

Rosegum eucalyptus

Eucalyptus grandis W. Hill ex. Maid.

Myrtle family (Myrtaceae)

Post-Cook introduction

A slender tree 140–180 ft (42–54 m) high, similar to saligna eucalyptus, *Eucalyptus saligna*, and hybridizing with that species. The two are compared in the key to species. Trunk 2–3 ft (0.6–0.9 m) in diameter, tall, of good form, unbranched for up to two-thirds of total height. Crown spreading and rather open when open grown. Crown small and compressed when in dense plantations.

Bark light gray, smooth, thick. Occasionally lowest 4–20 ft (1.2–6.0 m) of trunk has thicker light gray bark persisting as fairly regular small plates. Bark of branches and smaller trunks smooth, outer orange brown layers peeling in long narrow strips, exposing smooth greenish and greenish white inner layer. Twigs slender, angled, with whitish waxy coating.

Leaves alternate with slender leafstalks of $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (13–19 mm). Blades lance-shaped, 4–8 inches (10–20 cm) long and $\frac{3}{4}$ – $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches (2–4 cm) wide, tapering to long narrow point at apex, blunt and slightly unequal at base, slightly wavy, shiny dark green above, paler beneath, thin, with fine regular veins, hanging obliquely or horizontal. Juvenile leaves opposite for 3–4 pairs, then alternate, short-stalked, oblong lance-shaped, 1– $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches (2.5–6 cm) long and $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 inch (13–25 mm) wide, thin, and slightly wavy.

Flower clusters (umbels) at leaf base 1– $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches (2.5–3 cm) long including flattened stalk of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (13 mm). Flowers 5–12 on short stalk or none. Buds pear-shaped with blunt-pointed conical lid $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (10 mm) by $\frac{3}{16}$ inch (5 mm), usually with whitish waxy coating.

Seed capsules short-stalked, pear-shaped or conical, slightly narrowed at rim, thin, $\frac{5}{16}$ inch (8 mm) long and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm) wide, with whitish waxy coating, narrow sunken disk, and 4–6 pointed thin valves slightly projecting and curved in, persisting on twigs back of leaves.

Wood pink to light reddish brown, moderately hard; very variable in density but averages moderately heavy (sp. gr. 0.57); of moderate strength and durability; straight grained with coarse texture. Outer wood in logs heavy and strong; inner wood of low density and fre-

quently brash. Young plantation-grown timber has severe growth stress that causes end splitting, spring, and brittleheart in logs and lumber. Slightly lower in density than *E. robusta* and *E. saligna*. Subject to warping and other defects in seasoning, it has not been used in Hawaii. Elsewhere, it is used for poles, construction, mine props, and pulpwood.

Possibly a recent introduction to Hawaii. The first seed of true *E. grandis* was brought in 1957. Since then, several other races have been introduced. It is believed that most trees in Hawaii are hybrids with *E. saligna*. The Australian races that have been introduced have faster and more uniform growth than the local race of *saligna* X *grandis* and are also faster than races of pure *E. saligna* that have been compared (Skolmen 1986). Planted primarily on Hawaii and Kauai, but present on all larger islands.

Special areas

Keahua, Waiakea (best stand)

Champion

Height 110 ft (33.5 m), c.b.h. 4.3 ft (1.3 m), spread 35 ft (10.7 m). Honaunau Forest Reserve, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii (1968).

Range

Eastern Australia, coastal regions, in pure or almost pure stands. Equable summer rainfall climate. Extensively planted, for example, in South and East Africa, Brazil, and India.

Other common names

rose-gum; flooded-gum (Australia)



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Eucalyptus grandis W. Hill ex. Maid.
Leafy twig (left) and fruits (right), 1 X.