

## Turpentine-tree

*Syncarpia glomulifera* (Sm.) Niedz.

Myrtle family (Myrtaceae)

Post-Cook introduction

Large resinous evergreen tree related to Eucalyptus, introduced in forest plantations and for shade, differing in the leaves 2–4 at a node and the small flowers and seed capsules united in round balls. To 100 ft (30 m) high and 3 ft (0.9 m) in trunk diameter, slightly enlarged at base, reported to become much larger where native. Bark gray or reddish brown, very thick, very deeply furrowed into long irregular ridges, becoming shreddy or shaggy and peeling off. Inner bark fibrous, reddish brown, the innermost with blackish resin. Twigs slightly four-angled, light green, turning brown, with tiny pressed hairs.

Leaves 2–4 at a node, leafstalks  $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 inch (13–25 mm) long, light yellow to brown, grooved above, with tiny hairs. Blades narrowly elliptical,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ –5 inches (6–13 cm) long and  $1\frac{1}{4}$ – $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches (2.5–4.5 cm) wide, short to long-pointed at both ends, slightly turned under at edges, slightly thickened, above dull green and almost hairless, beneath dull whitish green with tiny hairs and gland-dots visible under a lens.

Flower clusters (heads) round like a ball, single on stalks of about 1 inch (2.5 cm) at base of new leaves. Flowers 6–11 in a ball, small, white, united at bellshaped base (hypanthium). Calyx four-lobed on rim, remaining on fruit; petals usually four, white, rounded,  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch (3 mm) long; many stamens on rim; and pistil with inferior three-celled ovary and long slender persistent style.

Fruit (multiple) rounded,  $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (13–19 mm) in diameter, gray with tiny hairs, hard, composed of 6–11 united seed capsules like bells  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) across rim, each opening at top. Seeds many, tiny, brown,  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch (1.5 mm) long, very narrow.

Sapwood light yellow, heartwood reddish brown. The wood is described as hard, heavy, fine-textured. Australian wood (sp. gr. 0.7) is very durable, and resistant to decay, marine borers, and termites. It is difficult to burn and almost fireproof, thus not suitable for fuel. In Australia, used for marine piling, railway crossties, fenceposts, construction, and flooring. The bark yields turpentine.

Of rapid growth and suitable as a shade tree. This tree is reported to attain a height of 200 ft (61 m) and a

trunk diameter of 9.5 ft (2.9 m). Planted also in southern California.

The Division of Forestry has planted more than 83,000 trees in the forest reserves on all islands, the largest number on Oahu in the Honolulu, Honouliuli, and Mokuleia Forest Reserves. Trees may be seen at Waahila Ridge State Park (St. Louis Heights), Keaiwa Heiau State Park (Aiea Heights) on Oahu, at Waihou Spring Forest Reserve on Maui, and at Pepeekeo Arboretum (Puukauku) near Pepeekeo, Hawaii.

### **Special areas**

Wahiawa, Aiea, Kalopa

### **Champion**

Height 75 ft (22.9 m), c.b.h. 14.5 ft (4.4 m), spread 38 ft (11.6 m). Iole, Hawi, Hawaii (1968).

### **Range**

Native to Australia

### **Other common name**

turpentine-myrtle

### **Botanical synonym**

*Syncarpia laurifolia* Ten.



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Twig with flowers, fruits (lower right), 1 X (Maiden).