

# Planting the Wheatbelt with Eucalypts

By Kelly Thorburn, Communications Officer  
With thanks to Malcolm French

There are 160 naturally occurring eucalypts in the central Wheatbelt region, of which 32 are cultivated for various uses, including revegetation programs, oil extraction, floristry, and ornamental purposes.

Eight of these ornamentals rank among Australia's favourite cultivars and appear in gardens across the eastern states. However, despite being endemic to the Wheatbelt they are hard to find on local farms or in Wheatbelt towns.

## Building farm value

According to Malcolm French – a farm sale auctioneer with Elders and author of Eucalypts of Western Australia's Wheatbelt – planting trees on your farm land can have a big impact on your farm's value. Planting the right native species in the right spots – even only three to five plants – can make the difference between a sale or not, regardless of the state of the farming economy.

## Visual appeal

Planting native eucalypts can also boost the visual appeal of our Wheatbelt towns and roadsides. They make wonderful additions to farm entrances, yards, gardens and windbreaks, and are equally at home in town gardens for their brilliant displays that attract native birds.

And planting them will help increase the region's biodiversity and assist in preserving eucalypt species that have been listed as rare or threatened flora.

## Wheatbelt mallees

The following Wheatbelt mallees are endemic to the Wheatbelt and are ideal for planting in clumps of three to five trees. Mallees are woody plants that are multi-stemmed from ground level and seldom taller than ten metres (33 feet). When cut off at ground level or destroyed by fire, these plants will tend to regenerate more densely and re-flower within three years.



*Eucalyptus synandra*

Photos: B. Lullfitz, S.J. Patrick & P. Roberts

## Jingymia Mallee

(*Eucalyptus synandra*)

**Origin:** northern Wheatbelt

**Habitat:** rangelands

**Bark:** white with reddish brown streaks

**Leaves & flowers:** long, narrow dull green leaves. Creamy skirt-like flowers that age to pink.

**Uses:** ornamental

**Conservation status:** Threatened Flora



*Eucalyptus rhodantha*

Photos: S.D. Hopper, T.J. Alford & G. Oxnam

## Rose Mallee, Scott's Mallee

**(*Eucalyptus rhodantha*)**

**Origin:** northern Wheatbelt

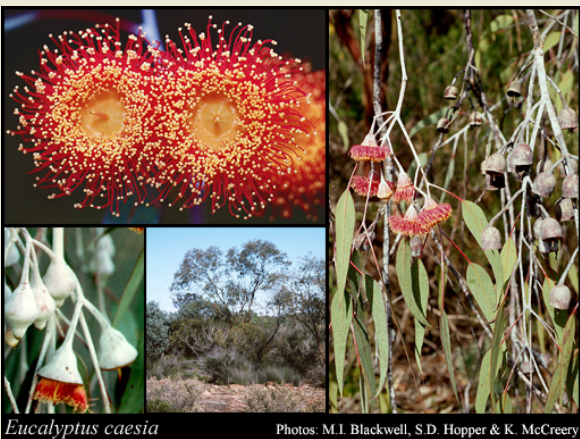
**Habitat:** sandplain heath

**Bark:** smooth, grey to grey-brown or beige

**Leaves & flowers:** round, blue-green leaves. Red flowers, with yellow anthers.

**Uses:** ornamental

**Conservation status:** Threatened Flora (Declared Rare Flora – Extant)



*Eucalyptus caesia*

Photos: M.I. Blackwell, S.D. Hopper & K. McCreery

## Silver Princess

**(*Eucalyptus caesia*)**

**Origin:** central Wheatbelt

**Habitat:** granite rock outcrops

**Bark:** Reddish brown bark that continuously peels in small curly flakes.

**Leaves & flowers:** grey-green leaves, pink flowers

**Uses:** ornamental

**Conservation status:** Priority 4: Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring



*Eucalyptus erythronema*

Photos: G. Cockerton & M. Hislop

## Red-Flowered Mallee

**(*Eucalyptus erythronema*)**

**Origin:** central-eastern Wheatbelt

**Habitat:** variety of landscapes

**Bark:** seasonally colourful from grey-white or white to pale yellow turning rosy pink to dark red-purple

**Leaves & flowers:** shiny leaves in olive-green to gree, pink to red, in late spring and summer

**Uses:** ornamental, revegetation, honey production, bird attraction

**Conservation status:** Not Threatened



*Eucalyptus crucis* subsp. *crucis* Photo: S.D. Hopper

## Southern Cross Silver Mallee

**(*Eucalyptus crucis* subsp. *crucis*)**

**Origin:** central-eastern Wheatbelt

**Habitat:** granite rock outcrops

**Bark:** reddish brown bark that continuously peels in small curly flakes

**Leaves & flowers:** silvery-blue round leaves that have pointed tips and no stalk, pale yellow flowers

**Uses:** ornamental, floristry

**Conservation status:** Threatened Flora





*Eucalyptus macrandra*

Photos: S.D. Hopper & A. Johnson

## Long-flowered Marlock

**(*Eucalyptus macrandra*)**

**Origin:** southern Wheatbelt

**Habitat:** granite landscape

**Bark:** grey bark over cream to intense tan

**Leaves & flowers:** very glossy, green to olive green leaves. Profuse yellow flowers.

**Uses:** honey production, bird attraction, windbreak, screening, revegetation

**Conservation status:** Not Threatened



*Eucalyptus pleurocarpa*

Photos: M. French

## Blue Mallee, Tallerack

**(*Eucalyptus pleurocarpa*)**

**Origin:** southern Wheatbelt

**Habitat:** sandplain heath

**Bark:** grey to creamy tan or beige, that shreds to ribbons

**Leaves & flowers:** broad, rounded, grey-blue leaves, white flowers from the third year

**Uses:** ornamental, floristry

**Conservation status:** Not Threatened



*Eucalyptus pyriformis*

Photos: M. Seale, T.J. Alford & C. Chapman

## Dowerin Rose

**(*Eucalyptus pyriformis*)**

**Origin:** northern and central Wheatbelt

**Habitat:** white to pale yellow sandplains

**Bark:** grey to creamy brown, shreds in ribbons

**Leaves & flowers:** dull grey oval leaves, large red or creamy yellow flowers, in winter and spring

**Uses:** ornamental

**Conservation status:** Not Threatened

## Trees for shade & enhancement

These eucalypts are also endemic to the Wheatbelt region but have a tree shaped habit instead. They are upright, single-stemmed woody plants with various crown forms and are ideal for shade, making them great for enhancing the mallee species listed above.

*Eucalyptus aequioperta*

*E. camaldulensis* subsp. *arida*

*E. loxophleba* subsp. *loxophleba* and subsp. *supralaevis*

*E. myriadena*

*E. salmonophloia*

*E. densa* subsp. *densa*

*E. ornata*

*E. salubris*

*E. spathulata*

### References:

French, M 2012, Eucalypts of Western Australia's Wheatbelt, Padbury WA.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjAY615h7lw>

<http://www.eucalyptsofwa.com.au>

<http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/threatened-species-and-communities>

<https://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/euclid3/euclidsample/html/learn.htm>

Photos appear courtesy of Florabase: <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>

