

Gray-ironbark eucalyptus

Eucalyptus paniculata Sm.

Myrtle family (Myrtaceae)

Post-Cook introduction

A medium-sized tree 60–80 ft (18–24 m) high and 2–4 ft (0.6–1.2 m) in trunk diameter. Trunk of good form and to two-thirds of total height on better sites but shorter and crooked on poor sites. Crown dense and compact but more open and irregular with age. Bark dark or light gray, very rough, very thick, hard, deeply furrowed into long narrow ridges. Twigs very slender, slightly flattened or angled, yellow green to pinkish.

Leaves alternate, with slender yellow green leaf-stalks of $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 inch (1.3–2.5 cm). Blades lance-shaped, $2\frac{1}{2}$ –6 inches (6–15 cm) long and $\frac{5}{8}$ – $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches (1.5–3 cm) wide, long-pointed at apex, base short-pointed often with sides unequal, thin, dull green on upper surface, slightly paler beneath, with many fine moderately visible straight side veins, drooping. Juvenile leaves opposite for 3–4 pairs, then alternate, short-stalked, broadly lance-shaped, 1–2 inches (2.5–5 cm) long and $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 inch (1.3–2.5 cm) wide, dark green.

Flower clusters (panicles) terminal, 1–3 inches (2.5–7.5 cm) long. Flowers many, 3–9 in branched clusters (umbels) on short slender rounded stalks of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm) or less, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (2 cm) across the many spreading white stamens. Buds egg-shaped to diamond-shaped, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (10 mm) long and $\frac{3}{16}$ inch (5 mm) wide, with conical base and rather short conical lid.

Seed capsules short-stalked, half-round, pear-shaped, or egg-shaped, $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (6–10 mm) long and wide, with disk sunken or flat and 3–4 (rarely 5) valves usually enclosed.

Wood brown or dark brown with a fine texture and interlocked grain. Extremely heavy (sp. gr. 1.0). Very hard, very strong, and very durable. Tough, not easy to work, but turns to a good finish. Tends to check in drying.

One of the hardest, heaviest, toughest, strongest, and most durable timbers in this large genus. Used largely for railroad cross-ties, bridge and wharf timbers, poles, and piles, also lumber for ships and construction. Has been used only for fenceposts in Hawaii.

There are about 1.8 million board feet of this species in Hawaii, mostly on Oahu. Most trees were planted in the late 1930s, and most are less than 20 inches (51

cm) in diameter. The Division of Forestry has planted 137,000 trees. They may be seen at the Honouliuli Forest Reserve, on Tantalus Drive, and from the Aiea Loop Trail.

Champion

Height 107 ft (32.6 m), c.b.h. 13.2 ft (4.0 m), spread 111 ft (33.8 m). Ulupalakua Ranch, Ulupalakua, Maui (1968).

Range

Southeastern Australia along coast to 60 miles (97 km) inland. Scattered and not in pure stands. Equable summer rainfall climate. Planted in Australia as a shade and ornamental tree. Extensively introduced in East and South Africa, Brazil, and India.

Other common names

white ironbark (Hawaii), grey ironbark (Australia)



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