

***Elaeocarpus reticulatus* – Blueberry Ash**

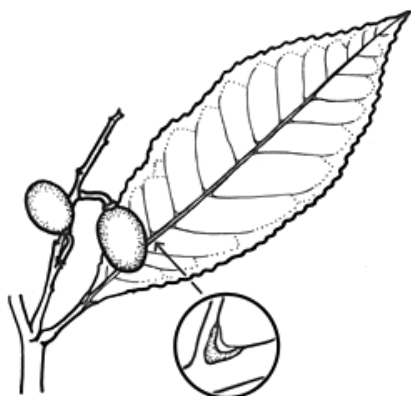
Family:
Elaeocarpaceae

Common Name:
Blueberry Ash

Distribution:
From Bass Strait through eastern Victoria north to SE QLD. In HSC Communities O1(107.9ha), BG1 (37.2ha), BG2 (14.0ha), TI (295.0ha), L1 (837.3ha) & A (5,579.4ha).

Derivation of Name:
Elaeocarpus, Greek, *elaia* the olive tree & *carpos* meaning fruit. ***reticulatus*** refers to the patterning of the net-like leaf venation .

Conservation Status:
Adequately conserved in HSC. Increasing with the absence of fire in particular reserves and an increase in berry spreading birds.



Description:
A small slender tree generally, taller in rainforest conditions. Grows to around 6m in HSC, up to 20m outside of HSC area. The trunk is pale in colour and generally smooth. Elliptical dark green leaves are arranged alternately and are vaguely toothed; they range from 5–13 cm long and 1–3 cm in width, older leaves turn bright red before falling. Exquisite white (occasionally pink) flowers occur in late spring they have fringed petals on a downward facing bell shaped flower, these are followed by olive shaped small bright blue drupes- ripe through April to October.

Longevity:
In excess of 50 years.

Horticultural Merit and uses:
Very common in cultivation this tree is a popular street tree. Shade tolerant through to full sun, abundant flower show and excellent fruit display which lasts for long periods. Prefers a moist position in well drained fertile soils, will not tolerate water logged soils. May need formulative pruning at a young age if a single trunk is desired. Can be used for hedging. Requires frost protection when young.

Fauna Value:
Bird attracting- in particular for the fruit.



