

Eucalyptus saligna – Sydney Blue Gum

Family:
Myrtaceae

Common Name:
Sydney Blue Gum

Distribution:
Coastal and lower mountain ranges of east coast extending from southern NSW into Qld as far as Mackay. Found in HSC on deep clay based soils derived from either shale, volcanic rock or deep alluvium such as that at Crosslands. In HSC Communities BG1 (37.2 ha), BG2 (14 ha), and RF1 (5.9 ha).

Derivation of Name:
Eucalyptus, Greek, derived from eu "well" and kalyptos "covered", a reference to the caps covering the flowering buds. *saligna*, Latin, salix like referring to "willow-like" however, this is unclear as to why.

Conservation Status:
Highly endangered, Blue Gum High Forest is listed as *Critically Endangered* at both State and Federal levels. Much of the former range of this tree has been extensively cleared, the balance is highly threatened by weed invasion and highly altered ecological processes.

Description:
A tall straight tree to over 35m, much taller outside of HSC (50m+). The trunk is smooth pale blue-grey to white with a short stocking of persistent bark at the very base. Foliage is discoloured, glossy green and thin textured, 10–17 cm long, 2–3 cm wide. Flowering occurs in summer between December and February (can be variable). Fruit are a small capsule 5-8mm long, with 3 or 4 valves exserted.

Longevity:
In excess of 200 years.

Horticultural Merit and uses:
A tree for planting only in large parks and open space. Highly valued timber which is used for a wide range of applications both decoratively and general purpose use. A useful tree for honey production when in flower.

Fauna Value:
Sydney Blue Gums produce many hollow bearing branches with age so it is an important species for hollow dependant fauna. When in flower the tree provides nectar resources for a diverse range of birds as well as flying foxes. Red-triangle Slugs also feed on the smooth bark during rain events. Seed is eaten by a range of parrots. A known feed tree for Koalas.







