

# Eucalyptus camaldulensis

Myrtaceae

Eastern Australia

Eng: *Red river gum, Murray red gum*  
Tr: *Kalabitos*

Tg: *Keih-kelamitos*

- Ecology:** Widely distributed in its native Australia and one of the first *Eucalyptus* spp. used elsewhere, both in the Mediterranean and the tropics. Does well in semi-arid regions and tolerates a long dry season. It does well in deep silt or clay soil, 900-1,800 m, and tolerates some salinity. In Eritrea, it is widely planted on the mid or lower valley slopes of the central highlands, e.g. around Mai-tekela, Halhale, Segenaiti, Adi-keih and Betghiorgis (Asmara).
- Uses:** **Firewood, charcoal, poles** (power lines), **posts**, timber (construction), **bee forage**, ornamental, windbreak.
- Description:** A tall evergreen tree to 30 m, **deeply branched but** also with a long straight bole. **BARK:** White to brown, **thin and peeling in long strips**; when cut it exudes **red gum**. **LEAVES:** Grey-blue, long and drooping, to 30 cm. **FLOWERS:** White clusters, short **conical bud caps**. **FRUIT:** Very small rounded capsules on thin stalks, each less than 1 cm, 4 valves.
- Propagation:** Seedlings; sow seeds directly in containers in the nursery, plant out after 4-5 months.
- Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 100,000-2,100,000.
- treatment:** Not necessary.
- storage:** Seed can be stored for a long time in air-tight containers.
- Management:** Coppicing, pollarding.
- Remarks:** Young trees require protection from termites. The species has been primarily introduced for quick-growing fuelwood. It is also useful for homestead plantation, woodlots and along roads. The timber is red, heavy and hard. Do not plant near crops because of root competition for water. All gum-tree flowers have much nectar and attract bees.

