

Eucalyptus camaldulensis (E. rostrata)

Myrtaceae

Australia

- Common names: **Chag:** mbanyi; **Eng:** Murray red gum, Red River gum. **Swah:** mkaratusi.
- Ecology: A tree widely distributed in eastern Australia where it is usually confined to valley bottoms liable to regular flooding. It requires underground water, but will grow in a wide range of soils and in a variety of climates. This was one of the first gum trees to be used elsewhere in the world, both in the Mediterranean and the tropics. It does well in semi-arid regions and tolerates a long dry season. In Tanzania it is planted in areas with little rainfall.
- Uses: Firewood, charcoal, poles (power lines), posts, timber (construction), plywood, veneer, bee forage, shade, ornamental, windbreak, tannin, dye, swamp reclamation.
- Description: A tall evergreen tree up to 25 m, deeply branched sometimes with a long **straight** bole, but often the branches are not straight. **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:** **short conical bud caps**, white clusters. **FRUIT:** **very small capsules** at the end of thin stalks, 5-8 mm, 4 valves containing minute seeds.
- Propagation: Seedlings.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 100,000-2,100,000. Germinates uniformly after 7-10 days with 15-40% germination rate, not necessary.
- treatment: seed can be stored for a long time.
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- Management: Fast growing; pollarding, coppicing. Protect young trees from termites.
- Remarks: The tree has proved itself very adaptable as regards to **both** climate and soil. It does well in hot, dry areas and it **can** also withstand frost. Primarily good for quick-growing fuelwood, it is useful for woodlots and along roads, but **not** near crops due to root competition for water. The timber is red, hard and heavy.

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