and Eucalyptus Ridge on Tantalus Mountain, Oahu; one of the most commonly planted eucalypts in Hawaii. Primarily used as a windbreak tree. The Division of Forestry had planted 429,000 trees by 1960, and many more were planted by private landowners. Although it will grow well in wet forest conditions, this species has been used most extensively in semi-arid sites where it achieves relatively good growth. Recorded from Niihau.

Special area

Tantalus

Range

Widespread in Australia, mainly along streams and in flood plains, it often forms pure forests. Of all eucalypts, the most widely distributed as a wild tree. Extensively planted in and areas throughout the world. Very popular in Israel for forestation.

Other common names

river redgum, redgum, Murray redgum, river-gum (Australia)

Botanical synonym

Eucalyptus rostrata Schlecht.



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