

Eucalyptus pilularis – Blackbutt

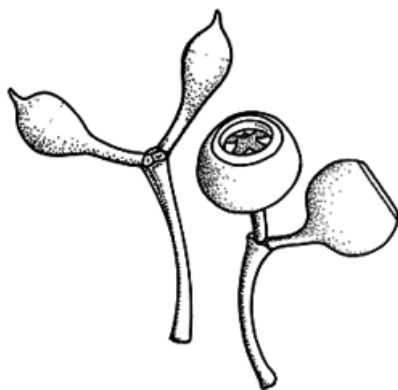
Family:
Myrtaceae

Common Name:
Blackbutt

Distribution:
NSW east coast and ranges extending from around Eden on the far NSW south coast into Qld. In HSC a widespread forest tree occurring on shale capped ridges and plateaus as well as extensive stands on the gullies below on sandstone hillsides and gullies where favourable rainfall and aspect predominates. In HSC; Community BG1 (37.2 ha), BG2 (14.0 ha), RF1 (5.9 ha), TI (295.0 ha), DF (15.5 ha), L1 (837.3 ha), L2 (14.1ha), and Q2 (6.6 ha).

Derivation of Name:
Eucalyptus, Greek, derived from eu "well" and kalyptos "covered", a reference to the caps covering the flowering buds. *pilularis*, Latin, in reference to the ball like shape of the fruit capsule.

Conservation Status:
A tree in serious decline on shale derived soils, more widely conserved in sandstone derived soils however much of this habitat is also close to residential areas where natural ecological processes are hampered; as such natural recruitment and regeneration of Blackbutt is often compromised.



Description:
A tall tree with an open wide crown of green foliage preferring soils of higher fertility. Grows to around 30m in HSC, up to 70m outside of HSC area on the north coast of NSW. The trunk has a thick stocking of permanent bark often spreading to the first lower limbs while upper branches which are smooth and pale in colour. The base of the tree is often fire scarred hence the common name. Leaves are thick in texture slightly discoloured and taper to a fine point; they range from 9–16 cm long and 1.5–3cm in width. Flowering occurs between July and January but not reliably every year. Fruit are woody thick globular capsules with valves level to the rim or enclosed below the disc/rim.

Longevity:
In excess of 200 years.

Horticultural Merit and uses:
Occasionally used in horticultural applications, suitable only for large gardens or park plantings. Probably the most widely used timber tree in Australia.

Fauna Value:
Nectar and pollen highly sort after by fauna when the tree is in flower, however this does not occur regularly. Older trees from magnificent fauna refuges with many hollow logs. Smooth sections of trunk are often scarred by scribbly gum moth larvae. Seed is readily sought after by the local endangered population of Gang-gang Cockatoos.



